

Prescott Schools

NEWS EXTRA

VOTE
Nov.
8th



TO OUR District Residents

Prescott School District (PSD) will be faced with a budgeting deficit at the end of the current school year. This will result in a loss of significant school programs, activities, jobs and services.

Why is there a deficit? Our levy cap override funding, approved in 2007, expires at the end of this school year. This year the state of Wisconsin reduced our aid by \$636,000. Federal aid is set to go down as well beginning in 2012. These decreases in funding couldn't have come at a worse time. The reality is that costs are going up. Energy prices are estimated to rise two to three percent each year. Health care expenses are expected to increase by six percent annually as well. At the same time, the district must plan for teacher salaries and benefits to increase an average of two percent annually.

What is proposed? Without a new levy cap override to replace the expiring one, the district faces a \$1,720,000/year budget gap. To manage this problem, the district is pursuing a two-part strategy. First they will make cutbacks totaling \$260,000 over the next four years. The second strategy is to satisfy the remaining shortfall with a proposed \$1,460,000 new levy cap override. The new levy is a renewal of the expiring levy cap override with an additional \$340,000 annually for four years beginning in 2013.

The new levy is an annual increase of \$50 in property taxes on a property valued at \$100,000. The amount is in addition to what you already pay in property taxes. The new levy cap override is essential in order to account for the increases in costs and decreases in aid. It also sustains the district's ability to offer programs and services like athletics, city bus routes, and important staff that are needed to operate well-functioning schools for our students.

Vote: It is up to the school district's residents to decide on the new levy cap override Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011.

Levy Cap Override Defined

- A Levy Cap Override is a tax proposed out of necessity in order to narrow the gap in state and federal funding.
- The new levy is a renewal of the 2007 levy with an additional \$340,000/year to cover rising costs.
- The levy increase would not impact your property taxes until January 2013.

Home Value	Current Levy	Levy Increase*
\$100,000	\$165	\$50
\$200,000	\$330	\$100
\$300,000	\$495	\$150

* This represents the annual increase of the new \$1,460,000 levy.



Visit www.prescott.k12.wi.us and select the orange 'Levy Cap Override Information' button. By clicking on the 'Property Tax Calculator' icon, you can calculate the proposed \$340,000 Levy Cap Override increase on your taxes.

For more information please visit www.prescott.k12.wi.us

Vote Tuesday, November 8th

How will the levy be used?

The levy will **save current programs, athletics and extracurricular activities**. These activities help embrace students' individualities by giving them more choices and opportunities to become successful. The Levy **will not be used** on any new buildings for the school district. However, the levy will save day-to-day services and staff that enable our schools to operate efficiently. The district will need to scale back essential services that are needed to run a school district if funding is not obtained.



What Have We Lost?

- \$636,000 of State Aid has been lost, starting in 2011-12
- \$329,343 of Federal Aid will be lost, starting 2012-13
- \$125,802 in Special Education Grants have been lost since 2010-11

District of choice

- Prescott students received above average state test scores in all areas and at all grade levels.
- Check out the Fall Prescott Community Education catalog by visiting the PSD website. There is something for everyone. Click on the PCE link under Community and then select Fall Course catalog.
- PSD offers a Senior Tax Exchange Program (STEP) to seniors who are at least 62 years old. Volunteers have the opportunity to help students and teachers while earning up to \$500 towards their property taxes. Learn more by visiting the PSD website and selecting the community link.

PSD Faces Difficult Cuts*

Teacher/Staff Layoffs (Salary + Benefits)

2 Elementary Teachers	\$120,000
5 Elementary Education Aides	\$110,000
Reading Specialist	\$ 60,000
1 Band Teacher	\$ 60,000
1 Art Teacher	\$ 60,000
Guidance Counselor	\$ 60,000
Malone Reading/Math Interventionist	\$ 60,000
Middle School Reading/Math Interventionist	\$ 30,000
Curriculum Director	\$ 60,000

Program Cuts

All High School & Middle School Athletics & Extra Curricular Offerings **	\$236,000
All City Bus Routes	\$ 93,000
Annual Bus Replacement	\$ 89,000
Reduced Elective Courses at High School	\$ 60,000
Textbook Replacement	\$ 55,000
Annual Computer Replacement	\$ 44,000
Reduced Building & Maintenance Budget	\$ 35,500
Gifted & Talented at Malone	\$ 60,000
Middle School Gifted/Talented & Reading	\$ 30,000
Destination Imagination (all schools)	\$ 13,000
All Educational Field Trips	\$ 35,000
Alternative High School & Middle School Technology	\$ 60,000
High School Credit Recovery Program	\$ 15,000
High School After School Remedial Program	\$ 3,500
Middle School After School Remedial Program	\$ 5,000
Malone After School Reading/Math	\$ 6,000

TOTAL \$1,460,000

* Cuts were provided by Administration to School Board, but are not limited to this list.

** baseball, boys and girls basketball, cross country, dance, football, golf, softball, track, volleyball, wrestling, forensics, and drama

Polling Information

Prescott City Hall
800 Borner St., Prescott
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Diamond Bluff Town Hall
W9870 290th Ave, Hager City
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Oak Grove Town Hall
N4595 Cty. Rd. QQ, Prescott
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Trimbelle Town Hall
W9115 501st Ave., Ellsworth
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Clifton Town Hall
W11705 Cty. Rd. F, River Falls
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Register to vote right at the polls! Just bring your valid DL or your utility bill.

Absentee Ballots: You can obtain an absentee ballot from your municipal clerk's office or by visiting <http://gab.wi.elections-voting/voters/absentee>.