

Securing Our Future

Supporting Our Students.

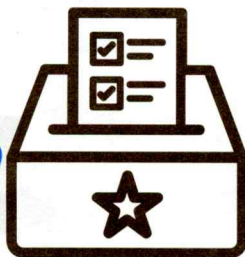
A Look at What's on the Ballot for SoWashCo Schools in November

South Washington County Schools (SoWashCo Schools) is holding a special election on Nov. 7, 2023.

Taking staff and community feedback and input into consideration, the School Board in June approved a plan to present the district's new 5-year facility plan (Securing Our Future. Supporting Our Students.) to the community with two bond questions on the November ballot.

Pending School Board approval, a third request will ask the community to approve a Capital Projects Levy (Technology Projects Levy) to address safety and security relating to technology. At the time of this publication, the School Board had discussed the question during the July business meeting and August 3 workshop meeting. The School Board voted on whether or not to include a levy question on the ballot during the Aug. 17 business meeting. The Technology Projects Levy would ask voters to increase the current \$2.8 million levy to \$5 million.

If all three questions are approved by voters, it would result in a tax increase of about \$10 a month for families living in a median valued home (\$409,000) within the SoWashCo Schools boundary.



More information can be found at sowashco.org/facilityplanning.

School Board Election

Three seats for the SoWashCo School Board are also up for election this fall. A candidate forum hosted by the League of Women Voters is set for 7-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 19 at the District Service Center, 7368 East Point Douglas Road S. in Cottage Grove. The forum will also be livestreamed. More information about the School Board and the 2023 Elections can be found at sowashco.org.



Bonds for Buildings

What is a bond election?

- A bond referendum gives voters the opportunity to authorized the district to raise construction funding through the sale of bonds.
- Bonds allow the district to borrow money that it then pays back over time.
- This is the only method to raise enough funds for new construction.

QUESTION 1

Safety and security enhancements and expansions and renovations at secondary schools. (\$160 million)

- Construct new secure entry at Park and Woodbury high schools, and Cottage Grove, Lake and Woodbury middle schools
- Planned addition at East Ridge High School and renovations at Park and Woodbury high schools
- Planned expansion of Oltman Middle School and renovations at Woodbury Middle School

QUESTION 2

Addresses elementary school space at schools projected to exceed capacity; renovations for bathrooms at five elementary schools. (\$40 Million)

- Elementary school additions at Bailey, Grey Cloud, Pine Hill and Red Rock elementary schools
- Construction of additional bathrooms at schools only containing a single set/four stalls (Crestview, Hillside, Pine Hill, Pullman and Royal Oaks elementary schools)

The second bond question addressing elementary school space and bathroom renovations is contingent on the passage of Question 1, meaning Question 2 cannot pass without the approval of Question 1. If Question 2 fails, elementary school attendance boundary changes will be implemented for the 2024-25 school year.

Visit sowashco.org/facilityplanning to view information about boundary changes if the second bond question does not pass.



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Technology Projects Levy

As SoWashCo leaders connected with community members for feedback about the upcoming bond referendum, safety and security rose to the top of the list of priorities. The proposed Technology Projects Levy that may be on the ballot in November addresses safety and security relating to technology.

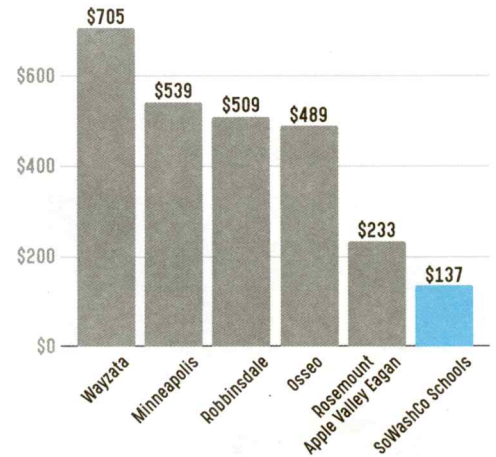
If approved, the Technology Projects Levy would:

- **Enhance Cybersecurity**
- **Maintain technology infrastructure** (wifi, server hardware, firewall hardware, data storage, email security, network equipment, etc.)
- **Upgrade security cameras**
- **Expand digital access** to curriculum and learning tools
- **Update educational and business** software licensing
- **Maintain the devices** distributed to students and staff during the pandemic with a refresh cycle to keep devices updated

If approved, the technology levy would have a tax impact of \$3 per month on a median valued home in the district.

How We Compare

Capital Projects Levy amounts among the top 6 school districts by student population



ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, Nov. 7, 2023

Regular polling locations are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Find your regular polling location at mnvotes.org.

Vote Early in Person

Early in-person voting begins Friday, Sept. 22 and ends Monday, Nov. 6 and is also available from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 4.

In-Person Early Voting Hours	Location	Address
Sept. 22–Nov. 6:	Washington County Government Center	14949 62nd Street N. Stillwater, MN 55082
	Cottage Grove Service Center	13000 Ravine Pkwy. Cottage Grove, MN 55016
	R.H. Stafford Library (Lower Level)	8595 Central Park Place Woodbury, MN 55125
	Headwaters Service Center	19955 Forest Road N. Forest Lake, MN 55025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday–Friday: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. • Saturday, Nov. 4: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 	Oakdale City Hall	1584 Hadley Ave. N. Oakdale, MN 55128

Vote Early by Mail

Early voting by mail-in ballot is available via mnvotes.org or by calling 651-430-6790.