

# Just the Facts

## About Lewiston-Altura Public Schools



### You spoke. We listened.

Over six months, the school board engaged with community members through a post-referendum survey and meetings. Feedback indicated that the November 2023 proposal was too costly and lacked support for a new performance space, replacement gym, and bus garage. The community also emphasized the need for the school district to build trust, increase transparency, and improve financial management. **In response, the proposed plan is \$19 million less than the previous proposal.**



### Our Strengths

#### Learning Starts Early

Early Childhood, Preschool, and Cardinal Club programs offer play-based learning aligned with state standards, preparing our youngest students for kindergarten success.

#### Student Success

The district continues to work on action steps to meet their student success goals outlined in its 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. School leaders and teachers are working hard to align instruction and assessments to academic standards to ensure student success.

#### Rigorous High School Classes

High school students can take career-focused and college-prep courses with concurrent enrollment allowing them to earn college credits while attending Lewiston-Altura High School.

#### Graduation Rates Soar

Graduation rates for Lewiston-Altura students are above state averages and many of our neighboring school districts. Most students engage in post-secondary education.

### What's on the Ballot?

Lewiston-Altura Public Schools is facing significant budget challenges and facilities needs that far exceed annual funding. On July 8, the School Board unanimously agreed to place a two-question ballot before voters in the Nov. 5 General Election:

#### Question #1: Levy for Learning

\$760/student for 10 years to support classroom learning, including:

- Teachers and Staff
- Curriculum and Classroom Supplies
- Extracurricular activities

#### Question #2: Bond for Basics

\$19.95 million (including bond costs)

- Classroom improvements
- Mechanical and electrical system improvements
- Safety and security improvements



**ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, NOV. 5.**  
Make a Plan – Vote on or before Election Day. Every vote counts!





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Levy for Learning.  
Bond for Basics.  
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## Challenges – Proposed Solutions – Tax Impact

### CHALLENGE 1: Persistent Budget Deficit

The school district is rightsizing its budget for the 2024-25 school year with \$771,000 in budget adjustments, including budget reductions in staff, extracurricular activities, and bus routes, and revenue increases in activity fees, booster club donations, and sale of school district land.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTION

##### Q1: LEVY FOR LEARNING

##### Operating Levy Referendum: \$760/student

- Renew \$52/student levy
- Increase by \$708/student
- 10-year term with inflation adjustments
- Even with additional operating levy dollars, the school district will face additional adjustments in coming years.

### CHALLENGE 2: Outdated Learning Spaces

The district hasn't had a voter approved referendum in 27 years, and has limited maintenance funds for updates.

#### PROPOSED SOLUTION

##### Q2: BOND FOR BASICS

##### Bond Referendum: \$19.95 million

- **Classroom Upgrades**  
Improved classrooms, science labs, and art spaces
- **Mechanical/Electrical Systems and Finishes Upgrades**  
Equipment in the high school, built in 1965, and the elementary school, built in 1974, has surpassed their service life and need replacement.
- **Safety and Security Improvements**  
Renovate high school and elementary building entrances and redesign parking lots for better safety and traffic flow.

#### TAX CALCULATIONS

If both questions are approved, property taxes for the owners of a \$200,000 home would be \$40.67/month, and for the owners of a \$250,000 home, \$52.58/month.

Use the tax calculator at [www.cardinalstrong.net](http://www.cardinalstrong.net) to determine the specific tax impact for your own home.



# 70%

## TAX CREDIT FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNERS

The School Building Bond Agricultural Tax Credit (Ag2School) is a 70% tax break on the cost of existing, proposed, and future school construction debt and it is automatically applied to your property tax bill.

**62% OF LEWISTON-ALTURA RESIDENTS QUALIFY FOR THIS CREDIT.**



**Need more information? Have questions? Want to schedule a presentation for your group?**

**Contact:** Gwen Carman, Superintendent,  
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**District website:** [www.lewalt.k12.mn.us](http://www.lewalt.k12.mn.us)

Prepared and paid for by Lewiston-Altura Public Schools.  
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