



Protecting Parkway Schools

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Dr. Melissa Schneider, Superintendent
Carrie Nunn, CFO

Welcome

Superintendent Dr. Melissa Schneider



Why we're here

- To better understand the long-term financial pressures facing Parkway
- To share why this matters for students and schools
- To listen to what matters most to you as we plan ahead



How tonight will work

- **Presentation:** We will share information for about 30 minutes.
- **Table conversations:** You'll discuss **2 questions** at your table
- **Facilitated discussion:** Each table will have support to guide conversation, record takeaways, and then share with all of us
- **Questions:** Please use the notecards for any questions - and include your contact info so we can follow up

Your questions and feedback will help inform the work ahead.



Let's start with what Parkway is about



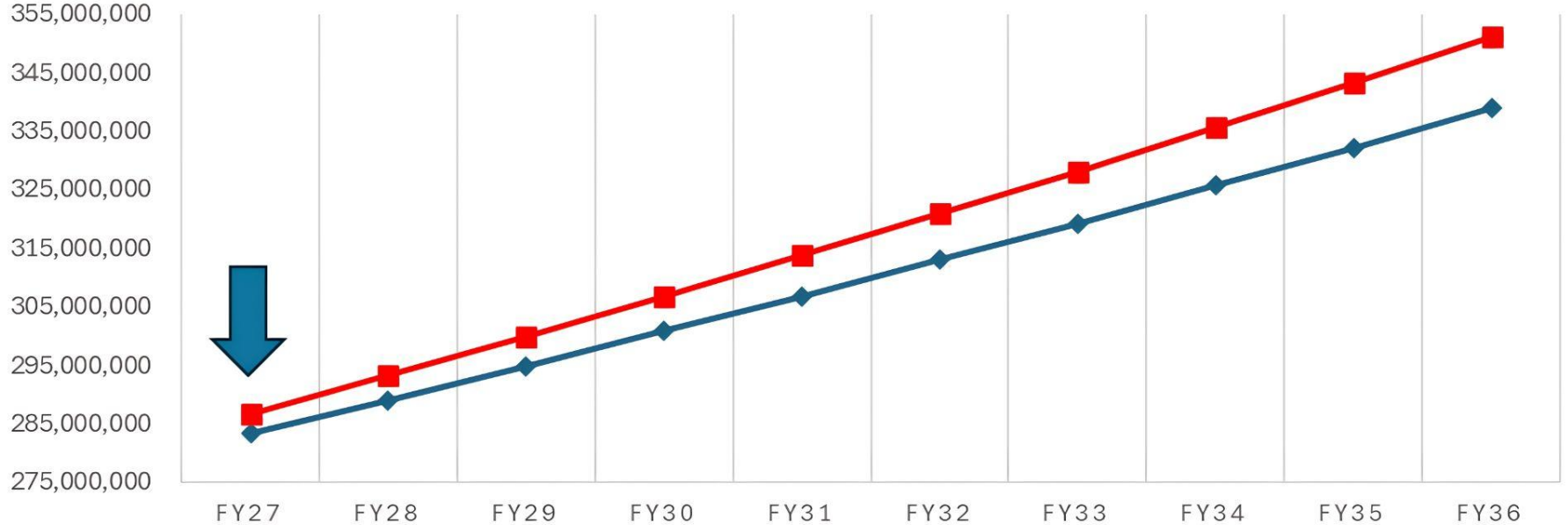
Why we are coming together

- Build shared understanding
 - Provide clear and transparent information
 - Receive your guidance
-

A multi-year challenge is taking shape

10-year forecast

Operating Funding Operating Expense



This is a multi-year problem

- Costs are rising faster than inflation and faster than funding
- Legislative actions - senior tax freeze, Hancock rollback pressure – has reduced our ability to collect
- Future students will feel impact of less staff, programs, services, opportunities



A commitment to fiscal responsibility

S&P Global
AAA BOND RATING

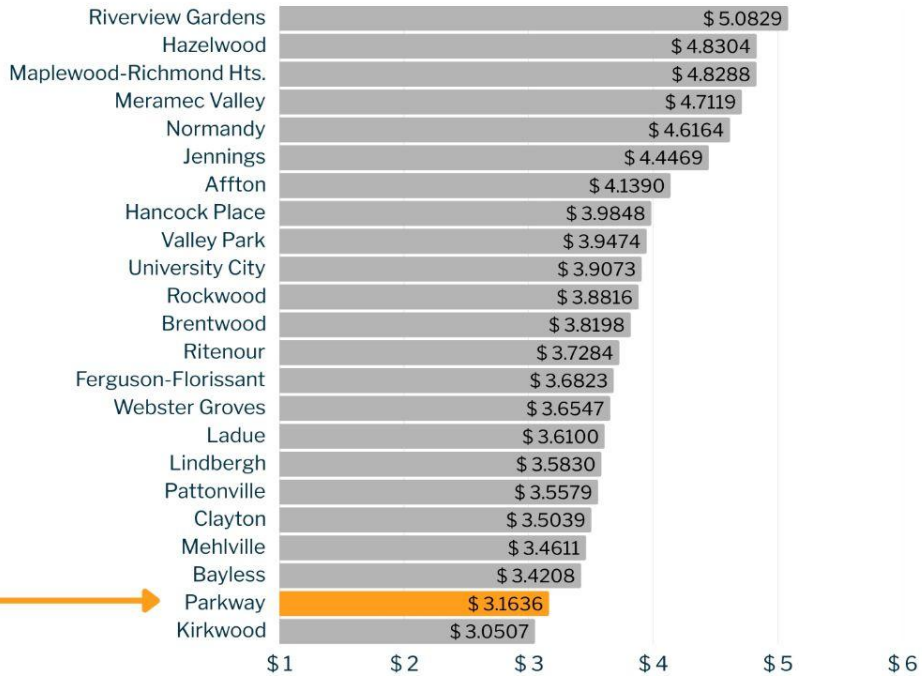
 **CERTIFICATE
OF
EXCELLENCE**
IN FINANCIAL REPORTING



The last time Parkway asked the community for an operating tax increase was **20 years ago.**



How does Parkway's residential tax rate compare?



Second-lowest residential tax rate in St. Louis County.

Source: stlouiscountymo.gov (2025)



Budget Basics

Carrie Nunn, Chief Financial Officer



Where does Parkway's funding come from?

Local – **\$14,923**

State – **\$835**

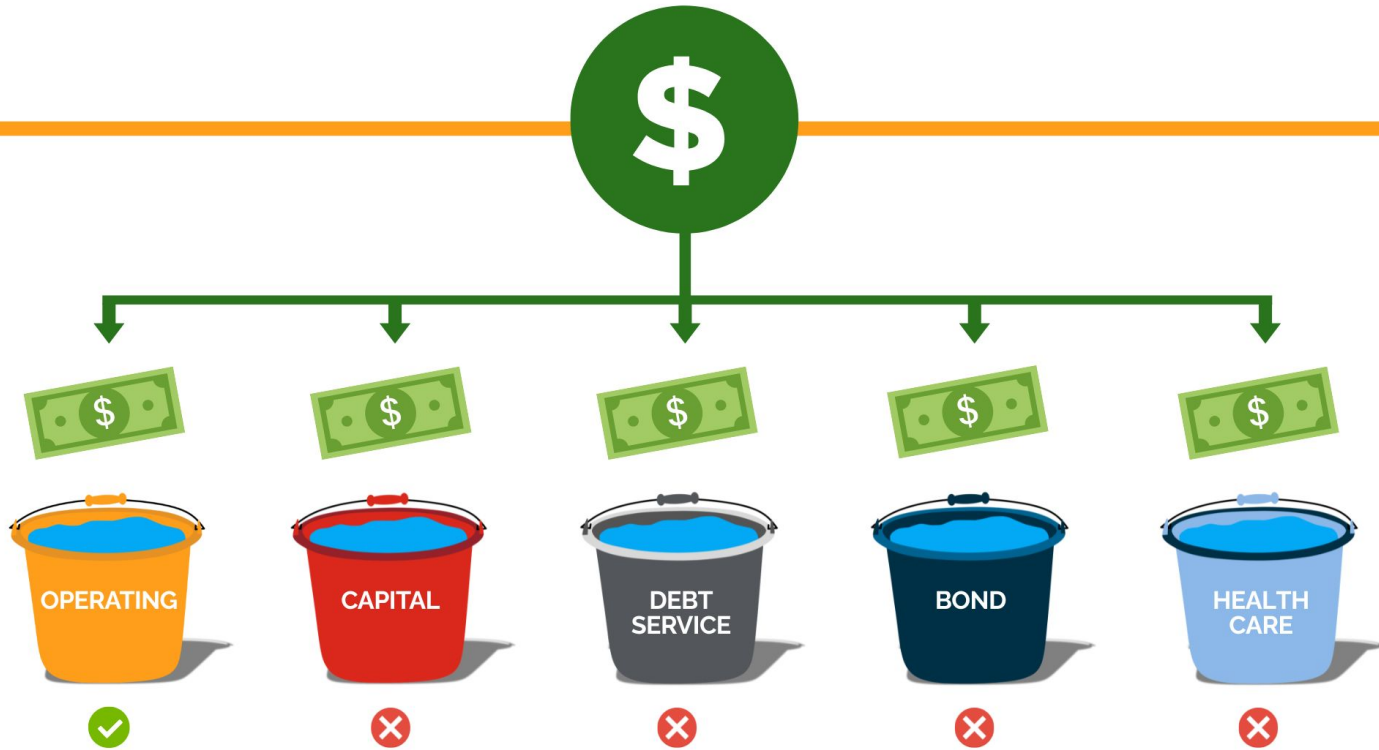
Federal – **\$285**

County – **\$225**

Other – **\$32**



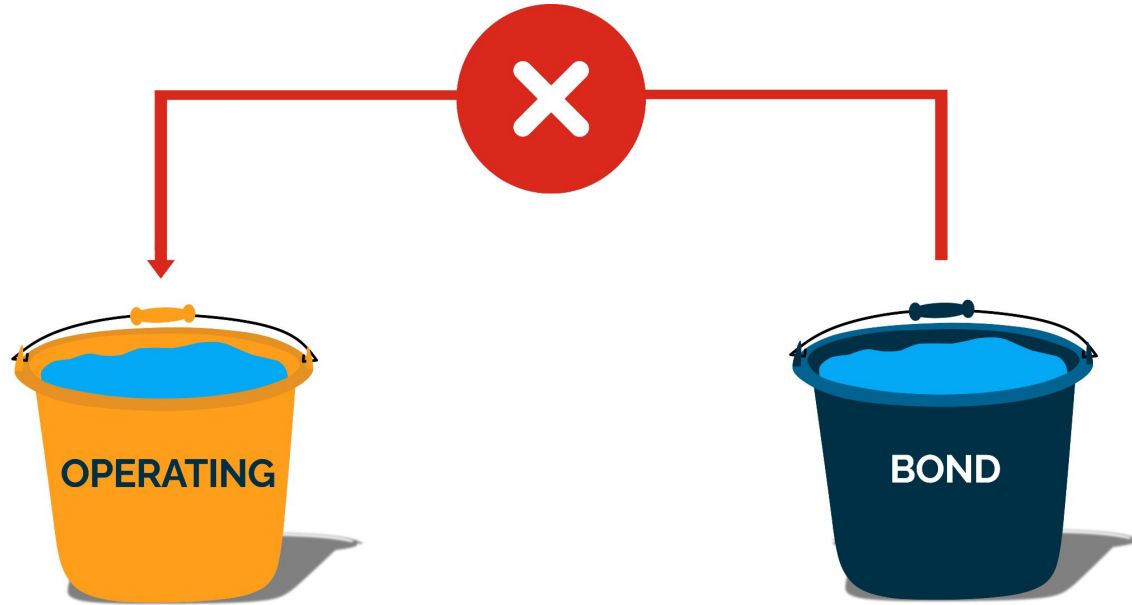
All funds: A total picture



- ✓ Operating funds can support other buckets
- ✗ By law, restricted funds cannot be used for any other buckets

Bond funds are legally restricted

For example, 2022 Prop S funds cannot be used for supplies or salaries



Where the investment goes

TEACHERS + STAFF

83%

OTHER

17%



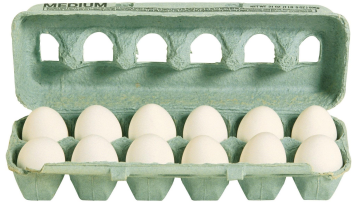
Let's play a game



2016

2021

2026



\$1.68

\$1.67

\$4.24



\$80

\$100

\$207

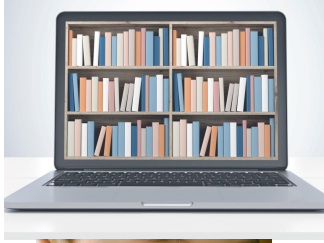


\$15,000

\$22,000

\$35,000





2016

\$4,322,916

2021

\$6,478,232

2026

\$10,779,903



\$375,324

\$415,442

\$982,000



\$90,000

\$109,896

\$162,258



\$31,761,311

\$38,798,715

\$55,760,181

2016

2021

2026



\$72,897

\$30,571

\$450,000



\$597,558

\$646,614

\$963,556



\$2,318,134

\$2,569,696

\$5,049,114

Current Fiscal Storm

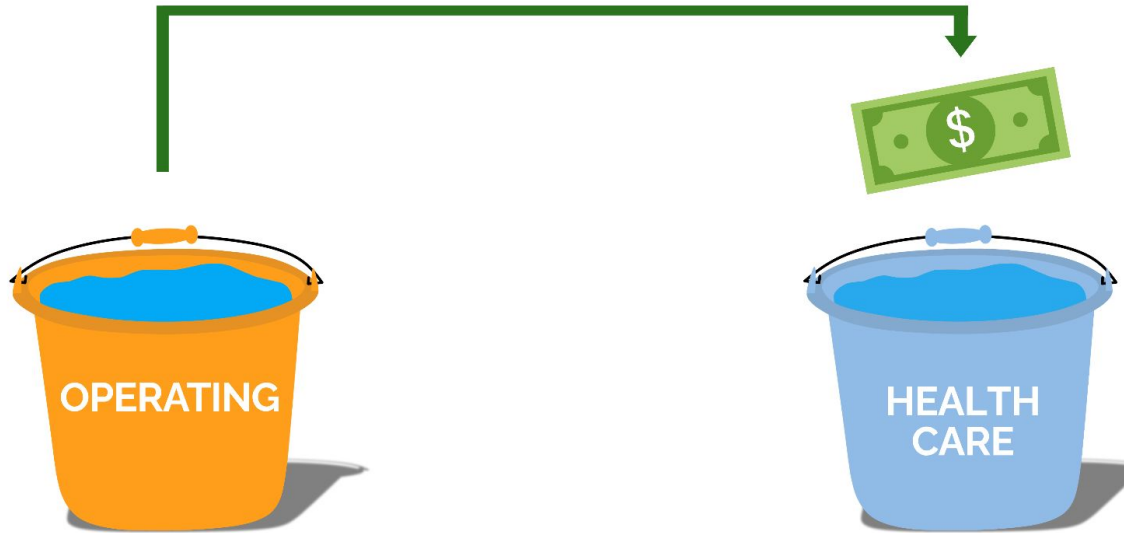
- Rapid increase in costs for basics
 - Rapid increase in cost of healthcare
 - Reduced ability to collect funding:
Senior Tax Freeze and Hancock Amendment
-

Solving for rising healthcare

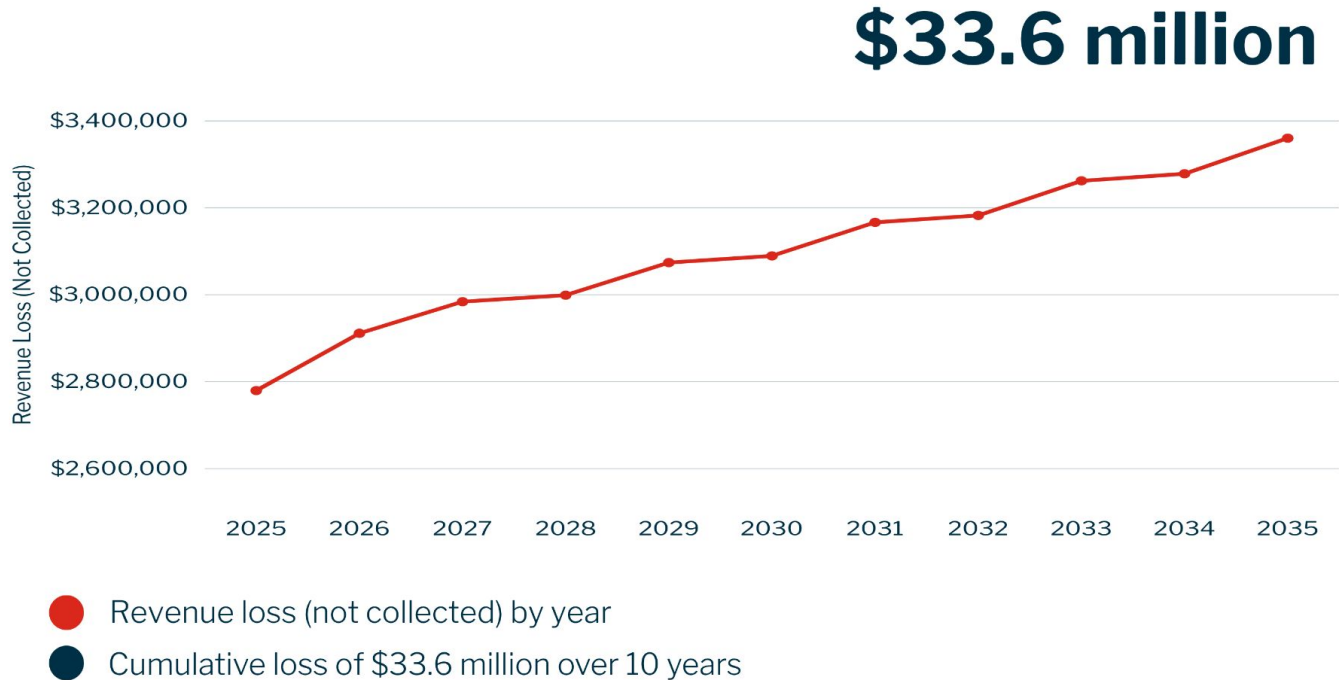
\$7.5 MILLION TO HEALTH CARE

+ 15%

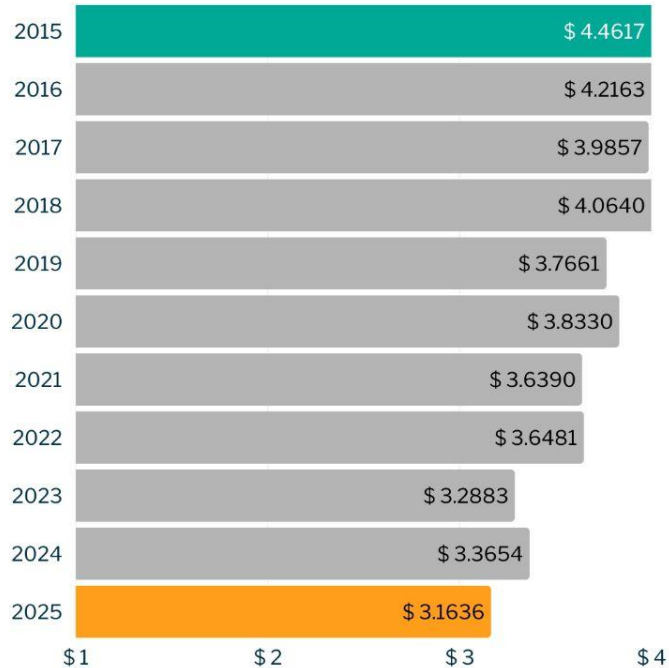
**Increase in
Employee
Premiums
and Plan
Changes**



What is the reduction in funding from the senior tax freeze?



Parkway's Residential Tax Rate History



**Operating tax rate
reduced \$1.30 over
10 years.**

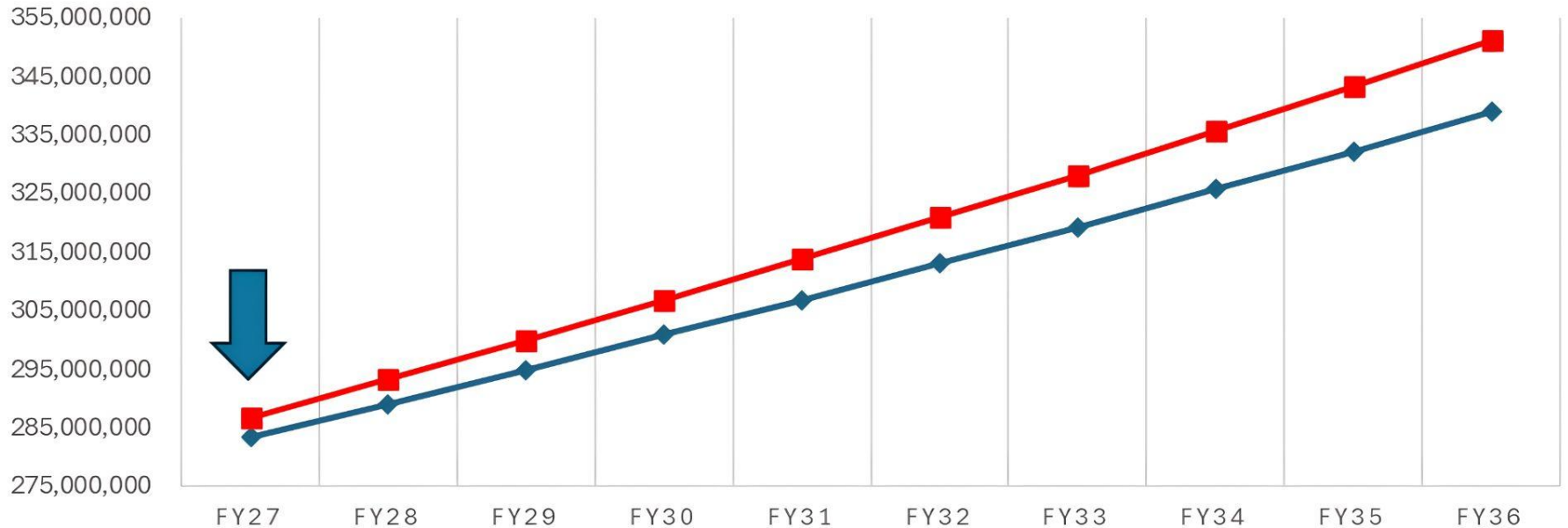
Source: stlouiscountymo.gov (2025)



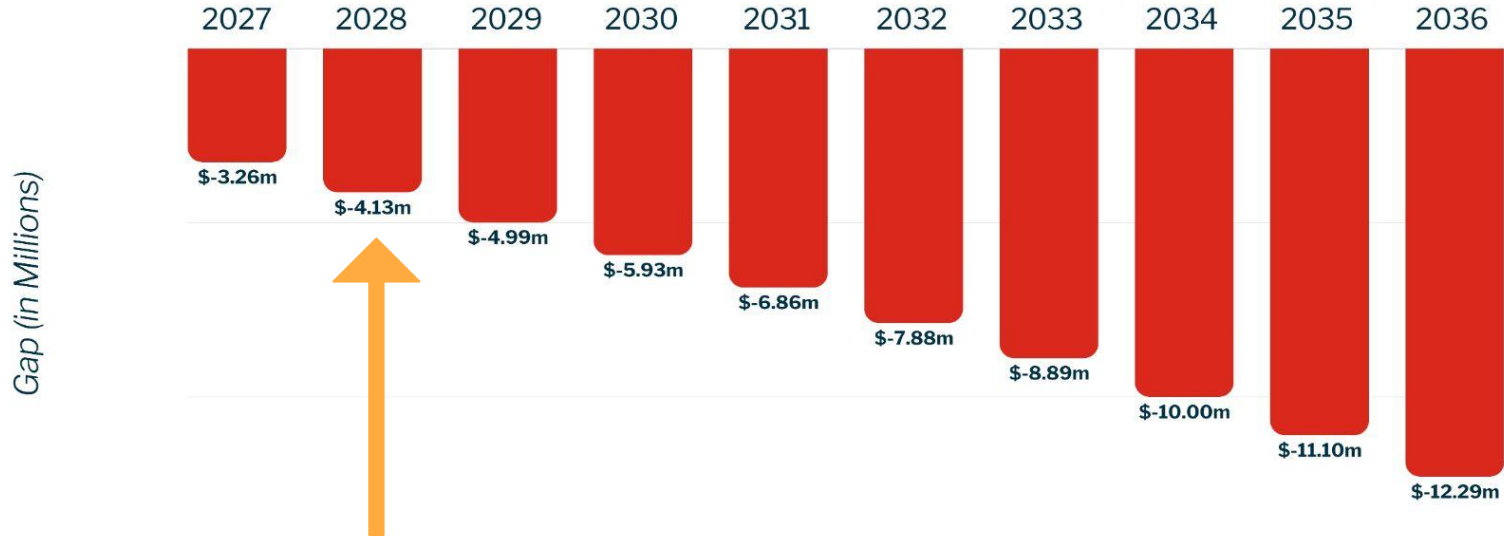
The Challenge

10-year forecast

—◆— Operating Funding —■— Operating Expense



The Funding Shortfall



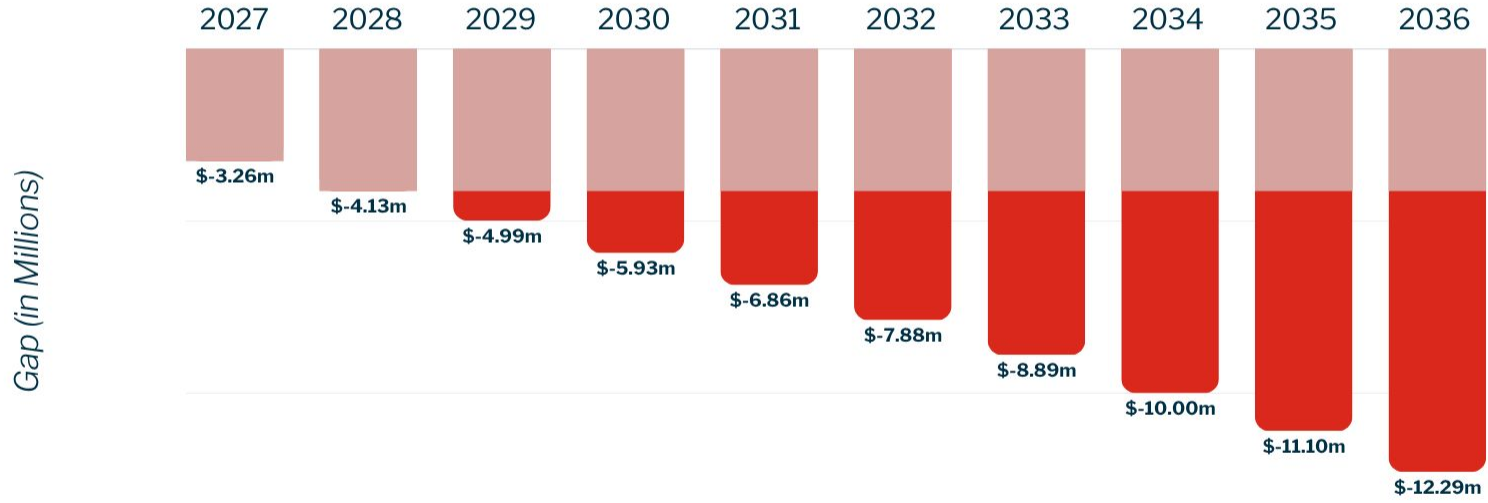
What does a \$4.1 million funding shortfall equate to?

- **Half of Fine Arts Programs**
OR
- **All Transportation and all Athletics**
OR
- **30 Administrators**
OR
- **51 Teachers**
OR
- **89 Support Staff**

These are examples to illustrate scale, not proposed cuts.



\$4.1 million doesn't close the shortfall long-term



Proactive Planning

What we have already done

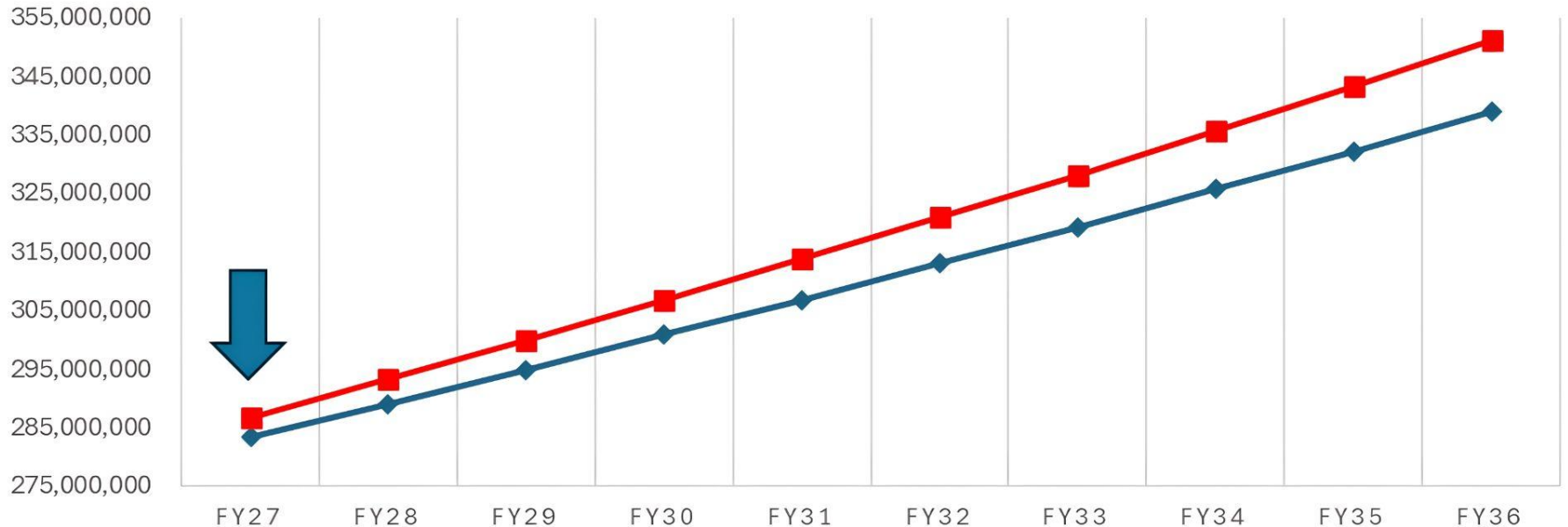
Dr. Melissa Schneider



My introduction to Parkway

10-year forecast

—◆— Operating Funding —■— Operating Expense



Cuts that protected students and classrooms 2025-26

- 10% reduction in supplies and services
- Some vacant positions left unfilled
- Reduced professional development
- Reduced building and department budgets

= \$12.7 million

Cuts planned to protect students and classrooms 2026-27

- Reducing building and department budgets even more
- A funding shortfall begins in 2027-28
- Strong reserves can cover shortfall in short-term, but this is not sustainable

= \$2.7 million

If cuts are part of the solution, how do we prioritize?

So far, we have:

- Protected students and the classroom
- Avoided cuts that impact safety or instruction
- Reduced non-classroom spending before direct student opportunities

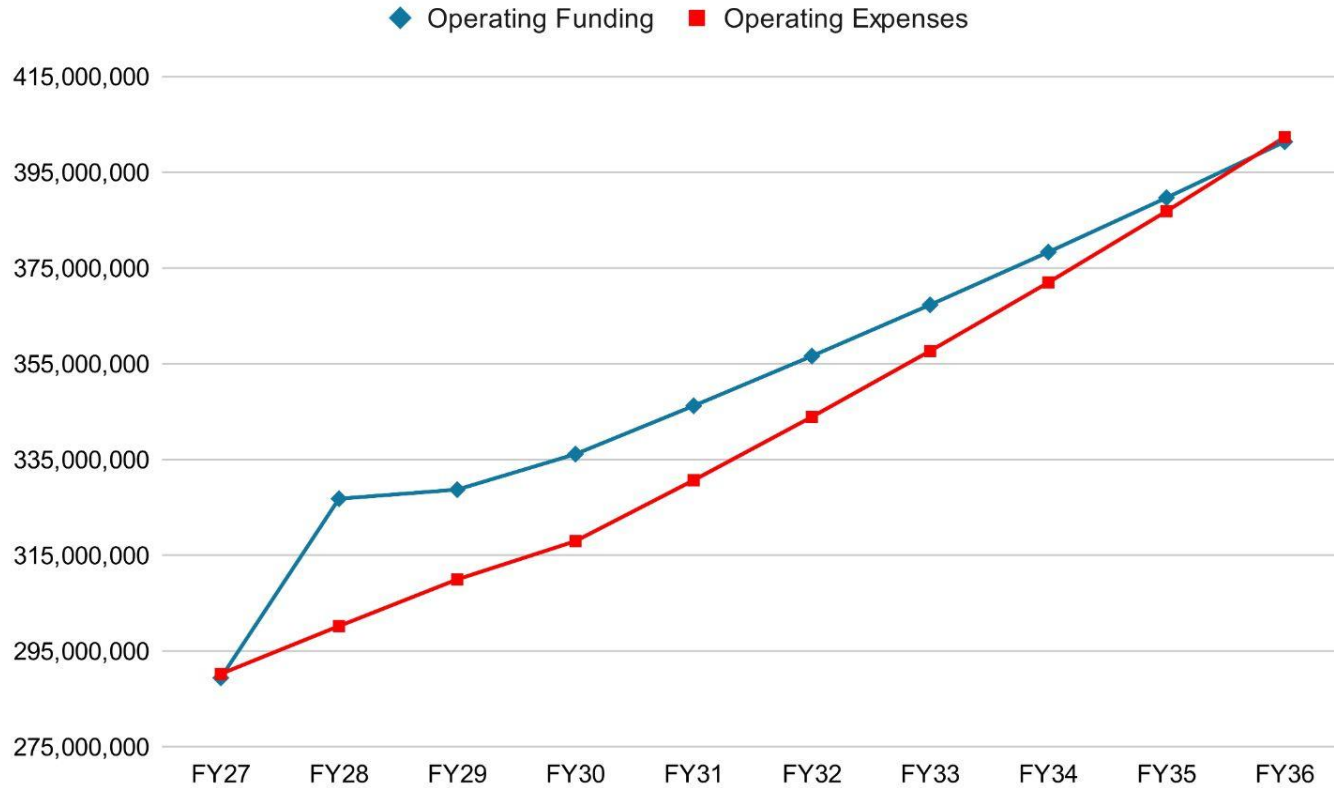
After multiple years of reductions, future cuts will be harder to make without impacting students

What would a 46-cent tax increase protect?

- Safe and secure schools
- High-quality teachers and staff
- Top-rated status in St. Louis area

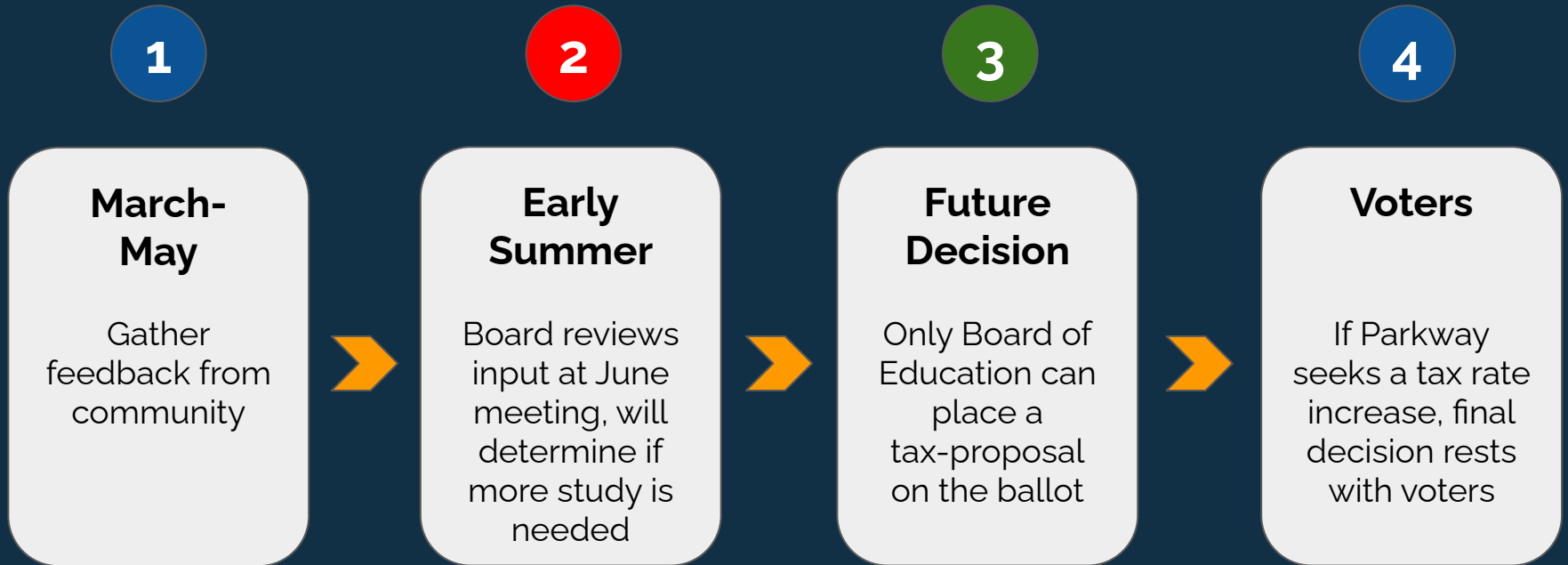
\$7 per week for owner of \$400K home

A sustainable approach



With a 46-cent increase, our tax rate would be **middle of the pack** compared with other districts

Who decides and when?



Group Discussions

We want to hear from you

Elisa Tomich, Chief Communications Officer



Discussion process

At each table: A facilitator who takes notes

Format: You will discuss two questions and decide what to share

At the end: Decide who should share from your table

Norms: Listen respectfully, allow everyone to share, and stay on topic

Questions or comments: Leave them on notecards

Timing: We'll have 20 minutes before we share out

-
1. Based on what you have heard about a potential tax increase and the impact of additional budget cuts, **what would your group recommend as the best path forward?**
 2. **What additional questions do we need to answer** in order to take that path?
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Share Out

What we've heard so far



West High



South High



Central High

Top Themes: What we've heard

- Broad support for additional funding to avoid harmful cuts
 - Protect student programs, staff, and quality
 - Class sizes, course offerings, athletics, fine arts, student services
 - Strong schools protect property values, communities
 - Fiscal responsibility, clear communication and broader outreach beyond Parkway parents matter
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Thank You!
