

**– According to District Officials –**

"We don't have an expenditure problem, we have a revenue problem."

Information from The Minnesota Dept. of Education might suggest otherwise, as in their report that compares District 719 Revenues, Expenditures and Enrollment for last year (2006-2007) vs the year before.

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**TOTAL REVENUE, 12% increase**

- From all local Sources, **43% increase** including **29% increase in** Property Tax Levies
- From Federal, **11% increase**
- From State, **0.45% decrease**

**GENERAL FUND REVENUE, 9.3% increase**

**GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES, 10.4% increase**

**STUDENT POPULATION, 4.6% increase**

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**We agree there's a problem when spending is increasing faster than revenue. But, when spending increases at twice the rate of student enrollment, we don't agree that it's a revenue problem.**

***We need a School Board that will control spending within affordable limits for residents***

# The Citizens for Accountable Government

Our Mission is to promote and support local government that is fiscally responsible, that is willing to manage growth for the welfare of current residents rather than at their expense, that is committed to protection of our natural resources like lakes, wetlands, and forests, and that is willing to be held accountable by citizens and voters.

We encourage you to join us in making changes by supporting our mission, and voting for citizens who will represent your interests. For more information, you can visit our website at:

[www.citizensforaccountablegovernment.org](http://www.citizensforaccountablegovernment.org)  
or

**[www.c-a-g.org](http://www.c-a-g.org)**

This publication was prepared and paid for by Citizens for Accountable Government.

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Note: Facts used in this brochure were taken from the School District 719 proposed budget for 2008, the Minnesota Department of Education, and the Prior Lake American. We have diligently attempted to be accurate but cannot guarantee the accuracy of the sources used.

## Attention Residents of School District 719

In 2000 and 2005 our School Board asked for and received bonding approval for a total of **\$134 million** for land, schools, and outfitting, in addition to millions for operating costs.

**They're back for more dollars. Be sure you know what they want,**

**– before you vote –**

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**Fact:** They want an increase of about 30% in what you pay for school taxes each year (School taxes currently account for about 40% of your total property tax.)

**Fact:** They want \$29 million to expand the new high school that was just opened in 2003.

**Fact:** They want a 70 % increase in dollars per student support for operating expense.

**Fact:** They want automatic yearly inflationary increases in the operating levy for ten years.

Note. The District currently receives \$8480 per student for the General Fund Budget from local, state, and federal sources.

**What's important is what voters want  
VOTE ON NOVEMBER 6**

You can visit us at [www.c-a-g.org](http://www.c-a-g.org)

District 719 residents have given generous support to our schools.

– Are we being too generous? –

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### FOR BUILDINGS

In May of 2000, the District Board asked for **\$67 million** for schools and outfitting. When voters approved, the Board Chair said publicly, "We've set this District up for the next 20 years."

But just five years later in February 2005, they asked for and received **another \$67 million**.

Now two years later the Board is asking for **\$29 million more** for buildings.

**If voters say YES once again, the District will have received \$163 million for buildings and outfitting since the beginning of 2000.**

### FOR OPERATING EXPENSE

In 2002, the District Board asked voters to approve an increase in local tax support for operating expense, for a total of \$841/student.

Now they're asking for an increase to \$1431 per student, an additional **70% increase**.

Note: The local tax levy for operating expense is in addition to state and federal contributions. The total is \$8480 per student.

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***We don't want our School Board to take advantage of the generosity of taxpayers in our School District.***

**With District Revenues increasing at a rate that exceeds enrollment growth, where is the money going?**

Comparison of selected budget items from last year vs the year before, offers a partial answer.

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- District & School Admin.: **36% increase**
  - Vocational Instruction: **24% increase**
  - Instructional Support Services: **20% increase**
  - Operations & Maintenance: **17% increase**
  - Pupil Support Services: **14% increase**
  - District Support Services: **11% increase**
  - General Instruction: **8% increase**
  - Other: **23% increase**
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These increases contributed to an overall increase of 10.4% in Operating Expenditures.

For 6 years, funding for the General Fund has increased at rates up to twice the student population growth. The total annual budget, including debt service, has reached almost \$77 million, or about \$11,200 per student annually. Residents can determine for themselves whether we get the results we pay for.

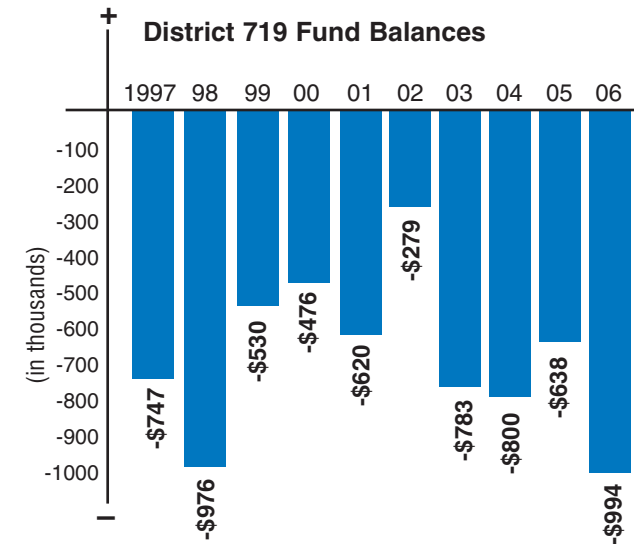
***We expect our School Board to invest in proportion to the results achieved.***

**There is current debate about whether the School District has been fiscally conservative.**

– Residents can decide for themselves –

**Fact:** Of the 10 surrounding Districts, only our District 719 had a negative fund balance last year.

**Fact:** Our District has operated with a negative fund balance for the past 10 years. (A modest spending reduction of less than 1% per year would have eliminated the deficit.)



**Fact:** The District spent millions to build Red Tail Ridge. Now they tell us that it may stand empty, unless voters give them more money.

***We want a School Board that is willing to control spending increases, as one means to balance the budget.***