



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**What's next for rural
Minnesota education?**

Sam Walseth, Advocacy Director



Your MREA Team

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Operations Director

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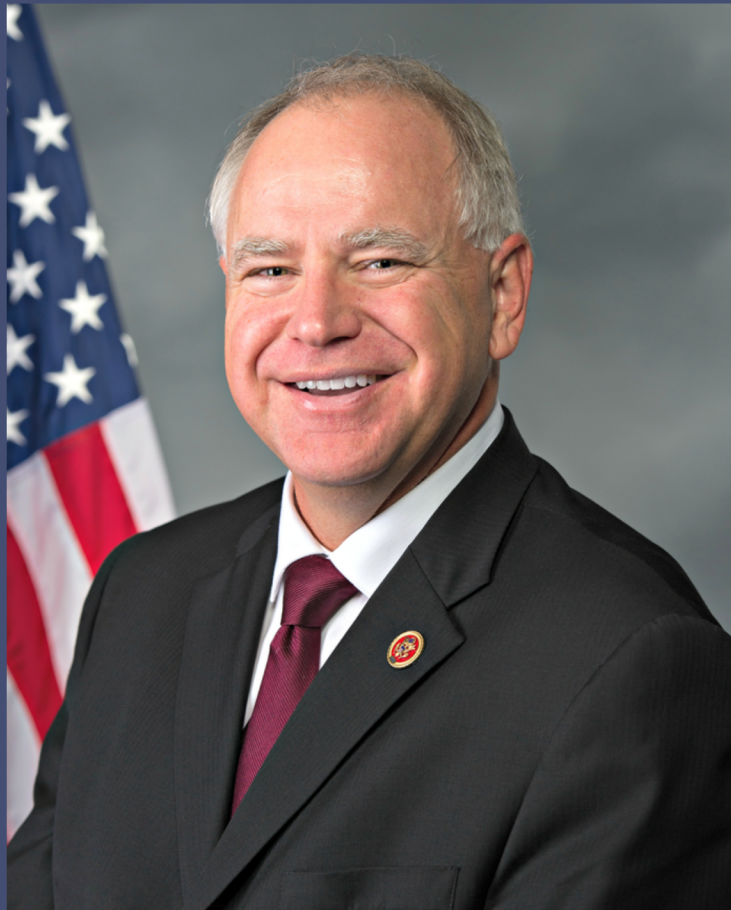
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MREA
Voice For Greater Minnesota Education

WHAT'S NEXT FOR RURAL SCHOOLS?

- **Eye on the Prize(s)**
- **Comparing DFL Trifectas**
- **2024 Legislative Landscape**
- **MREA Platform**

MN LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP



**GOVERNOR
TIM WALZ**



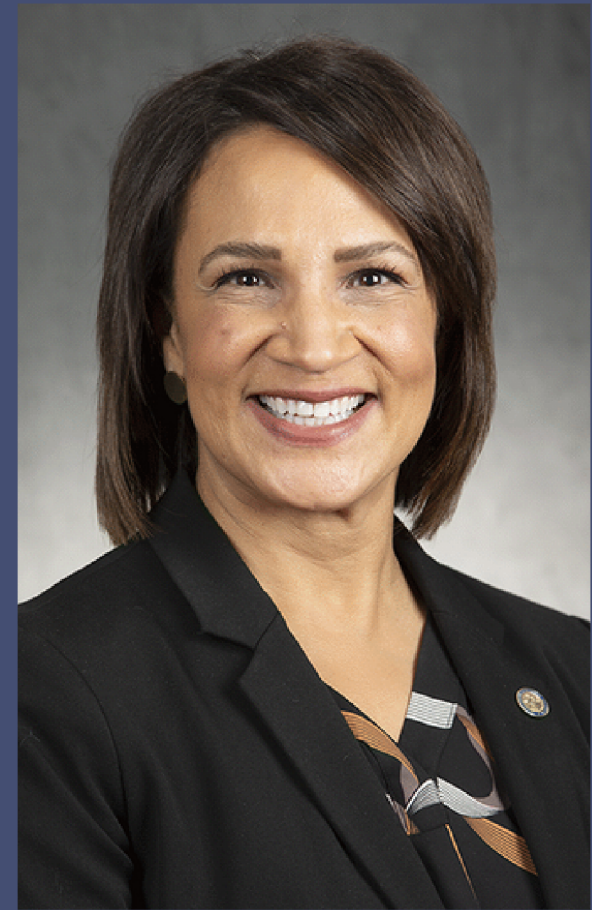
**HOUSE SPEAKER
MELISSA HORTMAN**



**SENATE MAJORITY
LEADER KARI DZIEDZIC**



**SENATE MINORITY
LEADER
MARK JOHNSON**

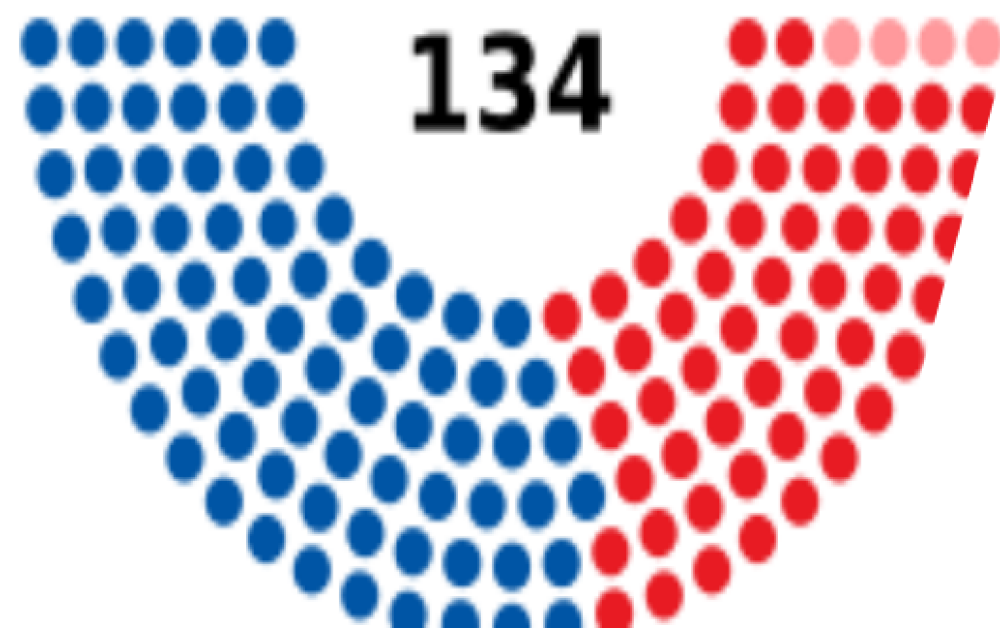


**HOUSE MINORITY
LEADER
LISA DEMUTH**

DFL LEADERS

GOP LEADERS

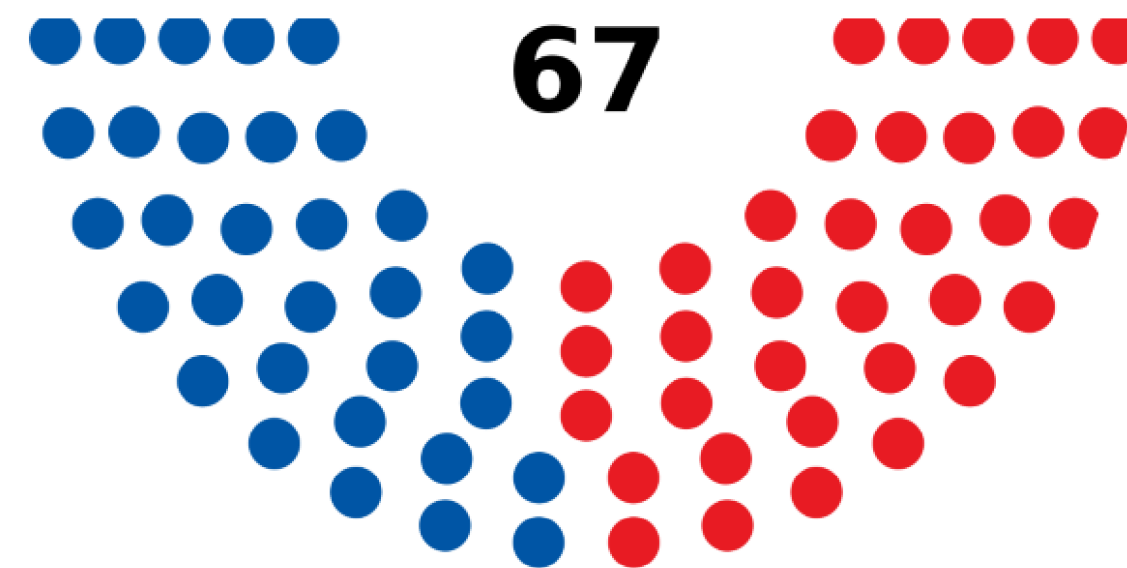
LEGISLATIVE MAKEUP - 66 NEW LAWMAKERS



DFL Majority 69-64-1

19 new DFL

24 new GOP



DFL Majority 34-33

14 new DFL

9 new GOP

Special Election?

EYE ON THE PRIZE = \$2.2B

FORMULA 5&5

State Aid Change (in thousands)	FY24	FY25	FY 24-25
5&5 = \$7,206, \$7,566	\$332M	\$741M	\$1.072B

SPECIAL EDUCATION

FY23	FY24	FY25	SF 24-24
6.4%	40%	40%	
-	\$322M	\$341M	\$663M

EYE ON THE PRIZES

DISTRICT SUPPORTS

- 4&2, with future indexing of 2-3%
- Special Education CrossX = 44%, 50% as of FY '27 and later
- Transportation Sparsity
- Cooperative Facilities levy
- Board authority to renew expiring operating levy

STAFF SUPPORTS

- Student Support Personnel Aid & School Library Support Aid
- Article 3 "The READ Act"
- Article 4 Teacher Development: GYO, Sped Pipeline, Student Teacher, etc.
- Paraprofessional Training Aid
- Unemployment Insurance
- Paid Family & Medical Leave, Earned Safe & Sick Time
- New Terms & Conditions to be bargained

EYE ON THE PRIZES

STUDENT & PROGRAM SUPPORTS

- Stabilize and increase VPK slots
- English Learner Aid
- American Indian Aid
- Full Service Community Schools Aid
- Multi-tiered Systems of Support Aid
- Setting 4 Program Aid
- CTE Consortia
- Cyber Security Grants
- Restrictions on suspension and seclusion rooms
- Government & Citizenship, Personal Finance, Ethnic Studies course

DFL Trifecta version 2023 vs 2013

Then = modest deficit, leads to 4th tier income tax, balk at gas tax increase

- All Day K, Local Optional Revenue

Now = massive surplus, leads to massive new spending, some tax relief and metro sales tax increase, gas tax increase

- Special Ed CrossX, VPK

Then = DFL not aligned geographically/culturally

Now = DFL aligned geographically/culturally (metro-centric)

- Evolution of the 'POCI Caucus'
- 75 Chapters of Law Presented to the Governor, 74 signed into law

"Historic & Transformational" vs "Short Sighted and Bonkers"

"The House of Labor"

"Decades may go by with nothing, then decades of activity happen all at once..."

LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE: 2024

KEY DATES

- **EARLY DECEMBER:** STATE BUDGET FORECAST
- **FEBRUARY 12:** 2024 SESSION BEGINS
- **LATE FEBRUARY:** BUDGET FORECAST UPDATE
- **MID MARCH:** COMMITTEE DEADLINES
- **MARCH 25-31:** POTENTIAL LEGISLATIVE BREAK
- **MAY 20:** CONSTITUTIONAL END OF SESSION
- **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5:** PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

LEGISLATIVE LANDSCAPE: 2024

Bonding Session

- Speaker Hortman: \$828 Cash, \$880 GO
- Walz mentions \$1B
- Need GOP votes!

Not a Budget Session, but...a \$2.4B surplus?

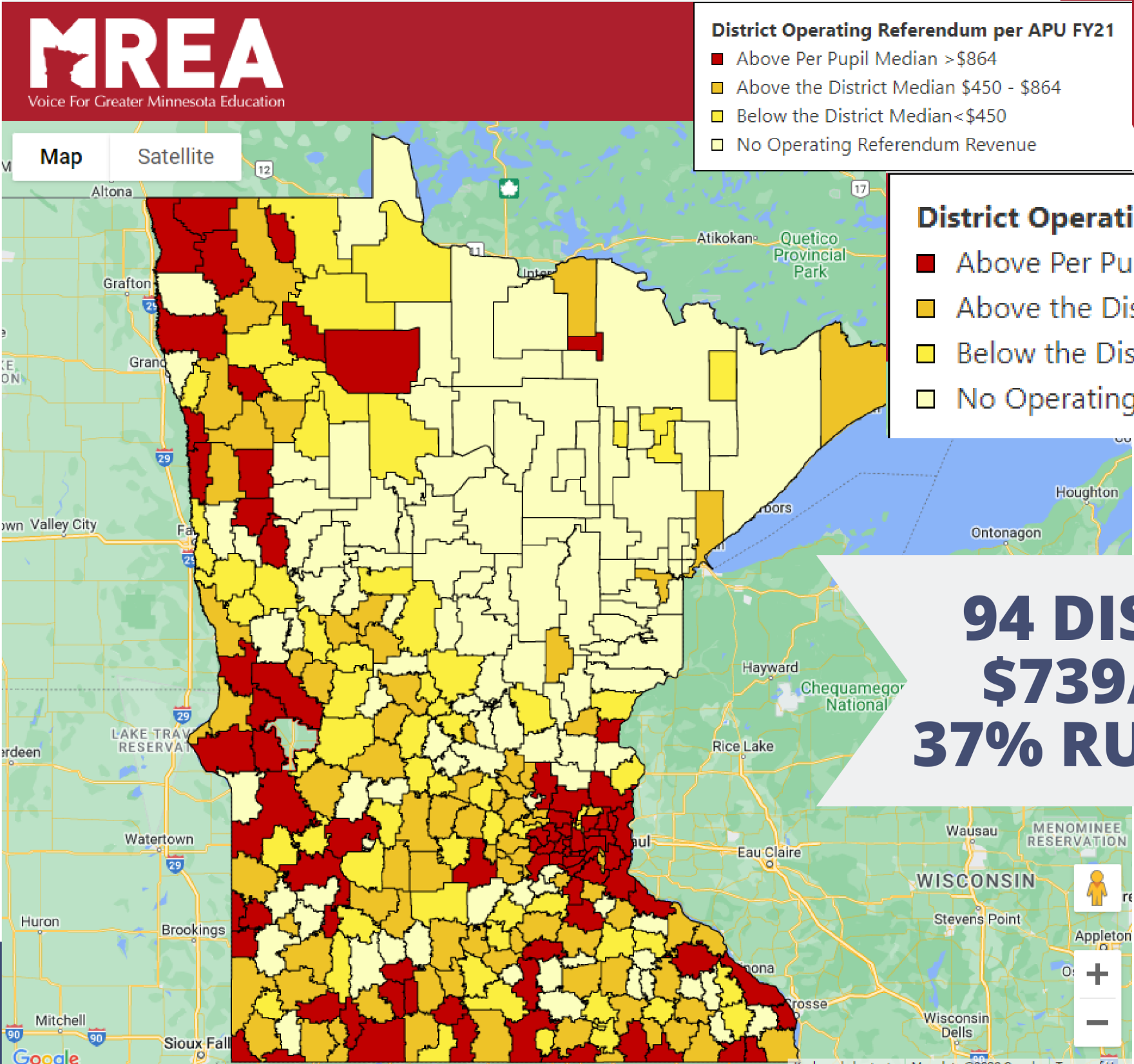
- Supplemental Budget pressures
- New Policy Development in the works

Pump the break or stand on the gas pedal?

- Budget Reserve automatically grows



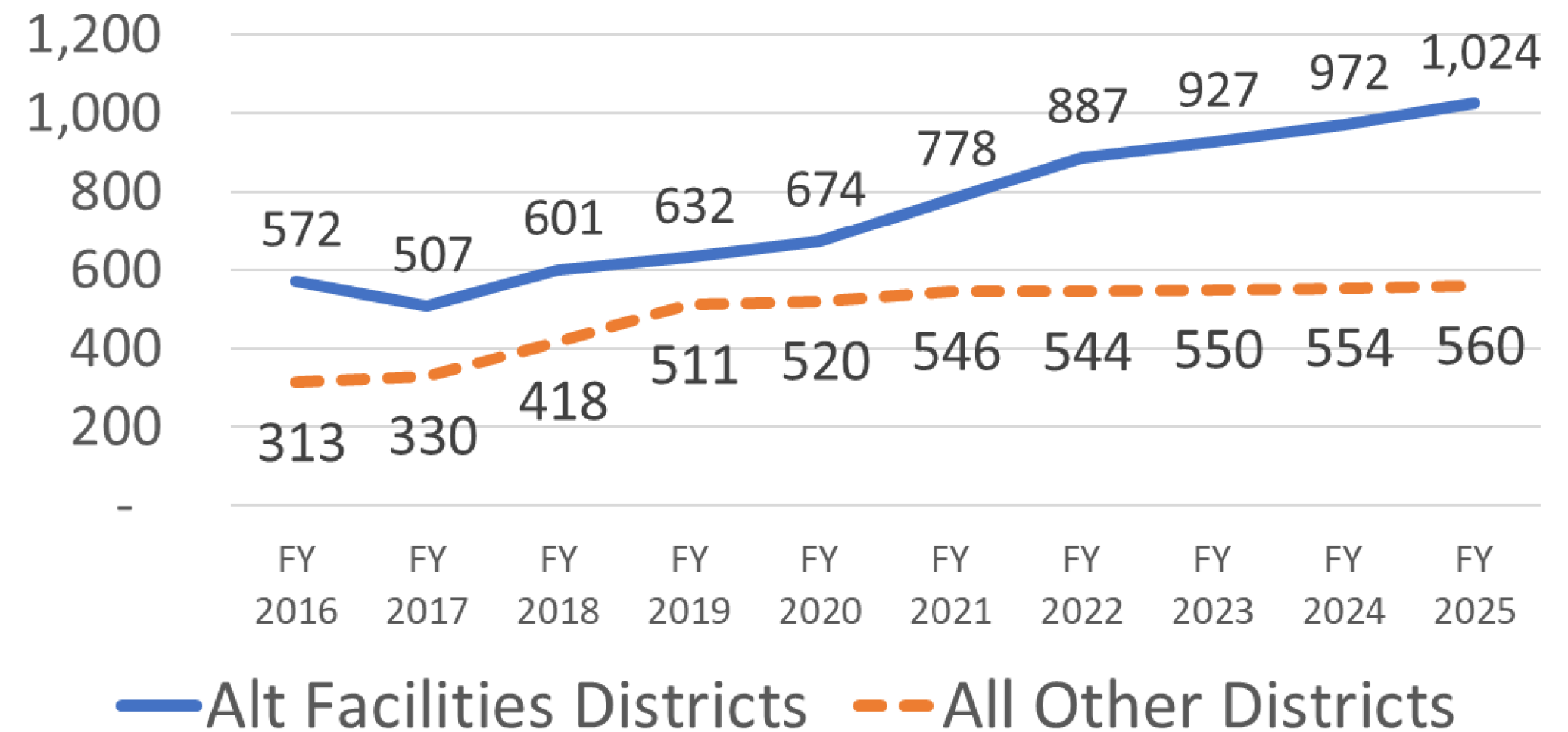
SCHOOL FUNDING TRENDS



Operating Referendum
Disparity

SCHOOL FUNDING TRENDS

Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue



PROPOSED 2024 MREA PLATFORM

- **Rebuild the Profession = \$60K & TRA**
- **Clean up from 2023**
- **Closing Historic Gaps**
- **Flexibility Please!**

DRAFT PLATFORM IS ON PAGE 14 OF YOUR SUMMIT GUIDE



Proposed 2024 MREA Platform

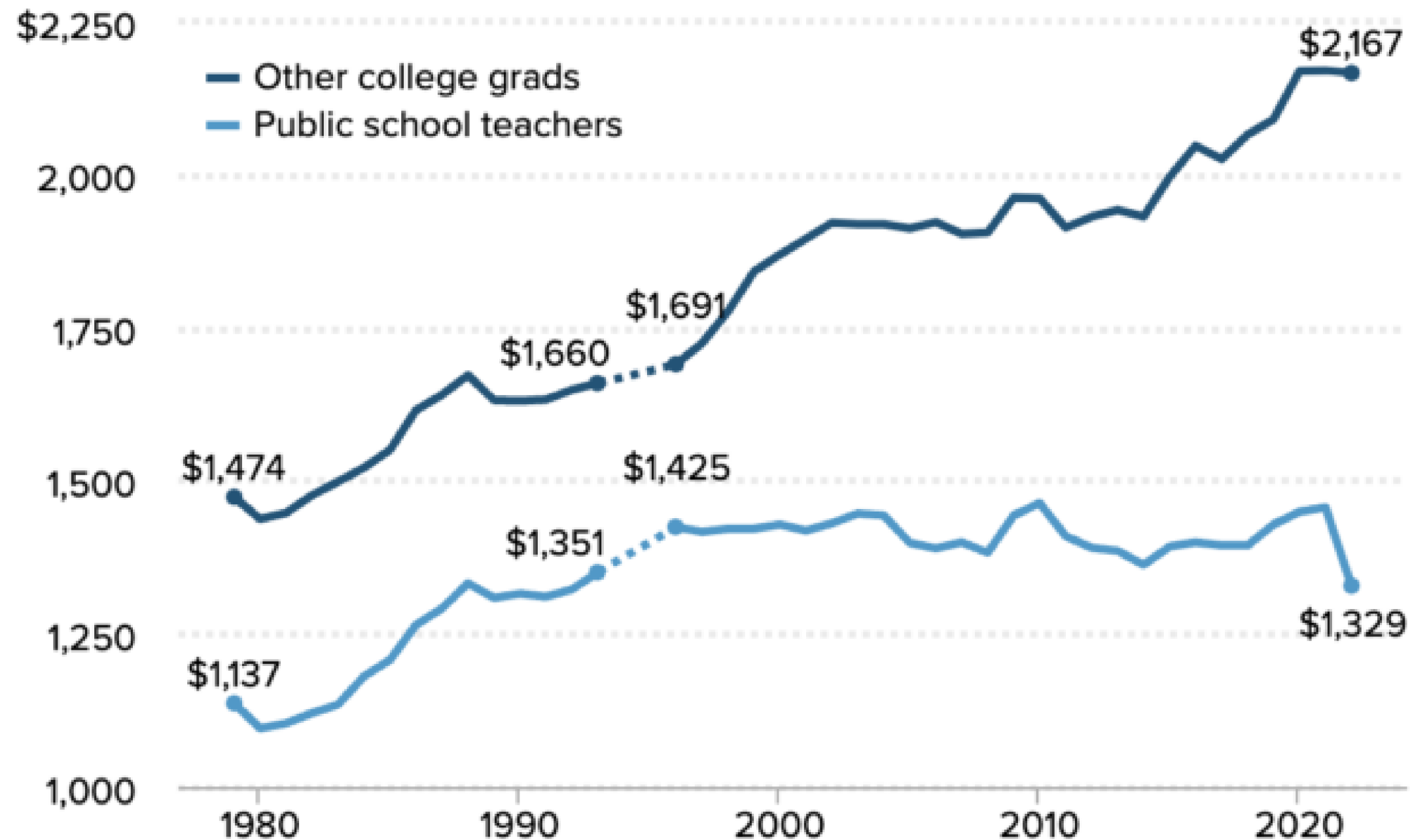
Teacher Recruitment and Restoring the Profession:

- Establishing a Teacher Compensation Adjustment Revenue program initially aimed at improving starting teacher salaries to a minimum of \$60,000.
- Improving TRA by either lowering the combination of the normal retirement age and total years of service OR minimizing the reduction in retirement benefits paid before normal retirement age.
- Amending the Grow Your Own application requirements at MDE so rural districts can qualify.
- Reforming QComp so all schools qualify for the basic \$169/pupil and ensure allowable uses include paid student teaching.
- Providing direct underwriting to state colleges for teacher preparation programs so those credits are free to undergraduates seeking teaching degrees.

Average Weekly Wage of Public School Teachers vs Other College Graduates

Average weekly wages of public school teachers and other college graduates (2022\$), 1979–2022

Source: Economic Policy Institute



Proposed 2024 MREA Platform

Clean up from 2023:

- On-going financial support for UI costs
- Clarify instances of and professional judgement by school employees for use of restraints
- Additional funding for the READ Act
- Establish a new proxy for Compensatory Revenue
- Eliminate the \$200 daily rate required for the short call substitute pilot program

Proposed 2024 MREA Platform

Close Funding Gaps:

- Increase the LTFM allowance and allow roofs, pavements and HVAC projects in Health & Safety
- Increase Basic Formula & Local Optional Revenues to address inflationary pressures
- Restore Seasonal & Recreational Property to the RMV tax base, eliminating it from the state's Commercial/Industrial levy.
- Ensure minimum revenues for small schools & cooperatives for meaningful revenue generation across all public-school entities.
- Expand VPK to all 4-year-olds qualifying for free and reduced-price meals

Policy Flexibility, Not Mandates:

- Create flexible pathways to licensure, in addition to broader licensure categories
- Oppose unfunded mandates and “one-size-fits-all” education policy

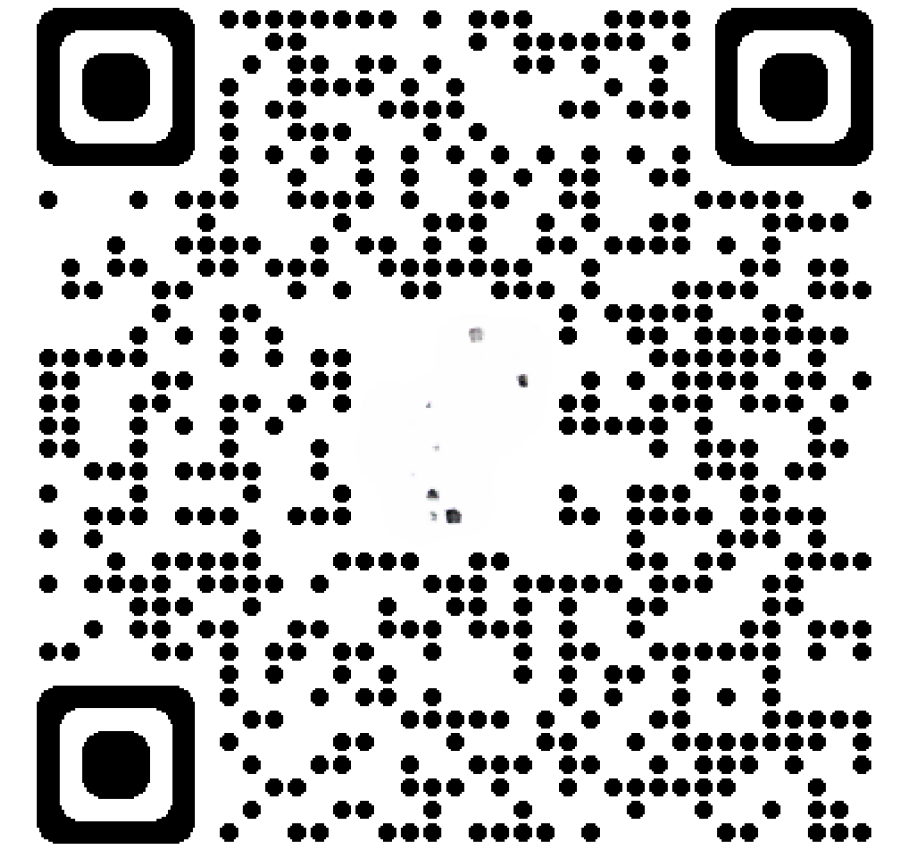


ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

AT 5 PM

ONLINE AND/OR PHONE



Key Takeaways

Training our eyes to a new horizon:

- DFL Trifecta & their desire for categorical, staff/student driven aid
- Our desire to rebuild the profession and address chronic staff shortages
- Our platform sets a vision and provides many fallback positions to advance our cause
- The pressure in this moment to resolve bigger issues
- Tuleah Palmer: We have a choice – absorb the losses and be afraid OR we will meet this moment and let MN Nice slip for a while.

TAKING ACTION

Know who your Legislators are and email them!

Find your legislator at

mreavoice.org/legislative-resources



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THANK YOU MREA PLATINUM MEMBERS

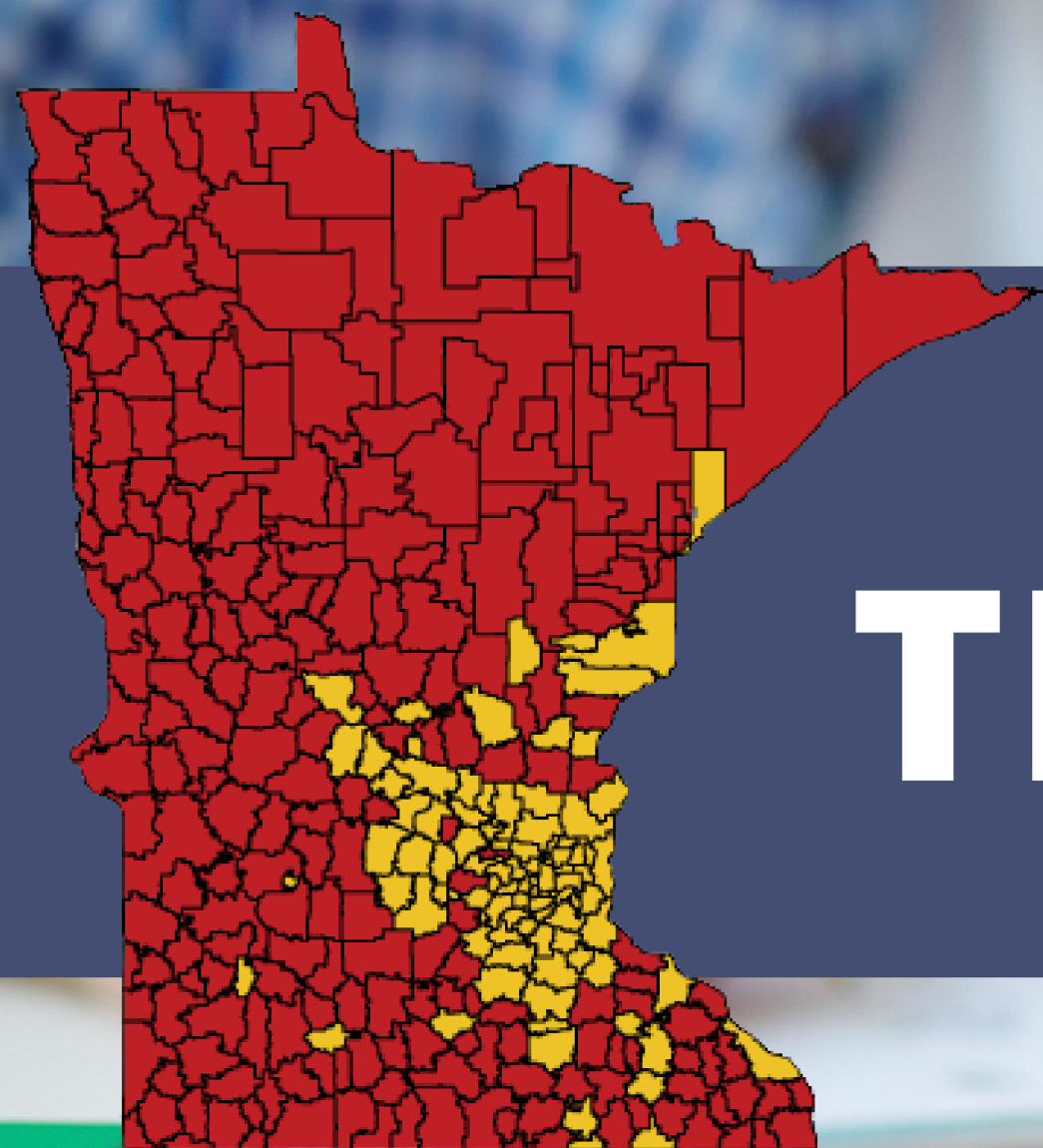


THANK YOU MREA GOLD MEMBERS



THANK YOU MREA SILVER MEMBERS

Aviben | Bethel University | Blandin Foundation | Curriculum Associates
EFS Advisors | Ehlers | Pemberton Law | Trane Technologies



THANK YOU