

# 2021 Aitkin County Legislative Priorities by Department

## Administration

- 1. Aitkin County and the Association of MN Counties support the state of Minnesota providing financial compensation to all units of local government for court ordered refunds due to state determined values or state required assessment practices.
- 2. Aitkin County supports promoting legislation that preserves tax base in response to increased property tax appeals, utility tax refunds, and potential "dark store" assessing practices.

## Assessor

- 1. Repeal of the Statute that requires field appraisers to have the AMA license. This is Minnesota Statute 270C.9901. Requiring all appraisers to be AMA certified creates an additional hardship to find qualified appraisers in rural counties. The county supports appraisers who are not AMA licensed to be restricted from assessing income producing commercial industrial properties. They would be allowed to assess all other classifications of property. This will improve the pool of candidates for rural Minnesota counties
- 2. Simplification of the property tax system. We should support legislation that would reduce the number of classifications of property in Minnesota. When assessors spend lots of time classifying property, they have less time available to value property. The complexity makes the system difficult for most people to understand. After recent legislative changes, Minnesota now has a total of 68 classifications which is the most of any State in the US.
- 3. Increased safety of field employees. Change State Law to grant assessors access to location data of more predatory offenders. Field staff are required to do physical inspections of all real estate in the county. Not knowing where dangerous criminal live puts staff in the field at risk.
- 4. Change the Disabled Veterans Market Value Exclusion to a state administered refund program. If this change would take place, the costs of the program would be spread over the whole State instead of shifting the tax burden on local governments.
- 5. Any new program mandated by the State should be funded by the State.

## Attorney's Office

- 1. Additional sustainable (on-going) funding for County Attorneys for child protection.
- 2. Additional sustainable (on-going) funding for County Attorneys for the state judiciary's shift of a substantial amount of court administration duties to the County Attorneys' Offices.
- 3. Increased penalties for damage to pipelines.

## Community Corrections

Aitkin County supports the following MN Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC) legislative policy positions:

1. Long term, Minnesota needs a clear vision for correctional services that addresses the role of prisons, community supervision and the state's role in funding. This is particularly important since counties provide local jail incarceration and the vast majority of community supervision, which are key alternatives to prisons. The legislature is chronically underfunding Minnesota community supervision. Action is required this session to preserve effective community supervision that protects Minnesota citizens. Minnesota Community Correction Act counties are in need of a supplemental budget appropriation of 4% for each year of the current biennium to address the state's share of their operating adjustment.
2. Community Corrections Act (CCA) Jurisdictions - Supporting the expansion of CCA counties with state funding and the removal of systemic/statutory requirements that act as barriers to counties in choosing the delivery system that best meets their individual needs.
3. Structural Change in Distribution of Funds - Future funding should be allocated using an equitable and transparent model that considers the need of each county.
4. Justice Reinvestment - bring the Justice Reinvestment Initiative of the Council of State Governments to the state of Minnesota.
5. Juvenile Justice Reform - Juvenile reform should continue and focus on: eliminating racial and ethnic disparities, reducing collateral consequences facing justice-involved youth; and modifying the current requirement for juvenile sex offenders to register as predatory offenders.

## Economic Development

1. Funding for the Border to Border Grant fund be set at \$1,000,000.00. For communities that are un-served by the State of MN definition, the current 50/50 match be lowered to a 30/70 match. This would allow more Border to Border Broadband grant funds to be utilized in areas that are most in need.
2. Increased funding for the State Grant In Aid (GIA) trails for ATV use. ATV riding is a fast growing family activity and current GIA funding is not keeping up for trail construction or maintenance.

## Environmental Services

1. Aitkin County and MACPZA support increased Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) funding and continued flexibility for the use of the funding. Aitkin County and MACPZA also support administering and allocating current NRBG funding for mandated state programs through the Minnesota Department of Revenue, similar to County Program Aid. Allocations for mandated state programs through the NRBG should not be considered grants.
2. Aitkin County and MACPZA support modifications to the SSTS licensing programs to ensure tests are consistent with course materials and Minnesota Rules 7080-7083.

3. Aitkin County and SWAA support allocating 100 percent of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste Management Tax (SWMT) to state and county waste management activities, including increased funding for SCORE (Governor's Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment) grants to counties.
4. Aitkin County and SWAA support efforts to make improvements that would maximize the e-waste recycling program. Additionally, SWAA supports the use of manufacturer payments to fully reimburse county collection and recycling costs. Furthermore, SWAA supports reducing end-of-life costs to consumers through increased manufacturer responsibility.
5. Aitkin County and SWAA support requiring the MPCA to issue, and/or reissue all demolition land disposal facility permits, in a timely manner, in accordance with the MPCA's 2005 Guidance Document (as listed on the MPCA website) until such guidance are otherwise modified by new Rule or Statute.

## Health & Human Services

1. Aitkin County supports state and federal investments in technology modernization at the Departments of Health and Human Services. These investments will improve the efficiency of county staff that enter information into the systems and enhance customer service. This includes the following:
  - A. Aitkin County supports the funding necessary for the Minnesota Eligibility Technology System (METS) to function properly and reliably, and alleviate excessive burdens on tax payers and improve services provided to customers.

Aitkin County supports a health care eligibility system that serves as a sustainable platform for performing health care functions and fully integrates with other health and human services technology systems. Including review of other platforms, inclusion of county employees in the process and a clearly defined roadmap with goals and timelines documented.
  - B. Aitkin County supports legislation that would require field tests of any new technology system prior to statewide implementation.
2. Aitkin County supports Direct Care and Treatment Cost of Care Policy Changes. This includes development of a review process for discharges and subsequent financial responsibility for Does Not Meet Criteria (DNMC) days. Additionally, tools need to be developed to work in partnership with counties to reduce DNMC days at direct care and treatment facilities.
3. Aitkin County supports Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) Reform: this includes changes to the current county assessor certification process for comprehensive assessments to assure timely access to assessment and treatment.
4. Aitkin County supports restoration of federal funding to local public health for emergency preparedness and response.
5. Aitkin County supports expanding telemedicine in health care, mental health, substance use disorder settings and allowing phone or video use for targeted case management visits.
6. Aitkin County believes that the State of Minnesota should accept financial responsibility for the errors made by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and supports state funding to reimburse the federal government for any payment and billing miscalculations.

## Highway Department

1. Local Road Improvement Program/Local Bridge Bonding Program -  
Aitkin County supports immediate funding of the Local Road Improvement Program and the Local Bridge Bonding Program to fund regionally significant local road and bridge projects throughout the state.
2. Increase in Highway Funding -  
Aitkin County supports long term, sustainable transportation funding increases distributed through the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund by increases in the state gas tax and license tab fees. Aitkin County also supports dedicating the existing sales tax revenue on motor vehicle parts to the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund.

## Human Resources

1. Limit a presumption that PTSD Workers Compensation are employment-related.
2. Oppose inclusion of 911 Dispatchers and Probation Officers in the PERA Correctional Plan.
3. Change the frequency of reporting for pay equity from every three years to every five years.
4. Simplify the process and shorten the timeline (no longer than 6 months) for Minnesota counties who are interested in exiting the Minnesota Merit System. Allow counties to exit at any time throughout the calendar year.
5. Clearly state in the law that County Boards (and city/township/school) are allowed to discuss non-union wages and benefits in closed session too, in addition to union negotiations strategy.
6. Oppose any new state-mandated time off benefits such as the Paid Family and Medical Leave benefit program, funded by employees and employers. Public employers currently provide generous leave accrual banks. Allow public employers and unions to negotiate paid time off benefits without a state mandate.

## Land Department

1. Support changes to MS 282 (Tax Forfeited Land Laws): As directed by the county board, the county auditor may lease tax-forfeited land under the terms and conditions prescribed by the county board for the purposes of investigating, analyzing, and developing conservation easements that provide ecosystem services. And The county auditor, under the terms and conditions prescribed by the county board, including reversion in the event of nonuse, may convey conservation easements as defined in section 84C.01 on tax-forfeited land.
2. Continue forest road grants to counties to maintain county-administered forest roads to counties that have appointed land commissioners.

3. The burden of blighted properties within City limits is falling onto County governments. Counties have little influence on how a City may or may not enforce blight issues prior to a property forfeiting. Final property cleanup is often deferred to Counties after years leading to forfeiture. Failure to act in a timely manner is exacerbating the blight issues. Cities should retain the administration of tax forfeited properties after forfeiture.
4. Secure funding needs to be in place to deal with derelict tax forfeited properties.
5. There should be an increase to the maximum \$12,000 lease amount to accommodate cell tower lease agreements. Counties are not able to enter cell tower agreements. Language should include the lease value and lease term to be determined by the county board as well as reverter language for non-use. (282.04 TIMBER SALES; LAND USE, LEASE, PARTITION, EASEMENT. Subdv 1(d))
6. Environmental education is extremely important to our region. Efforts to support curriculum and RELC's (i.e. Long Lake CC) is vital to acquiring/protecting lands for our future.
7. Legislation to support use of Outdoor Heritage (Legacy) funds to support updating forest inventory on County/State lands – how can we protect/enhance habitat if we have irregular data on what we currently have?
8. Support state funding to local government units for beaver control.

## Recorder's Office

## Sheriff's Office

1. Pursue legislation that would prohibit firearms in county buildings where court services occur.

## Treasurer's Office

1. Under Return of state fees - Suggest adding Marriage License fees to be retained by the county as the state receives most of the revenue but all the work is done in my office.
2. Have Mobile Homes returned to tabs issued by the DVM rather than being taxed thru the property tax system or raising the value threshold for them to be taxed thru the property tax system.

Below are some regulations cut and pasted from the DNR ATV Regulations that will hopefully be helpful in our ATV Ordinance Discussion. Directly below is a quote from John Welle regarding the proposed ATV Ordinance and its effect on ATV riding in urban areas with street and gutters. I have received comments regarding this issue and perhaps County Board members have as well. As John states, ATV's are allowed to continue to operate as they have under the existing ordinance.

*"The ordinance revisions being considered at this time don't affect urban highways that have curb and gutter and a grass boulevard, as those urban highway segments such as CH 8 in McGregor and CH 9 in McGrath are already listed in Appendix A of the ordinance. The existing ordinance language, which is not proposed to be changed with this revision, allows ATVs to ride on the extreme right hand side of the traffic line on highways listed in Appendix A as outlined in Article 4.1 of the ordinance and allowed by Minnesota Statute 84.928 Subdivision 1(k). Note that segments of highway on CH 1, 6, 15, 41, 54, and 74 were added to the list in Appendix A with this proposed ordinance revision to make the list inclusive of all urban curb and gutter county highways on our system."*

#### OHV DEFINITIONS

Off-highway vehicle (OHV); The term off-highway vehicle (OHV) includes all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off-highway motorcycles (OHMs), and off-road vehicles (ORVs).

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) ATVs have at least three, but no more than six, low-pressure or nonpneumatic tires (not filled with or containing compressed air) with a total dry weight less than 2,000 pounds and a total width from outside of tire rim to outside of tire rim that is 65 inches or less.

ATVs include Class 1 and Class 2. Dry weight is normally the weight of the vehicle without fluids. Vehicles not considered ATVs includes golf carts, mini-trucks, dune buggies, go carts, or a vehicle designed and used specifically for lawn maintenance, agriculture, logging, or mining purposes.

Class 1 ATVs width 50 inches or less.

Class 2 ATVs width greater than 50 inches but not more than 65 inches.

#### Where can I ride?

- The Northwood's ATV Trail System is one of the premier ATV Trail Systems in the Upper Midwest. Over 220 miles of Grant and Aid maintained, marked and signs trails.
- Unpaved County Roads in Aitkin County are open to Class I & Class II ATV's, riders must go in single file and there is a 30mph speed limit.
- Paved Aitkin County Roads are closed to ATV's on the riding surface, ditch and shoulder riding is allowed under State Statutes. There is a few miles of paved county roads that are open to ATV's under the Corridor Access Permit to access the trail or access amenities from the trail and the routes are marked.
- Township Roads are open to ATV traffic unless otherwise marked as closed.

Forest Roads State and County Forest Roads are open to ATV's unless posted otherwise. State and County Forest Access Routes are not open to ATV's such as logging roads. This point is missed by a lot of ATV riders.

## **ATV General Operations**

A valid driver's license is required to operate an ATV on a road right-of-way, except when on a designated trail that includes a road right-of-way. A trail pass is required for nonresidents operating an ATV, OHM or ORV that is *not* registered in Minnesota on state or grant-in-aid trails.

### **A person with a valid driver's license may operate a Class 1 ATV:**

- Registered for private use and being used for agricultural purposes on a public right-of-way of a trunk, county, state aid, or county highway, if the ATV is on the extreme right side of the road. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.
- On the far right side of a township road, unless prohibited by local regulations. If traveling at a slower speed than other traffic on the township road, the ATV should be driven as close as practical to the right edge of the road.
- On a bridge, a roadway shoulder, or the inside bank of a public road right-of-way if necessary to avoid obstructions to travel or environmentally sensitive areas. You must remain in the farthest right lane, enter the roadway within 100 feet of the bridge, obstacle, or area, and make the crossing without delay.

### **A person with a valid driver's license may operate a Class 2 ATV:**

- On private land.
- On frozen lake surfaces.
- On state forest roads.
- On designated Class 2 trails and use areas.
- In road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway but only to access businesses or make trail connections. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.

## **Youth riding**

### **Age 10 & 11**

- May operate an ATV only on private property with permission of the owner.
- May operate an ATV up to 90cc on public lands and frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian.
- May operate an ATV up to 110cc with straddle-style seating on public lands or frozen waters if accompanied by parent or legal guardian.
- May operate an ATV up to 170cc with side-by-side-style seating and equipped with steering wheel on public lands or frozen waters if accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.

### **Age 12 to 15**

- May operate an ATV on public lands and frozen waters and make direct crossing of roadways with a valid safety certificate is accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

- On the bank, slope, ditch of a public road right-of-way or roadway open by local ordinance with a valid ATV Safety Certification when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian on a separate ATV.

### **Age 16 & 17**

- Must have a valid driver's license and ATV Safety Certification to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road right-of-way or roadway open by local ordinance.
- Youth ages 16 to 17 must have a valid driver's license to make a direct crossing of a roadway or operate on road rights-of-way. In road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway but only to access businesses or make trail connections. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.

### **Youth Operators with Passengers**

- As an operator 12 to 17 years of age, you may carry one passenger on a Class 1 ATV only if the passenger is your parent or legal guardian.

### **Youth Class 2 ATV Operation**

- Anyone *under* the age of 15 may NOT operate a Class 2 ATV anywhere.
- 15 year olds with a valid ATV Safety Certificate may operate a Class 2 on the right shoulder or the extreme right-hand side of public roads when accompanied by a parent or legal guardian on a separate ATV.
- 15 year olds with a valid ATV Safety Certificate may operate on public lands and frozen waters and make direct crossing of roadways if accompanied on another ATV by a person age 18 or older who has a valid driver's license.
- 15 year olds with a valid ATV Safety Certificate may operate in road right-of-way of a trunk, county state-aid, or county highway but only to access businesses or make trail connections. A left turn may be made if it is safe to do so.

Handout LeB

Fund Dept	2020 Budgeted		2020 Actual		2020 Act - Bud		% of Budget		Comments
	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp	Rev +/-	Exp +/-	Rev	Exp	
<b>General Fund</b>									
<b>Administration/General Gov't Depts</b>									
1 1 Commissioners	0	257,045	0	181,897	0	(75,148)		71%	
1 40 Auditor	(286,420)	720,169	(201,296)	519,591	85,124	(200,578)	70%	72%	Reduction in collected License Center fees.
1 41 Internal Audit	0	56,000	0	49,253	0	(6,747)		88%	
1 42 Treasurer	(30,200)	293,874	(28,917)	217,115	1,283	(76,759)	96%	74%	TNT reimbursements & escrow maintenance fees collected at beginning of year.
1 43 Assessor	(159,613)	875,819	(175,655)	620,911	(16,042)	(254,908)	110%	71%	City & Township assessment charges collected early each year.
1 44 Central Services	(11,500,393)	206,146	(7,120,177)	277,382	4,380,216	71,236	62%	135%	COVID-related expenses charged to this department
1 45 Motor Pool	(65,500)	59,700	0	5,817	65,500	(53,883)	0%	10%	Revenue recorded at year end. Waiting for vehicle invoices.
1 49 Information Technologies	(56,905)	680,263	(558)	434,794	56,347	(245,469)	1%	64%	Intergovernmental transfer occurs at year end.
1 52 Administration	0	215,972	0	165,314	0	(50,658)		77%	
1 53 Human Resources	0	291,175	0	216,207	0	(74,968)		74%	
1 60 Elections	(50,525)	121,329	(80,338)	294,278	(29,813)	172,949	159%	243%	
1 100 Recorder	(210,500)	365,644	(178,146)	259,970	32,354	(105,674)	85%	71%	
1 110 Courthouse Maint	0	451,337	(20,588)	332,764	(20,588)	(118,573)		74%	
1 111 Buildings	0	75,000	0	2,100	0	(72,900)		3%	Majority of funds to be used on future capital project.
1 120 VSO	(14,300)	153,798	(15,808)	110,611	(1,508)	(43,187)	111%	72%	Misc. receipts/donations received.
1 121 HRA	0	2,000	0	1,435	0	(565)		72%	
<b>Administration/General Gov't Depts Subtotal</b>	<b>(12,374,356)</b>	<b>4,825,271</b>	<b>(7,821,483)</b>	<b>3,689,439</b>	<b>4,552,873</b>	<b>(1,135,832)</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>76%</b>	1st property tax payments due May 15th

Fund Dept	2020 Budgeted		2020 Actual		2020 Act - Bud		% of Budget		Comments
	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp	Rev +/-	Exp +/-	Rev	Exp	
<b>Public Safety</b>									
1 12 Court Administration	(5,100)	91,500	(4,216)	35,850	884	(55,650)	83%	39%	Outstanding invoices from court-appointed attorney.          Reduction in boarder revenue due to COVID-19.  Contracts paid at beginning of year.
1 90 Attorney	(81,683)	1,114,664	(64,530)	786,448	17,153	(328,216)	79%	71%	
1 123 Coroner	0	81,500	0	49,262	0	(32,238)		60%	
1 200 Enforcement	(276,418)	2,413,609	(128,692)	1,635,034	147,726	(778,575)	47%	68%	
1 201 Sheriff Contingency	0	0	(4,420)	0	(4,420)	0			
1 202 Boat and Water	(28,475)	97,926	(23,086)	68,185	5,389	(29,741)	81%	70%	
1 203 Snowmobile	(5,976)	39,146	(6,270)	32,242	(294)	(6,904)	105%	82%	
1 204 ATV	(12,500)	24,359	(10,937)	5,050	1,563	(19,309)	87%	21%	
1 206 Forfeitures	0	0	(6,942)	1,784	(6,942)	1,784			
1 252 Corrections	(270,500)	3,036,486	(105,372)	2,081,242	165,128	(955,244)	39%	69%	
1 253 Sentence to Serve	(31,943)	149,783	(24,809)	99,100	7,134	(50,683)	78%	66%	
1 254 Enhanced 911	(89,190)	89,190	(66,892)	105,332	22,298	16,142	75%	118%	
1 255 Crime Victim	(71,500)	85,613	(52,326)	59,642	19,174	(25,971)	73%	70%	
1 257 Aitkin Co. Community Corrections	(464,522)	929,383	(311,006)	622,104	153,516	(307,279)	67%	67%	
1 280 Emergency Management	(19,194)	50,323	(24,283)	44,605	(5,089)	(5,718)	127%	89%	
<i>Public Safety Subtotal</i>	<i>(1,357,001)</i>	<i>8,203,482</i>	<i>(833,781)</i>	<i>5,625,880</i>	<i>523,220</i>	<i>(2,577,602)</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>69%</i>	
<b>Culture and Recreation</b>									
1 500 Library & Historical Society	0	296,298	0	296,534	0	236		100%	
1 601 Extension	(1,300)	84,984	0	38,762	1,300	(46,222)		46%	Extension position open.
<i>Culture and Recreation Subtotal</i>	<i>(1,300)</i>	<i>381,282</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>335,296</i>	<i>1,300</i>	<i>(45,986)</i>		<i>88%</i>	

Fund Dept	2020 Budgeted		2020 Actual		2020 Act - Bud		% of Budget		Comments
	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp	Rev +/-	Exp +/-	Rev	Exp	
<b>Conservation of Natural Resources</b>									
1 122 Planning and Zoning	(339,316)	457,695	(218,010)	371,936	121,306	(85,759)	64%	81%	Annual budgeted permit revenue is \$250,000. Currently at \$265,000. AIS dollars shown as negative revenue as pass through to SWCD skews revenue number. Most license fees collected 1st quarter. \$55,800 planned use of fund balance transferred at year end.  Appropriations paid at beginning of year to SWCD
1 390 Environmental Health	(72,000)	84,217	(74,356)	57,926	(2,356)	(26,291)	103%	69%	
1 391 Solid Waste	(373,035)	371,884	(177,361)	230,045	195,674	(141,839)	48%	62%	
1 392 Water Wells	(11,000)	6,000	(11,453)	3,501	(453)	(2,499)	104%	58%	
1 600 Ag Soc, Soil & Water, Ag	0	117,253	(22,198)	117,728	(22,198)	476		100%	
1 603 Wetland Value Repl Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Conservation of Natural Resources Subtotal</b>	<b>(795,351)</b>	<b>1,037,049</b>	<b>(503,378)</b>	<b>781,136</b>	<b>291,973</b>	<b>(255,913)</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>75%</b>	
<b>Economic Development</b>									
1 700 Promotion, Tran, Airport,	0	38,707	0	35,523	0	(3,184)		92%	
1 711 Economic Development	(64,094)	106,617	(6,950)	79,986	57,144	(26,631)		75%	
<b>Economic Development Subtotal</b>	<b>(64,094)</b>	<b>145,324</b>	<b>(6,950)</b>	<b>115,509</b>	<b>57,144</b>	<b>(29,815)</b>		<b>79%</b>	
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>(14,592,102)</b>	<b>14,592,408</b>	<b>(9,165,592)</b>	<b>10,547,260</b>	<b>5,426,510</b>	<b>(4,045,148)</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>72%</b>	
<b>Road and Bridge Fund</b>									
3 0 Undesignated	(4,724,979)	0	(3,555,916)	0	1,169,063	0	75%		
3 301 Administration/HR	0	564,852	0	421,479	0	(143,373)		75%	
3 302 Engineering/Construction	0	557,114	0	405,049	0	(152,065)		73%	
3 303 Highway Maintenance	0	3,603,013	0	2,876,204	0	(726,809)		80%	
3 307 Capital Infrastructure	(4,327,700)	4,327,700	(5,903,479)	3,966,814	(1,575,779)	(360,886)	136%	92%	
3 308 Equipment and Facilities	(616,400)	616,400	(516,400)	575,686	100,000	(40,714)	84%	93%	
3 310 232 Turnback	0	0	0	0	0	0			
<b>Road and Bridge Fund</b>	<b>(9,669,079)</b>	<b>9,669,079</b>	<b>(9,975,795)</b>	<b>8,245,232</b>	<b>(306,716)</b>	<b>(1,423,847)</b>	<b>103%</b>	<b>85%</b>	

Fund Dept	2020 Budgeted		2020 Actual		2020 Act - Bud		% of Budget		Comments
	Rev	Exp	Rev	Exp	Rev +/-	Exp +/-	Rev	Exp	
<b>Health and Human Services Fund</b>									
5 400 Public Health	(885,377)	961,990	(569,352)	606,851	316,025	(355,139)	64%	63%	Flu shot vaccines paid in October
5 420 Income Maintenance	(2,141,667)	1,927,932	(1,790,504)	1,468,616	351,163	(459,316)	84%	76%	
5 430 Social Services	(3,855,629)	4,342,751	(2,889,338)	2,882,930	966,291	(1,459,821)	75%	66%	Motor pool allocated at year end.
<b>Health and Human Services Fund</b>	<b>(6,882,673)</b>	<b>7,232,673</b>	<b>(5,249,194)</b>	<b>4,958,397</b>	<b>1,633,479</b>	<b>(2,274,276)</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>69%</b>	
<b>Trust</b>									
10 921 County Development	(287,000)	363,423	(336,847)	68,039	(49,847)	(295,384)	117%	19%	
10 923 Forfeited Tax Sales	(1,500,000)	910,010	(958,872)	1,353,579	541,128	443,569	64%	149%	
<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>(1,787,000)</b>	<b>1,273,433</b>	<b>(1,295,719)</b>	<b>1,421,618</b>	<b>491,281</b>	<b>148,185</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>112%</b>	
<b>Forest Development</b>									
11 924 Forest Resource	0	0	0	0	0	0			Acct. combined with others - no longer used
11 925 Resource Management	(413,750)	381,821	(846,129)	200,603	(432,379)	(181,218)	205%	53%	
11 934 Memorial Forest	0	0	0	201,118	0	201,118			Acct. combined with others - no longer used
11 935 Forest Road	(136,088)	136,088	(20,086)	20,086	116,002	(116,002)	15%	15%	
11 939 County Surveyor	(362,050)	362,050	(4,525)	283,725	357,525	(78,325)	1%	78%	
<b>Forest Development</b>	<b>(549,838)</b>	<b>517,909</b>	<b>(866,215)</b>	<b>421,807</b>	<b>(316,377)</b>	<b>(96,102)</b>	<b>158%</b>	<b>81%</b>	
<b>Long Lake Conservation Center</b>									
19 521 LLCC Administration	(55,076)	208,163	(33,720)	125,001	21,356	(83,162)	61%	60%	
19 522 LLCC Education	(614,026)	267,795	(85,324)	127,479	528,702	(140,316)	14%	48%	Loss of revenues due to COVID-19
19 523 LLCC Food	(4,500)	165,219	(832)	49,401	3,668	(115,818)	18%	30%	
19 524 LLCC Maintenance	(73,600)	97,764	0	71,376	73,600	(26,388)	0%	73%	
19 525 LLCC Capital Improvement	(7,200)	0	(6,702)	8,053	498	8,053	93%		
<b>LLCC Fund</b>	<b>(754,402)</b>	<b>738,941</b>	<b>(126,578)</b>	<b>381,310</b>	<b>627,824</b>	<b>(357,631)</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>52%</b>	
<b>21 520 Parks</b>	<b>(542,102)</b>	<b>577,254</b>	<b>(528,413)</b>	<b>557,302</b>	<b>13,689</b>	<b>(19,952)</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>97%</b>	

# Aitkin County Board of Commissioners Board Meeting Attendance Record

Date: November 10, 2020

Name	Please check the boxes that apply.		
	Aitkin County Citizen	Aitkin County Employee	Company Representative – please list.
Dale Lueck	✓		MN Home of Dep.
Mike Dangers		X	ASSESSOR
Carrie Ruud	✓		
John Welle		✓	
Dan Guide		✓	
Ross Wagner		✓	

# Floodwood School District

## 2020 LEVY FACT SHEET



**Floodwood School: Preparing all students to succeed.**

## MAKE INFORMED

## DECISIONS

## NOVEMBER 3rd

Our mission is for all learners to be prepared to be successful in the world of their choosing. We are committed to providing every learner the opportunity to be prepared for their next decision in life and proud of the education they received. Consistent with our mission and vision, the Floodwood School board has placed two questions on the November 3, 2020 ballot. To make informed decisions, please use this fact sheet and our website as references for levy information.

**PREPARE WITH  
PRIDE: R.O.A.R. with  
Excellence**

The School Board's first ballot question asks voters to approve an operating referendum in the amount of \$2,081 per pupil, or a total of about \$350,000 per year for ten years.

The School Board's second ballot question asks voters to approve a capital project levy. This levy is in the amount of approximately \$193,000 each year for ten years.

Because the district is paying off some of its outstanding debt, there will be a significant reduction in our debt levy in 2022. As a result, the operating referendum and capital project levy increases will be offset by the reduction in taxes for debt.



### QUESTION 1

The Floodwood School Board has proposed the \$2,081 per pupil operating levy applicable for ten years, beginning with taxes payable in 2022.

With voter approval, the \$2,081 per pupil (\$350,000) will help:

**Maintain** existing curriculum and programs, services, class sizes, and staffing.

**Support** continued student achievement gains on the MCA and district assessments.

**Avoid** combined classrooms and cuts to the number of elective classes offered.

### QUESTION 2

The Floodwood School Board has proposed a capital project levy of 4.284% of the district's Net Tax Capacity (approximately \$193,000 per year) for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2022.. Question 1 must be approved in order for Question 2 to be approved.

With voter approval, the district will provide:

- Solar Panels
- Fuel Tank Removal
- Sidewalk Replacement
- iPad/Chromebook Lease
- Copy Machine Lease
- Follett Library Management System
- District Assessment Subscription
- IASC (Itasca Area Schools Collaborative) CISCO Lease
- IASC (Itasca Area Schools Collaborative) Technology Support Workers
- District Technology Staff

# Floodwood School District

Prepared by ISD 698 School District

## Why are these questions important?

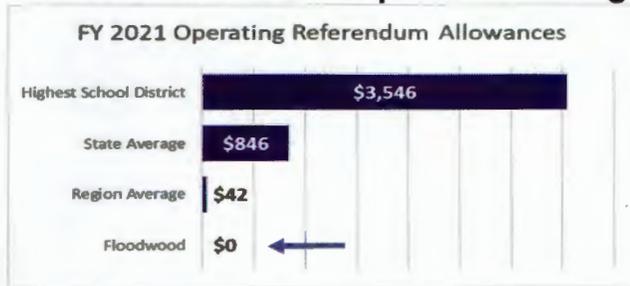
**Learners:** Every learner, from an early childhood student to a graduating senior, deserves a quality education. Without this funding, and despite our best efforts, our public school system will not be able to fully deliver what every learner deserves.

**Technology:** Our district must be positioned to integrate tomorrow's technology in present and future curricula. With the recent necessity due to COVID-19, the district has been forced to incorporate technology fully in school and at home for both teachers and learners.

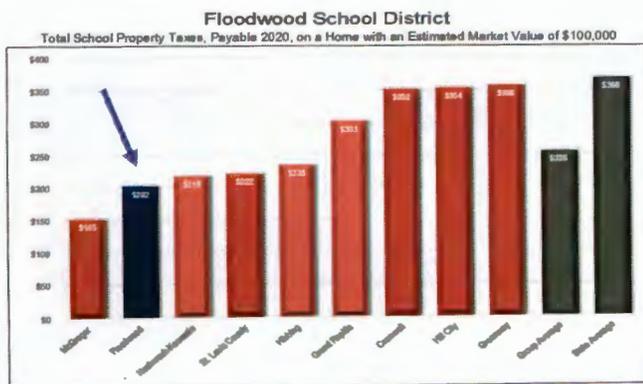
**Funding:** Without passage of these questions, we will be unable to provide the comprehensive quality education every learner deserves. We will have no other choice than to make reductions that will impact every classroom.

**Community:** Passage of these questions benefits not only learners, but also our community. The research is substantial; quality schools positively impact their communities with increased property values, safe neighborhoods and attractive places to raise families.

## How does ISD 698 compare in funding?



## How do ISD 698 taxes compare with neighboring school districts?



## How much will these levies cost me?

This table shows the net tax impact of both questions and the reduction in debt service levies on sample residential homesteads. For more examples and a tax calculator, visit the district's referendum web page.

Estimated Market Value	Annual Tax Increase (Q1 & Q2)	Monthly Tax Increase (Q1 & Q2)
\$50,000	\$60	\$5
\$100,000	\$109	\$9
\$150,000	\$149	\$12
\$200,000	\$189	\$16

### Available property tax relief programs:

- **Homestead Credit Refund:** A homeowner with a household income of up to \$115,020 is eligible for a property tax refund of up to \$2,820. A renter with a household income up to \$62,340 is eligible for a property tax refund of up to \$2,190.
- **Special Property Tax Refund:** A homeowner may be eligible for a special property tax refund if you have lived in your home from January 2, 2020 to January 2, 2021, your net property tax increased by more than 12%, and the increase is at least \$100. This refund has no income limit and the maximum refund is \$1,000.
- To determine eligibility and refund amounts, complete Minnesota Department of Revenue Form M1-PR. A link to the form is available on the District's website.

## How is ISD 698 fiscally responsible?

In recent years, the district has reduced expenses by the following amounts:

- FY17 \$31,316
- FY18 \$54,355
- FY19 \$115,035
- FY20 \$218,967

*The district is facing a budget shortfall for its fifth consecutive year. Financial operations have been verified by a yearly audit as having sound business practices.*

*\*MDE Data UFARS Compliance Report for each year*

## What can you do?

Make informed decisions on November 3. Learn the facts and share these with your family, friends, and neighbors. Contact the ISD 698 Superintendent, Dr. Rae Villebrun at [rvillebrun@isd698.org](mailto:rvillebrun@isd698.org) or (218) 476-2285 or (701) 278-1599 or Business Manager, Teresa Hart, at [that@isd698.org](mailto:that@isd698.org) or (218) 476-2285 for additional information.

## Where can you get more information?

Web: [www.isd698.org](http://www.isd698.org)

E-mail: [attendance@isd698.org](mailto:attendance@isd698.org)

Phone: 218.476.2285

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION  
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 698  
(FLOODWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS), MINNESOTA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in and for Independent School District No. 698 (Floodwood Public Schools), Minnesota, on November 3, 2020, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. to vote on the following questions:

**School District Question 1  
Approval Referendum Revenue Authorization**

The board of Independent School District No. 698 (Floodwood Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's general education revenue \$2,081 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2021 for taxes payable in 2022 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Shall the new referendum revenue authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 698 (Floodwood Public Schools) be approved?

**PASSAGE OF THIS REFERENDUM WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE IN YOUR PROPERTY TAXES**

For School District Question 1, the property tax portion of the revenue authorized will require an estimated referendum tax rate of 0.16514% for taxes payable in 2022 of the referendum market value of all classes of taxable property in the School District, as defined by Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.01, Subdivision 3, which excludes certain agricultural property, seasonal property and post-secondary student housing.

The projected annual dollar increases for typical residential homesteads, apartments, commercial-industrial properties, and most other classes of property within the School District are as shown in the table below, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation.

For agricultural property (both homestead and non-homestead), the taxes for the proposed referendum will be based on the value of the house, garage and one acre of land. There will be no referendum taxes paid on the value of agricultural land and buildings. For seasonal recreational residential property (e.g., cabins), there will be no taxes paid for the proposed referendum.

The figures in the table below are based on taxes for the voter approved referendum levy only, and do not include taxes for other purposes:

Homestead Residential, Apartments, and Commercial/Industrial Properties

<u>Market Value</u>	<u>New Levy Authority Taxes Payable in 2022</u>
\$ 50,000	\$83
75,000	124
100,000	165
125,000	206
150,000	248
175,000	289
200,000	330
225,000	372
250,000	413
275,000	454
300,000	495
325,000	537
350,000	578
375,000	619
400,000	661
425,000	702
450,000	743
475,000	784
500,000	826
550,000	908

**School District Question 2**  
**Approval of Capital Project Levy Authorization**

The board of Independent School District No. 698 (Floodwood Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed a capital project levy authorization in the amount of 4.284% times the net tax capacity of the school district to provide funds for the acquisition and installation of technology and deferred capital maintenance projects. The proposed capital project levy authorization will raise approximately \$193,368 in 2021, the first year it is to be levied, for taxes payable in 2022, and would be authorized for ten (10) years. The estimated total cost of the projects to be funded over that time period is approximately \$1,933,680.

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the capital project levy authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 698 (Floodwood Public Schools), Minnesota be approved?

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

The figures in the following table are based on taxes for the School District Question 2 proposed capital project levy authorization only, and do not include taxes for other purposes:

<u>Estimated Market Value</u>	<u>Proposed Capital Project Levy Annual Taxes Payable 2022</u>	<u>Estimated Market Value</u>	<u>Proposed Capital Project Levy Annual Taxes Payable 2022</u>
<b>Homestead Residential</b>		<b>Agricultural (Non-Homestead)</b>	
\$50,000	\$13	\$ 1,000	\$0.43
75,000	19	2,000	0.86
100,000	31	3,000	1.29
125,000	42	4,000	1.71
150,000	54	5,000	2.14
175,000	66		
200,000	77		
250,000	101		
300,000	124	<b>Seasonal/Recreational Residential</b>	
400,000	171	\$ 100,000	\$43
500,000	214	200,000	86
600,000	268	300,000	129
700,000	321	400,000	171
		500,000	214
		600,000	268
<b>Commercial/Industrial</b>			
\$100,000	\$64		
200,000	139		
300,000	225		
400,000	311		
500,000	396		
<b>Agricultural (Homestead)</b>			
\$ 1,000	\$0.21		
2,000	0.43		
3,000	0.64		
4,000	0.86		
5,000	1.07		

The precincts and polling places for the special election will be the precincts and polling places used for the state general election.

All qualified electors residing in said School District may cast their ballots at the polling places for the precincts in which they reside during the polling hours specified above.

A voter must be registered to vote to be eligible to vote in the special election. Unregistered individuals may register to vote at the polling places on election day.

Dated: August 20, 2020 BY ORDER OF THE SCHOOL BOARD

/s/ Corinne Suonvieri, Clerk