

Special School Board Meeting Re: Referendum

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Thursday, August 6, 2026

District Services Center

709 Portia Johnson Dr.

Duluth, MN 55811

4:00 PM

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

**3. Resolution B-8-26-4180 - Resolution Relating to the Authorization of an
Operating Levy of the School District and Calling Election Theron**

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4. Adjournment

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE AUTHORIZATION OF AN
OPERATING LEVY OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CALLING AN
ELECTION THEREON**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board (the “Board”) of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth), St. Louis County, Minnesota (the “District”) as follows:

Section 1. Findings. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §126C.17, the School Board determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient to increase its general education revenue by increasing its referendum levy authority: A) by \$438.00 per pupil for taxes payable in 2027, and \$933.00 per pupil, which will replace the \$438.00 per pupil levying authorization for taxes payable in years 2028 through 2036; and, if such referendum levy is approved, then B) by an additional \$382.00 per pupil for taxes payable in years 2027 through 2036. The additional revenue will be used to fund school operations. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would increase annually by the rate of inflation and would be applicable for 10 years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Section 2. Approval of the Questions. The questions authorizing the operating levy shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the District at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held on November 3, 2026 (the “Special Election”). Such questions shall be in the following forms:

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1

**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The School Board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by the following amounts for taxes payable in the years specified:

- \$438.00 per pupil for taxes payable in 2027; and
- \$933.00 per pupil, which will replace the \$438.00 per pupil for taxes payable in 2028 through 2036, and that amount would increase annually by the rate of inflation commencing with taxes payable in 2029.

The proposed new referendum revenue authorizations would be applicable for a total of ten years, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The additional revenue will be used to fund school operations.

☐ **YES**

Shall the increase in general education revenue
proposed by the school board of Independent School

☐ NO

District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools) for each year
be approved?

**BY VOTING “YES” ON THE BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING YES FOR A
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDITIONAL REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The School Board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by an additional \$382.00 per pupil, contingent upon Ballot Question No. 1 being approved. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2026 for taxes payable in 2027, would be applicable for ten (10) years and would be subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation, unless otherwise revoked or reduced by law. The additional revenue will be used to fund school operations.

☐ YES

If Ballot Question No. 1 is approved, shall the additional new increase in general education revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools) for each year also be approved?

☐ NO

**BY VOTING “YES” ON THE BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING YES FOR A
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

Section 3. Polling Places.

A. The precincts and polling places for the Special Election are those precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the District which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the District, as listed on **Exhibit A**. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

B. The Clerk is authorized and directed to cause the rules and instructions for use of the optical scan voting system to be posted in each polling place or combined polling place on Election Day.

Section 4. Notice of Election.

A. The Clerk is authorized and directed to cause written notice of the Special Election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the District is located, in whole or in part, at least 84 days before the date of the Special Election. The notice shall include the date of

the Special Election and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at the Special Election.

B. The Clerk is authorized and directed to cause written notice of the Special Election to be provided to the Commissioner of Education at least 84 days before the date of the Special Election. The notice shall include the date of the Special Election and the title and language for the ballot question to be voted on at the Special Election.

C. The Clerk is authorized and directed to cause notice of the Special Election to be published in the official newspaper of the District, for two consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one week before the date of the Special Election.

D. The Clerk is authorized and directed to cause notice of the Special Election to be posted at the administrative offices of the District and three of the most public places in the District at least 10 days before the date of the Special Election. The notice must remain posted through the date of the Special Election.

E. The Clerk is authorized and directed, if required by law, to deliver by mail at least 15 days but no more than 45 days before the Special Election to each taxpayer notice of the Special Election, including the proposed revenue increase.

F. The notice of election so posted and published shall be in the form hereto attached as **Exhibit A**, and shall state the questions to be submitted to the voters as set forth in the form of ballot below, and include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

Section 5. Election Materials. The Clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the Special Election and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on November 3, 2026. The Clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements with appropriate municipal and county officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration, and cost sharing.

Section 6. Ballot Boxes; Preparation of Ballots; Absentee Ballots.

A. The Clerk is authorized and directed to secure equipment for the deposit of ballots at the polling place and to acquire and distribute such election materials as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this Special Election.

B. The Clerk is further authorized and directed to cause printed ballots to be prepared for use at said Special Election in substantially the form attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

C. If the District will be contracting to print the ballots for this Special Election, the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to prepare instructions to the printer

for layout of the ballot. Before a contract in excess of \$1,000 is awarded for printing ballots, the printer shall furnish, if requested by the Clerk, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 204D.04, a sufficient bond, letter of credit, or certified check acceptable to the Clerk conditioned on printing the ballots in conformity with the Minnesota election law and the instructions delivered. The Clerk shall set the amount of the bond, letter of credit, or certified check in an amount equal to the value of the purchase.

D. The Clerk is authorized to work with the County Auditor regarding the preparation and availability of absentee ballots for the Special Election as required by Minnesota Statutes.

Section 7. Sample Ballot. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot. The Clerk is authorized and directed to post the sample ballot as required by Minnesota Statutes, as follows:

A. The sample ballot shall be posted in the Clerk's office of the District at least four days prior to the Special Election.

B. The sample ballot shall be posted in a conspicuous location at each polling place on election day.

Section 8. Election Judges. The Clerk is authorized to appoint election judges, each of whom is qualified to serve as an election judge, and will be appointed as judges of the Special Election, and to act as such at the respective polling places. The election judges shall act as clerks of the election, count the ballots cast and submit the results to the Board for canvass in the manner provided for other school district elections.

Section 9. Canvass of Returns. The Board shall meet no earlier than three (3) days after the date of the Special Election and no later than ten (10) days after the date of the Special Election to canvass the results and to declare the results thereof.

Section 10. Election Proceedings. This resolution shall be in full force and effect and said election shall be held and conducted and the returns thereof shall be canvassed in all respects as required by law.

Section 11. Exhibits. The exhibits to this Resolution are as follows:

Exhibit A: Notice of Special Election
Exhibit B: Form of Official Ballot

Adopted: August 6, 2026.

Attested:

Chair

Clerk

EXHIBIT A

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH), MINNESOTA ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special Election in and for Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth), Minnesota, will be held on November 3, 2026, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of voting upon the following questions:

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The School Board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by the following amounts for taxes payable in the years specified:

- \$438.00 per pupil for taxes payable in 2027; and
- \$933.00 per pupil, which will replace the \$438.00 per pupil for taxes payable in 2028 through 2036, and that amount would increase annually by the rate of inflation commencing in taxes payable in 2029.

The proposed new referendum revenue authorizations would be applicable for a total of ten years, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The additional revenue will be used to fund school operations.

☐ **YES**

Shall the increase in general education revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools) for each year be approved?

☐ **NO**

BY VOTING “YES” ON THE BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING YES FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDITIONAL REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

The School Board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools), Minnesota has proposed to increase its general education revenue by an additional \$382.00 per pupil, contingent upon Ballot Question No. 1 being approved. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2026 for taxes payable in 2027, would be applicable for ten (10) years and would be subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation, unless otherwise revoked or reduced by law. The additional revenue will be used to fund school operations.

☐ YES

☐ NO

If Ballot Question No. 1 is approved, shall the additional new increase in general education revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools) for each year also be approved?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THE BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING YES FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

The polling places at which all the voters in Independent School District No. 709 may vote in the Special Election have been designated as:

City of Duluth Polling Places

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. St. Michael's Catholic Church (lower level) | 4901 East Superior Street |
| 2. Lakeside Presbyterian Church (lower level) | 4430 McCullough Street |
| 3. Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (lower level) | 1325 North 45th Avenue East |
| 4. Faith Lutheran Church Bldg. (lower level) | 1814 North 51st Avenue East |
| 5. Lakeview Covenant Church (lower level) | 1001 Jean Duluth Road |
| 6. Woodland Community Club | 3211 Allendale Avenue |
| 7. Glen Avon Presbyterian Church (lower level) | 2105 Woodland Avenue |
| 8. Duluth Congregational Church (lower level) | 3833 East Superior Street |
| 9. Pilgrim Congregational Church (lower level) | 2310 East Fourth Street |
| 10. U.M.D. Kirby Student Center | 1120 Kirby Drive |
| 11. Vineyard Christian Fellowship (auditorium) | 1533 West Arrowhead Road |
| 12. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth | 835 West College Street |
| 13. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church (lower level) | 2012 East Superior Street |
| 14. First Lutheran Church (lower level) | 1100 East Superior Street |
| 15. Peace United Church of Christ | 1111 North 11th Ave. East |
| 16. First United Methodist Church (Lakeview social hall) | 230 East Skyline Parkway |
| 17. Washington Center (gymnasium) | 310 North 1st Avenue West |
| 18. Lafayette Square (upper level) | 3026 Minnesota Avenue |

19.	Duluth Public Library (Green Room)	520 West Superior Street
21.	Lincoln Park Senior Center (lower level)	2014 West Third Street
22.	Holy Cross Lutheran Church	410 North Arlington Avenue
23.	Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (fellowship hall)	802 Maple Grove Road
24.	Christ Lutheran Church (rear lower level entrance)	2415 Ensign Street
25.	St. Lawrence Church	2410 Morris Thomas Road
26.	Holy Family Catholic Church	2430 West Third Street
27.	Harrison Community Club	3002 West Third Street
28.	City Center West	5830 Grand Avenue
29.	Our Savior's Lutheran Church (lower level)	4831 Grand Avenue
30.	Elim Lutheran Church (social hall)	6101 Cody Street
31.	Zenith Terrace Community Center	2 Foxtail Avenue
32.	Asbury United Methodist Church (lower level)	6822 Grand Ave
33.	Goodfellowship Community Center (warming area)	1242 88th Avenue West
34.	Gary New Duluth Community Recreation Center	801 101st Avenue West

City of Rice Lake, Normana, North Star & Unorg. 23, Gnesen & Unorg. 2 and Lakewood Townships Polling Places

1.	City of Rice Lake City Hall	4107 Beyer Road
2.	Normana Town Hall	6472 French River Road
3.	North Star Township Hall	7700 Pequaywan Lake Road
4.	Gnesen Community Center	6356 Howard Gnesen Road
5.	Lakewood Town Hall	3110 Strand Road

Any qualified voter in the School District may vote at the election at the polling place designated above. Any resident of the District not previously registered as a voter may register on election day.

The anticipated amount of tax increase in annual dollars for typical residential homesteads, agricultural homesteads, apartments and commercial-industrial property within the School District are as follows:

Type of Property	Estimated Market Value	Question 1	Question 2	Total Q1 + Q2
		Est. Annual Tax Impact	Est. Annual Tax Impact	Est. Annual Tax Impact
Residential Homestead	100,000	32.16	28.05	60.21
	200,000	64.32	56.10	120.42
	300,000	96.48	84.15	180.63
	400,000	128.64	112.20	240.84
	500,000	160.80	140.25	301.05
	750,000	241.20	210.38	451.58
	1,000,000	321.60	280.50	602.10
Commercial/ Industrial	100,000	32.16	28.05	60.21
	250,000	80.40	70.13	150.53
	500,000	160.80	140.25	301.05
	1,000,000	321.60	280.50	602.10
Apartments	100,000	32.16	28.05	60.21
	250,000	80.40	70.13	150.53
	500,000	160.80	140.25	301.05
	1,000,000	321.60	280.50	602.10
Ag. Dwelling Value of HSTD Only (house, garage and 1 acre)	100,000	32.16	28.05	60.21
	300,000	96.48	84.15	180.63
	500,000	160.80	140.25	301.05
	750,000	241.20	210.38	451.58

Note - Seasonal recreational residential property and agricultural land beyond dwelling value (home, garage and one acre) are exempt from RMV tax (Q1 & Q2 voter approved operating referendum)

If you have any questions, please contact:

John Magas, Superintendent
Independent School District No. 709
(218) 336-8752
superintendent@isd709.org

By Order of the School Board

/s/ _____
Clerk
Independent School District No. 709

EXHIBIT B
(FOR PAPER BALLOTS)
[To Appear on Front]
OFFICIAL BALLOT
SPECIAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH), MINNESOTA
NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Instructions to Voters

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:



To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word “YES” for that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word “NO” for that question.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1
APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

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The proposed referendum revenue authorizations would be applicable for a total of ten years, unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The additional revenue will be used to fund school operations.



YES



NO

Shall the increase in general education revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools) for each year be approved?

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2

APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDITIONAL REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION

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☐ **YES**

☐ **NO**

If Ballot Question No. 1 is approved, shall the additional new increase in general education revenue proposed by the school board of Independent School District No. 709 (Duluth Public Schools) for each year also be approved?

BY VOTING “YES” ON THE BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING YES FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.

[To Appear on the Ballot]

OFFICIAL BALLOT

SPECIAL ELECTION

November 3, 2026

Judges of Election

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS)

I, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, located in Duluth, Minnesota, do hereby certify that I am the official custodian of the records of the School District, and that I have compared the attached copy with the original records of the School District, and that it is a true and correct transcript taken from the records of a meeting of the School Board, held in the City of Duluth, Minnesota, on August 6, 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand as Clerk of said Independent School District No. 709, on August 6, 2026.

Clerk

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
SCHOOL BOARD OF
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, was duly called and held at the _____ located at _____, Duluth, Minnesota, on August 6, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

The following members were present:

and the following members were absent:

MOTION: Member _____ moved to adopt a resolution entitled “Resolution Relating to the Authorization of an Operating Levy of the School District and Calling an Election Thereon.”

SECOND: Member _____

RESULT: On a roll call vote the motion was carried.

Ayes:

Nays:

Not Voting:

Absent:

The Resolution was then signed by the Chair, whose signature was attested by the Clerk.