



**Community Education Session  
February 21, 2024  
Lake Middle/High School**

# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## Questions You Have

1. How Did We Get Here?
2. What Is the Ask?
3. How Does It Impact Me?
4. How Can I Trust The District With My Money?
5. What Do I Have to Do?

## Discussion Topics

1. School Funding
2. Cuts if the Levy Fails
  - busing
  - Staffing
  - Art/Music
  - Programs / Curriculum
  - Athletics
3. Fiscal Responsibility / Audits



# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

The last Operating Levy for Lake passed in 2006...set us on the trajectory that we are on today:

- **Best in class** teachers & staff
- **Best in class** academics & offerings
- **Best in class** athletics
- **Sustainable & Reliable** facilities & transportation
- **Recognized** as a National Blue Ribbon School
- **Recognized** by the State and Our Peers as
- **Best in class** community – Desirable to move to and be a part of.

Same income from the community last for 18 years.

- Responsible investing
- Responsible cutting
- Aggressive savings actions
- Unique programs to keep costs low:
  - County wide purchasing co-ops
  - Purchasing bulk fuel at the bus garage
  - Entering into energy consortiums

The bond issue passed in 2015 for our buildings can only be used for exactly that.

Funds our buildings & SROs.

This tax is not used to operate the district, pay employees or run the business.





# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

**A Lot Has Changed in 18 Years!**



Item	2006	2024	Increase
Gas (\$/gallon)	\$2.19	\$ 3.25	48%
Oil Change	\$ 20.00	\$ 60.00	200%
Windshield Washer Fluid	\$ 1.19	\$ 4.99	319%
Minimum Wage	\$6.85	\$10.45	53%

- Everything has increased in price over 18 years
- Consumer Price Index Has increased by 55.5% in last 18 years
- Inflation has reduced our buying power → Takes \$1.5 million to buy what cost \$1MM 18 yrs ago

\*US Energy Information Administration

\*US Bureau of Labor Statistics

### CPI Inflation Calculator

\$

in

has the same buying power as

in

# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## Levy **PASSES**

Impacted Area	Fall 2024 & Forward
LMHS Student Day	7:39am-2:21pm (8 Period Day)
LE Student Day	9:00am-3:35pm - 6 hours 35 mins
LP Student Day	8:50am-3:20pm - 6 hours 30 mins
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LMHS Class Offerings	Continuation of Class Offerings/Electives/CCP/AP
Athletic Fees	\$250 per year per athlete (\$750 family cap)
Club/Activity Fees	Will be assessed and could decrease
Teaching / Staff Positions	Committed to 10 reductions in June 2024

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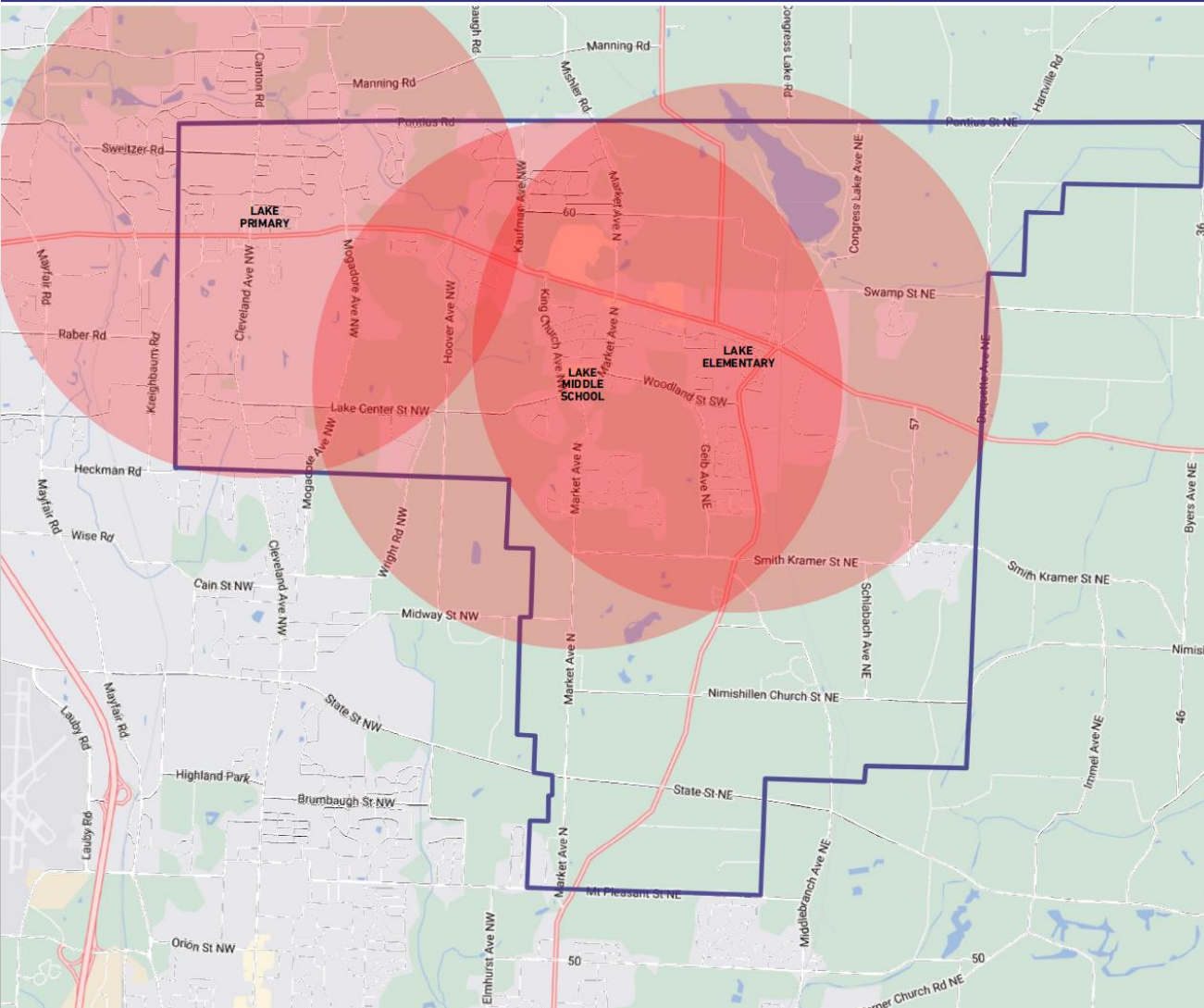
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## BUSING MAP



### FY23 Transportation Spend ~\$2.4 million

(salaries, benefits, supplies, tires, fuel, everything except new buses)

### State Minimum busing

- K-8: No busing w/in 2-mile radius
- 9-12: No busing
- Impacts 447 K-8 Students
- Impacts 440 9-12 Students
- Reduction of Approx 20 Bus drivers due to reduction of routes and staggered start/stop times
- Increases bus density
- Elimination of 300+ Alternate Stops Daily

Tier I – 65.7% Utilization  
34 Riders / 51 Possible Seats



Tier II – 87.0% Utilization  
67 Riders / 77 Possible Seats





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- Proven to enhance academic performance
- Not supported by state minimum standards
- Needed to set students on the path through these feeder programs exposed to and excel in the middle/high school music, orchestra, art & STEAM programs.

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- State minimum standards – minimum credits
- Reduced onsite CCP offerings
- Reduced foreign language offerings
- Increased burden to students / parents to CCP classes located on college campuses

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## Athletics

(Est. Based on Historical Participation)

Season	Fall	Winter	Spring	Full Year
#Coaches	56	44	38	138
Approx Athletes	500	300	400	1200
Sport	Cheer (Sideline)	Boys Basketball	Baseball	29 Sports
	Boys Cross Country	Girls Basketball	Boys Lacrosse	
	Girls Cross Country	Boys Bowling	Girls Lacrosse	
	Dance	Girls Bowling	Softball	
	Football	Cheer (Competitive)	Boys Tennis	
	Boys Golf	Cheer (Sideline)	Boys Track	
	Girls Golf	Dance	Girls Track	
	Boys Soccer	Gymnastics		
	Girls Soccer	Boys Swimming & Diving		
	Girls Tennis	Girls Swimming & Diving		
	Volleyball	Wrestling		

- 1300+ Athletes & Coaches
- Across 29 Sports
- Spanning Three Seasons Each Year



## \$950 Athletic Activity Fee Calculation

Auditor of State Performance Audit Recommendation Eliminate the General Fund Subsidy for Extracurricular Activities	\$ 860,000
Less Estimated Non-Athletic Activities	<u>\$ (60,000)</u>
	\$ 800,000
 Approximate number of Athletic Participants from 2022-2023	
Fall Season	500
Winter Season	300
Spring Season	<u>400</u>
	1,200
Estimated Decrease in Athletic Participants of Approximately 30%	840
	\$ 952



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May 2023 Failure  
Nov. 2023 Failure  
Mar. 2024 Failure

**13 Positions Eliminated**  
**10 Positions Eliminated**  
**~35 Positions Eliminated**  
**38 Teaching / Staff**  
**20 Bus Drivers**  
**~58 Total Positions Eliminated**

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## Lake LSD Salary Comparisons



Superintendent	5th in Stark County 2022-2023
Treasurer	4th in Stark County 2022-2023
Teacher - Starting	4th in Stark County 2021-2022, 5th in 2022-2023
Teacher - Masters, Step 12	4th in Stark County 2021-2022, 5th in 2022-2023
Teacher - Masters, max step	2nd in Stark County 2021-2022, 3rd in 2022-2023
Teacher - Maximum	3rd in Stark County 2021-2022, 4th in 2022-2023
Assistant Superintendent	6th in Stark County 2022-2023
Curriculum Director	4th in Stark County 2022-2023
Special Services Director	5th in Stark County 2022-2023
MS/HS Principal	6th in Stark County 2022-2023
Elementary Principal	5th in Stark County 2022-2023

- **# Administrators**
- 17 Administrators
- Lower than peer avg
- Lower than state avg
- Lower than Hoover, Green & Jackson
- Higher than Marlinton, Field & Springfield
- Lake has the highest Student to Administrator ratio than any of the above schools or categories.
- ***We Do More With Less!***
- ***CUPP Report***

# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## District Structure

- Think of Lake Local School District as a business
  - CEO & CFO → Superintendent & Treasurer
  - Our Administration is Management
  - And we have ~450 employees across our staff serving 3300 students
- Cost to Run this Business is approx. **\$40MM per year**
  - This business is a service based organization
  - Don't make products, we educate through services
  - All of our policies, practices and spending is
    - **Governed** by the State of Ohio
    - **Audited** annually by the State of Ohio
    - **Reported** to and **Reviewed** by the Board of Education Every Month
    - Our Treasurer, has the responsibility to **Comply With the Law & Make Your Tax Dollars** last as long as possible
  - We also have Capital Expenditure & Equipment Needs, Technology Needs and Facilities/Building Needs like any Brick & Mortar Business – 10 year plans
- **80+%** of our General Fund Expenditures are for salaries & benefits
- After People...busing/Transportation, Sports, and Purchased Services are the next largest spends.



**When we talk cuts....80%+ of cost is People, teachers, staff, your neighbors, your community members working in the schools.**





# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## District Funding

- On the income side Funds Collected are approx. **\$36MM per year**
  - Multi-\$MM cash balance → Being good stewards allowed us to build savings.
- The largest income buckets are taxes and state funding with
  - Approx **44% from Local taxes** – Must be voted in – This is what you and I pay in property tax
  - Approx **53% from State & Govt Funding** – Comes with **Specific Restrictions**
  - Balance is from a variety of income sources that the district leverages (rent, donations, partnerships - **Restricted Use** typically focused on facility maintenance (like the new track surface at the stadium).
- **State** provides **18-24 months** of visibility to funding
- **Lake** is required to produce a **5 year (60 month)** forecast





# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## District Funding

- ***But Wait!...***Lake is growing, more houses, rising prices = more \$\$ for the Schools... ***Not the case***
  - ***State Law***
    - Does not allow Lake to collect higher levels of tax dollars from the community even as housing prices and the number of houses increase.
    - Lake, and all districts can only collect the total dollar value that was passed at the time of a property tax levy.
    - If more houses are built or home values increase...the amount you pay annually adjusts down so that Lake collects the same \$\$ this year and every year that a levy is in place.
- \*\*\*There are different types of Millage & Levies that provide funding with the majority of Lake's being Voted Millage. This receives a very nominal alteration each year of ~1%
- This methodology has been deemed ***Unconstitutional*** by the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio since 1997, but no legislative measures have been implemented to provide Lake or any public school in Ohio an alternate method for property tax collection.



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## District Funding

### *State Funding Formula (Run and Mandated by the State – We Do Not Influence)*

- Uses a District's valuation to determine how many state dollars they will receive.
- As Lake's home prices have increased and new construction has come online, the state calculates Lake's valuation increasing and as a result
- Enrollment, Valuation, Income
- ...we "**Should**" be able to collect more taxes from our local community.
- The result is that state funding is actually decreased when our district valuation increases, even though no new levies have been passed and we cannot collect more on the old levies.
- Lake is also exposed to **Unfunded Mandates**:
  - Districts must provide staff, support and curriculum through new programs
  - Many of which are the best things for your children and the students
  - Lake must comply but is either not provided funding for or is provided partial funding.
  - This bucket of cost has grown significantly over the past decade.





# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## What Does 9.5 mil Mean to You?

The Issue 22 Levy will cost Lake property owners \$333 / \$100,000 of the county auditor appraised value of their home. The appraised value is what all property taxes are based off of and is established by the Stark County Auditor's office. You can find your property's appraised value on the County Auditor's website through the link below.

The bond issue which was passed in 2015 to build Lake's new schools will be ending in two years. This reduces school levy impact on property owners by close to 30% for the final three years.

Issue 22 Annual Impact for 5-year term:\*

2025 - \$333 / \$100,000  
2026 - \$333 / \$100,000  
**2027 - \$235 / \$100,000**  
**2028 - \$235 / \$100,000**  
**2029 - \$235 / \$100,000**

\$333 / \$100,000



LAKE COMPARED TO OTHER DISTRICTS



## What is a Mill?

The revenue generated by 1 Mill is different for each District. To generate the same dollar amount as 9.5 mills at Lake:

Lake LSD	9.5
Perry LSD	7.1
North Canton CSD	6.3
Plain LSD	4.6
Jackson LSD	3.2



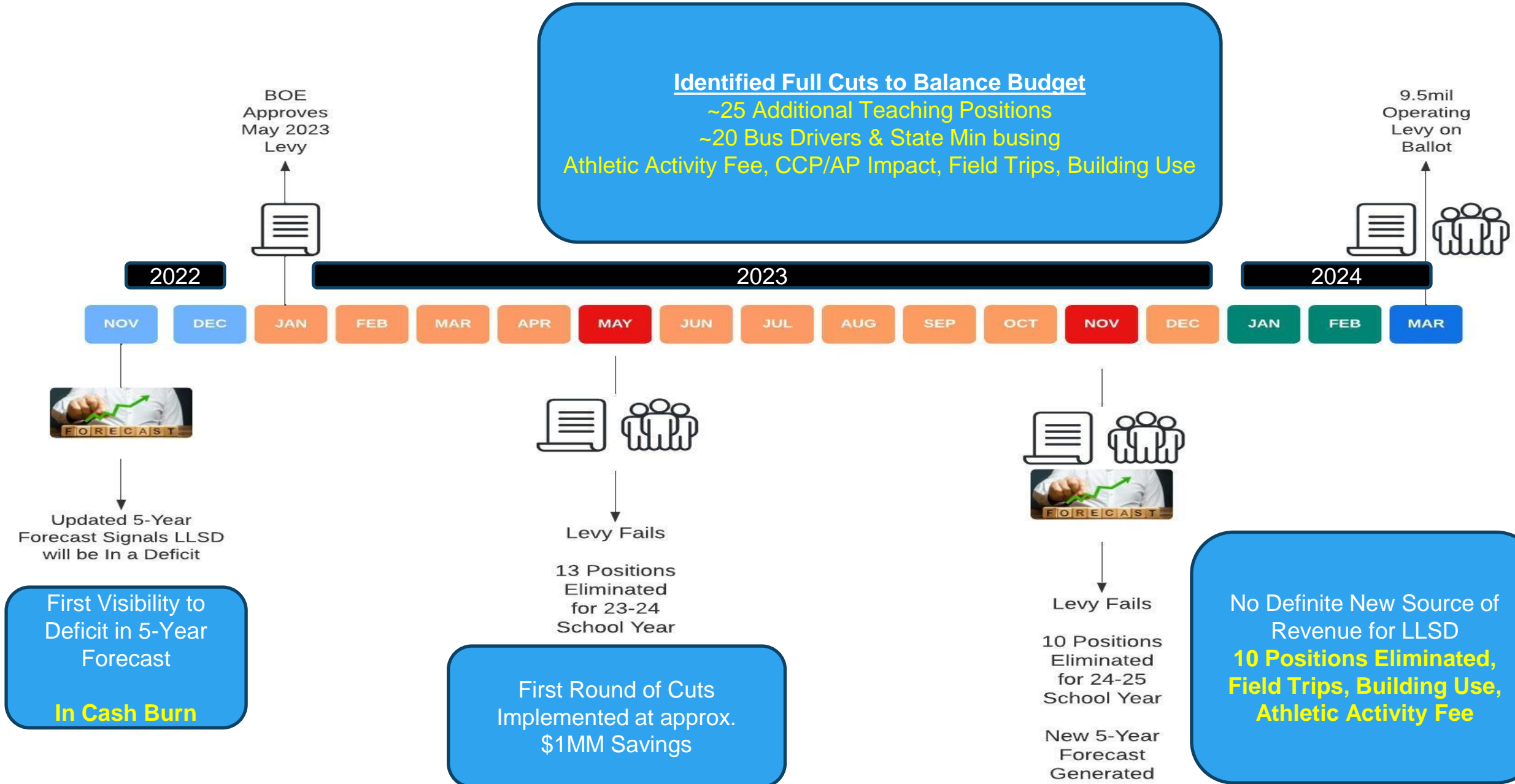
# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## How Did We Get Here? 2006-2024



- 18 Years Since the Last Operating Levy
- In 2015 LLSD Committed to Making the OL Last Through 22-23, Has Lasted Until 23-24

# How Did We Get Here? NOV 22-MAR 24



# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

## What Do You Have To Do?

### **Remember**

- Remain rooted in the facts.
- Seek clarity on any questions you have.

### **Take Action:**

- 1 in 4 Lake parents did not show up at the polls in November.
- We passed by 6 votes the last time we passed an Operational Levy...your vote counts!

**The only way to Keep Lake Great....is to Get Out & Vote!**





# YOUR VOTE, THEIR FUTURE

We are **Responsible**  
We are **Respectful**  
We are **Safe**  
We are **#GreatatLAKE**

