

Voters Reject PLSAS Technology Levy Request

Voters did not approve the request made by Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools (PLSAS) for a dedicated Technology Levy with 49.3% voting yes and 50.7% voting no on the November 2, 2021 ballot (unofficial results: 3,496 yes votes, 3,602 no votes). The request had been for \$3.5M per year for the next ten years. Because voters did not approve the request, PLSAS will remain one of the only neighboring and comparable school districts without a voter-approved Technology Levy.

As explained in dozens of presentations about the referendum prior to the Nov. 2 vote, without the requested funding the district now anticipates:

- Fewer devices: The district will no longer be able to provide all students with a device, limiting access to updated devices that enhance personalized learning and support independent and collaborative work. Staff will have increasingly outdated classroom equipment and curriculum.
- Outdated security equipment: The district will struggle to replace aging school safety and security equipment or fully implement its crisis management plan.
- Limited technology support: Technology support staff will be unable to keep up with requests for technology training, support, upkeep and troubleshooting. The network infrastructure will become outdated, slowing down systems districtwide.

“We are disappointed that our community did not support our request, because it means that technology and other classroom needs will continue to compete for scarce dollars,” said PLSAS Superintendent Teri Staloch. “We now need to learn why our community voted no, and also assess what cuts will be necessary to move forward without this funding.”

The School Board’s unanimous decision to place the Technology Levy request on the ballot had been based on a year of discussion, planning and listening to district staff, students and community. In addition to increasing technology needs for schools, the district faces ongoing financial pressures from inadequate state funding and unfunded mandates.

“Having a dedicated source of funding for technology would have meant we would have been able to maintain and enhance technology for learning, safety and support in our schools,” said PLSAS School Board Chair Stacey Ruelle. “With inadequate state funding, and coming off of two years of budget cuts in our district, we will now have to face some very difficult budget decisions.”

If the Technology Levy was approved, the district’s goals were to:

- Provide equitable access to instructional technology for all students and staff
- Provide flexibility and adaptability for emerging technologies to make learning more Personalized, Purposeful and Empowered for E-12 students
- Maintain and improve building safety and security
- Keep critical infrastructure systems running safely and efficiently
- Provide additional technology support staff to help students and staff with digital device troubleshooting, repairs and provide staff training in using new technologies

Learn more about the technology levy on the [referendum website](#). Election results are unofficial until canvassed by the School Board at a meeting scheduled for November 8.