

Cont. from cover: Team. Vision. Renewal.

Ensuring **Safety.** Empowering

Safety & Technology (Capital Projects) Levy Renewal

On June 24, 2024, the Shakopee Public Schools Board voted unanimously to place the renewal of our district’s existing Capital Projects Levy on the November 5, 2024 General Election ballot.

Our current Capital Projects Levy is commonly referred to as a ‘technology levy’ or ‘safety & technology levy.’ This levy was approved by the voters in 2015 for ten years, which is the maximum length allowed for this type of levy. The 2024-25 school year will be the ninth year in which this voter approved levy has provided our students with much in the way of safety and critical support. **Thus, our current levy’s final year of funding is for the 2025-26 school year.**

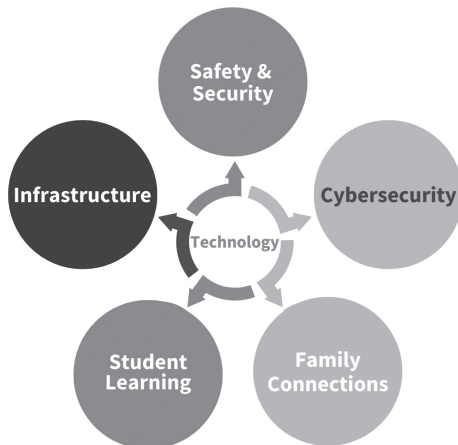
RENEWAL

CONTINUATION. The Capital Projects (Safety & Technology) Levy passed in 2015 was for a period of ten (10) years.

Renewing the Safety & Technology Levy would be **continuing** the same levy, at the same tax rate, for another ten (10) years.

The measure being placed before the voters on November 5, 2024 is seeking renewal of the exact same Capital Projects (Safety & Technology) Levy—the same ballot language as used in 2015 and the same tax rate as used in 2015—as has been in existence since the approval in 2015. In other words, the school district is asking the voters in our community to continue this funding source which is currently being used to provide for all kinds of safety across the district and for the technology widely used by our students in their learning, for another ten years starting with the 2026-27 school year.

Our current Safety & Technology Levy is being used primarily to provide much in the way of safety and critical support in our schools.



SAFETY

Physical Safety, Cybersecurity,
Internet Safety and more.

&

CRITICAL SUPPORT

Technology is more than just devices and is
embedded everywhere in student learning.

If we are truly preparing our students for their future and not for our past, it is nearly certain that technology will continue to play an increasingly important role in student learning, and the skills needed in our future workforce.

The Safety & Technology Levy is estimated to provide \$6,215,800 in annual revenue for the 2026-27 school year. In response to the question as to ‘What would happen if Shakopee Public Schools were to no longer have this revenue from the Capital Projects Levy?’, there are three viable pathways forward.

- ≈ The first would be to **cut** the safety and critical support currently being provided by the levy.
- ≈ The second would be to **keep** the safety and critical support in place and make **roughly \$6.2M in cuts** to positions and programming elsewhere in the district.
- ≈ The third would be a combination of the two approaches.



OR

CUT
\$6.2M OR 5%
OF OPERATING
BUDGET TO FUND SAFETY
AND CRITICAL SUPPORT
CURRENTLY PROVIDED
(ex: larger class sizes, reduced
positions, adjusted programming)



Learning. Vote Nov. 5.

Below is a copy of the ballot question related to the renewal of the Capital Projects (Safety & Technology) Levy for the November 5, 2024 General Election:

SCHOOL DISTRICT QUESTION ONE

RENEWAL OF EXPIRING CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY AUTHORIZATION

The Board of Independent School District No. 720 (Shakopee Public Schools) has proposed to renew its existing capital project levy authorization of 5.837584% times the net tax capacity of the school district, which is scheduled to expire after taxes payable in 2025. The proposed tax rate is not being increased from the previous year's rate. The money raised by the authorization will provide funds for the acquisition and maintenance of technology and technology systems, and to pay the costs of technology-related personnel and training. The renewed capital levy authorization will raise approximately \$6,215,800 for taxes payable in 2026, the first year it is to be levied, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$62,158,000.

YES

Shall the renewal of the Capital Projects Levy Authorization by the Board of Independent School District No. 720 be approved?

NO

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO RENEW AN EXISTING CAPITAL PROJECTS REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE.

At the May 13, 2024 School Board meeting, Director of Technology Bryan Drozd shared our district's *2024 Technology Update*. This presentation goes into great detail about how the district is accounting for and using the revenue from the existing Safety & Technology Levy. The 2024 report is the latest in a series of informative reports that can be found on the district website.



2024 Technology Update

Greater Connections, Focused School Year

As I bring my letter to a close, I'd like to remind the community that due to the closing of Southwest News Media, we've expanded the distribution schedule of this newsletter to ensure community members have more opportunities to stay connected with our district. Education Forward will now be sent to all community members and taxpayers four (4) times a year: August, late October, January and the end of April.

I've written the following before, but I think it's still incredibly pertinent. **Our community is a very special place, and our school district plays an important role in helping make it special.** There's no other place I'd rather live and work. I'm honored to be able to serve this tremendous community in the role of superintendent. Every day is a **great day to be a Saber!**

« *A student's physical and emotional safety in school buildings is the most important.*

- 2024 Community Survey Respondent

« *Communication and teaching new technologies impacts the district's quality of instruction. Our kids need to be prepared for the world.*

- 2024 Community Survey Respondent

More Than Computers

The Safety & Technology Levy is about more than just iPads, MacBooks and devices. It's about safety and authentic learning, and is embedded everywhere.

- Learning that supports real-world careers and E-12 student needs.
- Security badges managed by access cards.
- Internal/external security cameras.
- Instructional coaches and technology support for more than 1,000 staff.
- Use of Canvas, Seesaw and Infinite Campus to track student progress.
- Walkies/radios for student support and security.
- Resources to support digital stewardship and safety.
- Use of translation programs to support over 80 languages in the district.
- 1:1 devices that allow for equitable E-12 education.
- Visitor management managed by Raptor Systems.