

ANCHOR OUR FUTURE

ONE DISTRICT. ONE VISION. LAKE SUPERIOR.

On November 2, 2021, residents approved a \$44.1 million plan to make upgrades at Minnehaha Elementary and William Kelley Schools. For more information, visit <https://www.isd381.k12.mn.us/anchor-our-future/>.

THE NEED



WILLIAM KELLEY SCHOOL

Built in 1958, William Kelley's age means certain parts of its infrastructure are no longer suited for modern learning. Some of the building's needs include lack of properly secured entrances, asbestos flooring and ceiling, original ventilation units, and poor filtration.

Two Harbors High School, originally constructed in 2005 with recent additions in both 2016 and 2018, has fewer needs.



MINNEHAHA ELEMENTARY

Constructed in 1960 on a foundation built in 1944, key pieces of this school's infrastructure are outdated, inefficient, or in need of significant repairs. These needs include an outdated security/camera system, and an aging boiler system and water heater.

ENGAGING OUR COMMUNITIES

The district spent several years studying a range of options to improve our schools. District leaders held 19 stakeholder listening sessions with parents, staff, residents, and community leaders, including Lake County, the cities of Two Harbors and Silver Bay, and other local organizations.

The district also spent a significant amount of time on facility assessments, financial analyses, and demographics studies.

A comprehensive communications campaign was launched to fully engage local residents including a dedicated website, mailers, social media, newspaper articles, emails, meetings, and more.

The collage includes several key pieces of information:

- THE PLAN:** A central graphic stating "The plan would update our schools to support the students of today and tomorrow." It lists two questions: Q1 (Levy-Central) for \$44.1 million and Q2 (Levy-Local) for \$7.3 million.
- Time is running out to vote early!** A graphic with a clock icon indicating that absentee voting starts on Friday, Sept. 27.
- Join us for building tours of our schools!** A call to action for community members to visit the schools.
- Anchor Our Future Website:** A screenshot of the district's website showing the referendum details.
- Ballot Information:** Details about the November 2 ballot, including the location of the ballot box and the deadline for voting.
- FAQs and Specifics:** Various smaller graphics addressing common questions, such as "What does 'Levy Neutral' mean?" and "What are the costs?"

On Tuesday, November 2, 2021, residents approved a \$44.1 million plan to make upgrades at Minnehaha Elementary and William Kelley Schools. We're grateful to our communities for their support!

Question two, for \$7.3 million, did not pass.

Question One passed with 1,643 yes votes to 1,044 no votes. Question Two was rejected with 1,193 yes votes to 1,477 no votes.



Our schools have served us well but they need critical updates to meet today's health, safety, and educational standards.

All improvements listed below were included in Question One and approved by voters.

William Kelley:

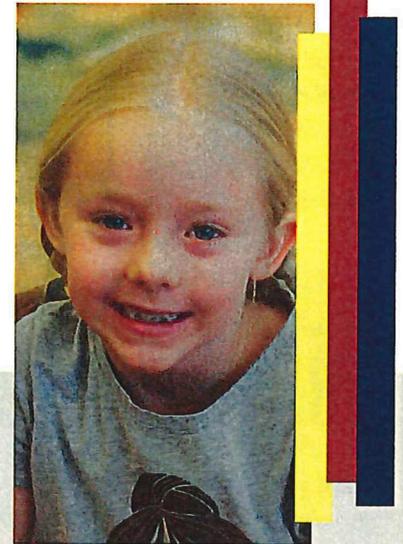
- Demolish/replace the music wing with a two-story classroom wing
- Make improvements to secured entrances
- Remove asbestos
- Upgrade HVAC systems
- Redesign classrooms for STEAM education and student collaboration
- Replace boiler
- Repair exterior walls, doors, and old roofing sections
- Replace decaying ceiling tile
- Complete ADA renovations
- Install new kitchen appliances and equipment
- Renovate and expand bus garage

Minnehaha Elementary:

- Renovate all classrooms
- Make improvements to secured entrances
- Build a 9,000 square-foot addition (cafeteria, kitchen, and classrooms)
- Relocate main office
- Replace water heater
- Remove asbestos
- Replace aging windows, doors, and old roofing sections
- Complete ADA renovations
- Repair the building envelope to prevent water intrusion
- Build a new outdoor playground

Two Harbors High School:

- Make improvements to secured entrances
- Recalibrate ventilation control
- Replace fluorescent lighting with LED fixtures
- Renovate the bus garage with a new bus lift for repair work



OUR CHALLENGE, AND HOW LEGISLATION CAN HELP

Lake Superior Public School District worked hard to present a plan to voters that would remain levy-neutral and avoid asking voters for future investments for at least 20 years.

However, inflation and high construction costs are significantly hindering our ability to deliver this project as promised to local taxpayers. Although construction inflation factors and contingencies were included in our budgets, and we received an official approval from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), no one could have predicted the increases we're faced with today.

Once a referendum is approved by local voters, school districts have no recourse to address cost overruns other than to cut scope, which ultimately impacts students, staff, and their surrounding communities — and we've already adopted scope changes and cost reductions.

Currently, our overages have surpassed \$9.8 million, and we've worked diligently to reduce that through strategic bid packaging, value engineering, scope reduction, and more. Bottom line — we wouldn't be in this position without unprecedented construction inflation and every project change makes an impact.

Our district, and many others around the state, can overcome this challenge — but only with State help. Legislation to offset uncontrollable cost increases for voter-approved projects would ensure districts, like Lake Superior, can fully deliver on improvements supported by voters.

For more information, please reach out to Superintendent Jay Belcastro by email at jbelcastro@isd381.org or by phone at 218.834.8201 Ext. 8213.

ANCHOR OUR FUTURE

ONE DISTRICT. ONE VISION. LAKE SUPERIOR.

Lake Superior School District November 2021 Referendum

FAST FACTS

On Tuesday, November 2, 2021, district voters will consider two ballot questions that, if approved, would invest a combined \$51.4 million in district facilities. Visit AnchorOurFuture.org for more information.



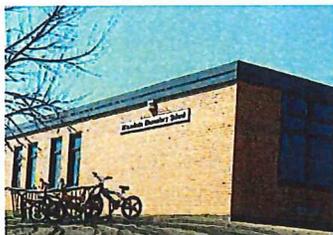
THE NEED

William Kelley School and Minnehaha Elementary School need updates to improve health, safety, and educational programming.



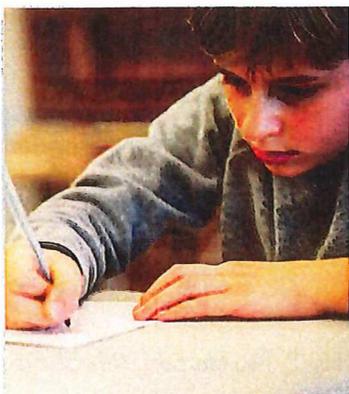
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WHY NOVEMBER?

District leaders carefully considered the right time to propose a plan to voters.

Our buildings are only getting older — waiting to make improvements will only increase costs for taxpayers and create further problems for students and maintenance staff. November also coincides with the expiration of some of the district's existing bond debt, making it a convenient time to tackle needed upgrades without adding a substantial impact to taxpayers.

THE PLAN

Schools that support the students of today and tomorrow.

Q1

Question one invests \$44.1 million for expanded educational spaces and infrastructure upgrades at Minnehaha Elementary and William Kelley Schools. Upgrades include security improvements, electrical systems, plumbing, and educational technology. Both schools would be renovated to replace outdated flooring, ceilings, furniture, and finishes.

Q2

Question two invests \$7.3 million in athletic facilities upgrades at William Kelley and Two Harbors High School. Improvements include artificial turf fields, new lighting and sound systems, an all-weather track at William Kelley, and resurfaced tennis courts at Two Harbors High School.

Passage of question two is contingent on the successful passage of question one.

UPDATING OUR SCHOOLS FOR OUR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND COMMUNITIES.

THE COST

Q1 is levy-neutral!

Thanks to the expiration of existing debt and the district managing their finances responsibly, question one (\$44.1 million) would be **levy-neutral**. That means that, if approved, Q1 would not raise property taxes above the current tax rate.

Question two (\$7.3 million), which is contingent on the successful passage of Q1, would result in a \$3 per month increase in property taxes for an average residence in the district worth approximately \$200,000.

 **To find your estimated tax impact, visit AnchorOurFuture.org/cost**

VOTING INFO

Absentee/early voting starts Friday, Sept. 17!

There are three ways to vote:

- **Absentee Ballot:** Absentee ballot voting begins Sept. 17. You can download an absentee ballot at AnchorOurFuture.org/vote. You can also request a ballot be mailed to you by calling the district office at 218-834-8201. Completed ballots must be postmarked on or before Tuesday, Nov. 2.
- **In-Person Early Voting:** Available weekdays from Sept. 17 through Nov. 1 at the district office (1640 County Hwy 2, Two Harbors, MN 55616), weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- **Election Day Voting:** You can vote on Election Day (Tuesday, Nov. 2) from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit AnchorOurFuture.org/vote to find your polling location.



 AnchorOurFuture.org  Lake Superior School District #381  @ISD381  218.834.8201 Ext. 8216

Prepared and paid for by Independent School District No. 381 (Lake Superior School District) 1640 County Hwy 2, Two Harbors, MN 55616.
This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot questions.