Dear Benson Property Owners:

Two separate education-related questions will appear on the November 3, 2026 ballot. They involve different funding sources and should be considered independently. Benson Schools has one question on the ballot for you to consider. Our School District is required by Minnesota state law to provide you with this Notice of Special Election. The other ballot question is a Statewide constitutional Amendment regarding the Minnesota Permanent School Fund. This question has no impact on property taxes.

Please know that the school district is bound by state law to provide only factual information. The district cannot use taxpayer dollars to advocate for any candidate or ballot question. If you hear something in the community that does not sound quite right, I encourage you to reach out to us.

More information is available on our website,/www.benson.k12.mn.us, or contact me with questions at jbeddowschubert@benson.k12.mn.us or 320-842-2700.

Sincerely,
Dr. Julie Beddow-Schubert, Superintendent

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 777
(BENSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election has been called and will be held in conjunction with the State General Election in and for Independent School District No. 777 (Benson Public Schools), State of Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the purpose of voting on the following question:

School District Question 1
Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization;
Approving New Authorization

The school board of Independent School District No. 777 (Benson Public Schools) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of $710.70 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of $1,410.70 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years commencing with taxes payable in 2027, and increase each year by the rate of inflation beginning with taxes payable in 2028, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

SAMPLE BALLOT

◯ **YES**
◯ **NO**

Shall the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization be revoked, and the increase in the revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 777 be approved?

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

Passage of this referendum will result in an increase in your property taxes.

The 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.

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

Benson Public Schools - ISD #777
1400 Montana Avenue
Benson, MN 56215

WHAT IS THE PLAN?

The school board voted unanimously to ask voters to consider an operating levy that would give the district $700 more per student each year.

- The funding would support current classes and programs, including shop and trade classes, FFA, and BPA, which help prepare students for college, the military, or a job after graduation. It would also help the district recruit and keep quality teachers and staff.
- For the median Benson home, valued at $175,000, the levy would cost about $15 a month.
- If approved, the levy would raise $1,050,000 a year for 10 years, starting with taxes paid in 2027. That is an increase of $522,000 a year.
- Without the levy, the district's savings (reserves) will drop dramatically within a few years, and more cuts will likely follow.

ESTIMATES PRIOR TO ELECTION

Benson Public Schools, ISD 777
Analysis of Tax Impact for Potential Referendum Levy
August 7, 2026

Year Taxes are Payable	2027 Revoked Authority	2027 Proposed Authority	NET CHANGE
Per Pupil Allowance	-$710.70	$1,410.70	$700.00
Annual Referendum Revenue	-$530,537	$1,053,089	$522,551

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Estimated Taxes for Referendum Levy Only*		
Residential Homesteads, House, Garage and One Acre (HGA), Apartments, and Commercial-Industrial Property	$50,000	-$52	$103	$51
	75,000	-78	155	77
	100,000	-104	206	102
	125,000	-130	258	128
	150,000	-156	310	154
	175,000	-182	361	179
	200,000	-208	413	205
	225,000	-234	465	231
	250,000	-260	516	256
	275,000	-286	568	282
	300,000	-312	619	307
	325,000	-338	671	333
	350,000	-364	723	359
	375,000	-390	774	384
	400,000	-416	826	410
	425,000	-442	877	435
	450,000	-468	929	461
	475,000	-494	981	487
	500,000	-520	1,032	512

* The amounts in the table are based on school district taxes for the referendum levy only, and do not include tax levies for other purposes. Tax increases shown above are gross increases, not including the impact of the Minnesota Homestead Credit Refund ("Circuit Breaker") program. Owners of homestead property may qualify for a refund, based on their income and total property taxes. This may decrease the net effect of the referendum levy for those property owners.

NOTE: The new operating referendum revenue would start with fiscal year 2027-28 and is based on estimated adjusted pupil units (APU) of 747. Agricultural property will pay taxes for the proposed referendum based only on the value of the house, garage and one acre. Seasonal recreational residential property (i.e., cabins) will pay no taxes for the proposed referendum.

EHLERS PUBLIC FINANCE ADVISORS

Op Ref 26b Benson R&R $700.xlsx

Prepared and paid for by Benson Public Schools - ISD #777, 1400 Montana Avenue, Benson, MN 56215.