



# Protecting Parkway Schools

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## COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

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**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 **3 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.





# What we're here to protect



**Generations of excellence**  
Parkway Proud for over 70 years



# We are stable today, but the future requires action

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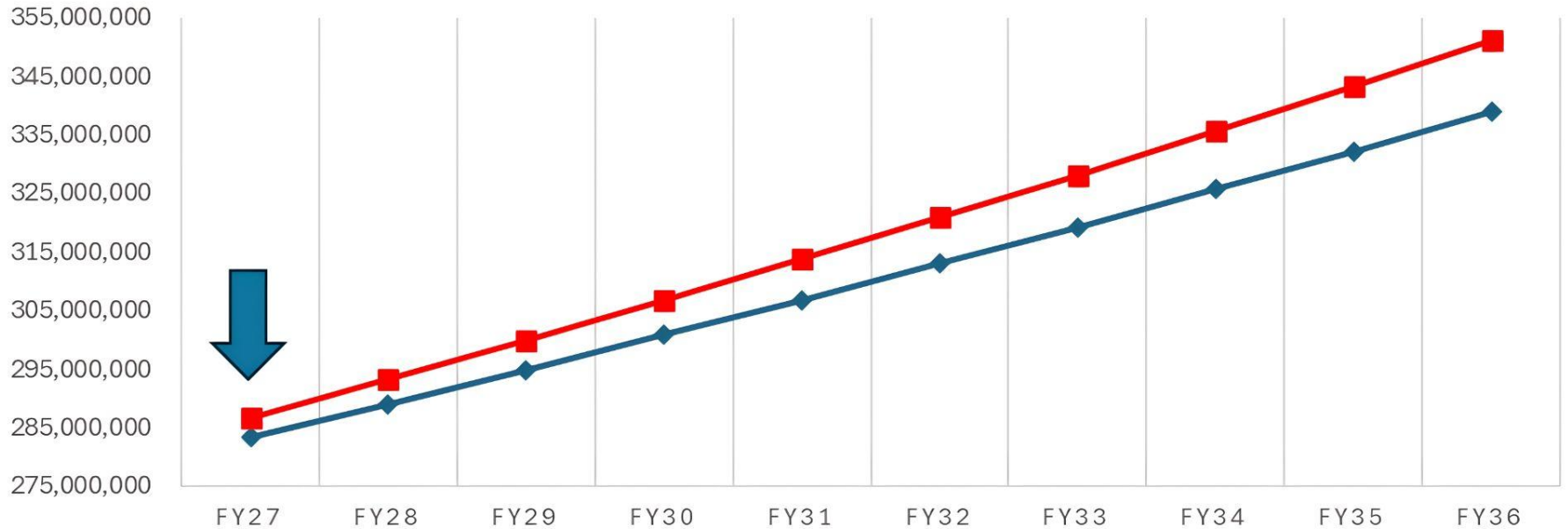
As we begin, it's important that you know:

- This is a multi-year problem
  - Costs are rising across the board
  - Legislative actions have hurt our funding
  - If nothing changes, what we can offer students will be affected
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# A multi-year challenge is taking shape

## 10-year forecast

Operating Funding    Operating Expense



# A commitment to fiscal responsibility

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**S&P Global**  
**AAA BOND RATING**



**ASB** CERTIFICATE  
OF  
EXCELLENCE  
IN FINANCIAL REPORTING



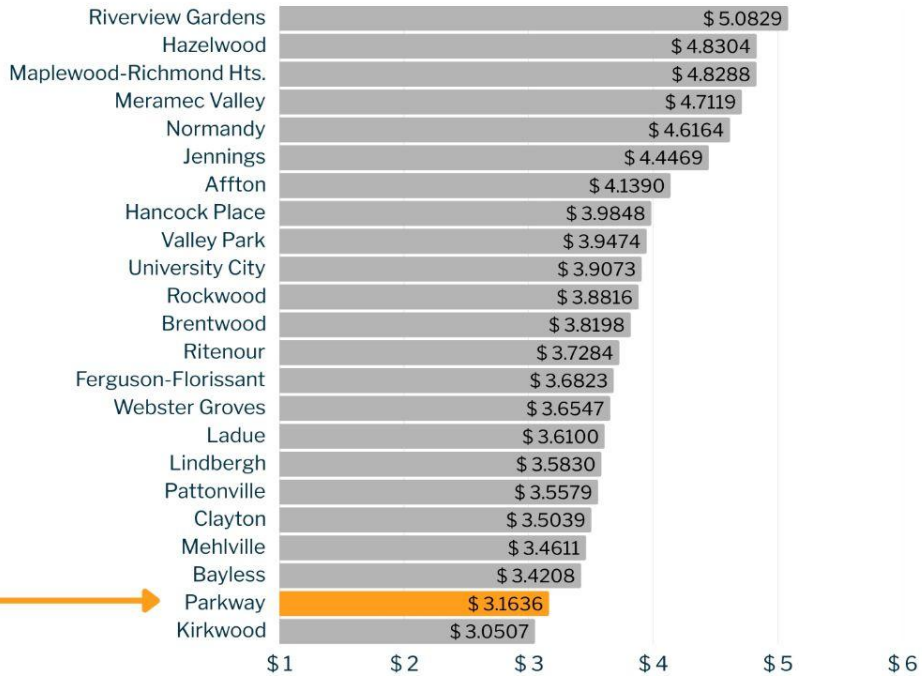
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The last time Parkway asked the community for an operating tax increase was **20 years ago.**

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# How does Parkway's residential tax rate compare?



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

*Source: [stlouiscountymo.gov](http://stlouiscountymo.gov) (2025)*



# As we share more, consider these questions:

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1. What surprises and concerns you?
  2. How might we solve for these challenges?
  3. What should we consider as we determine the best path forward?
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# Budget Basics

Carrie Nunn, CFO

# Where does Parkway's funding come from?

Local – **\$14,923**

State – **\$835**

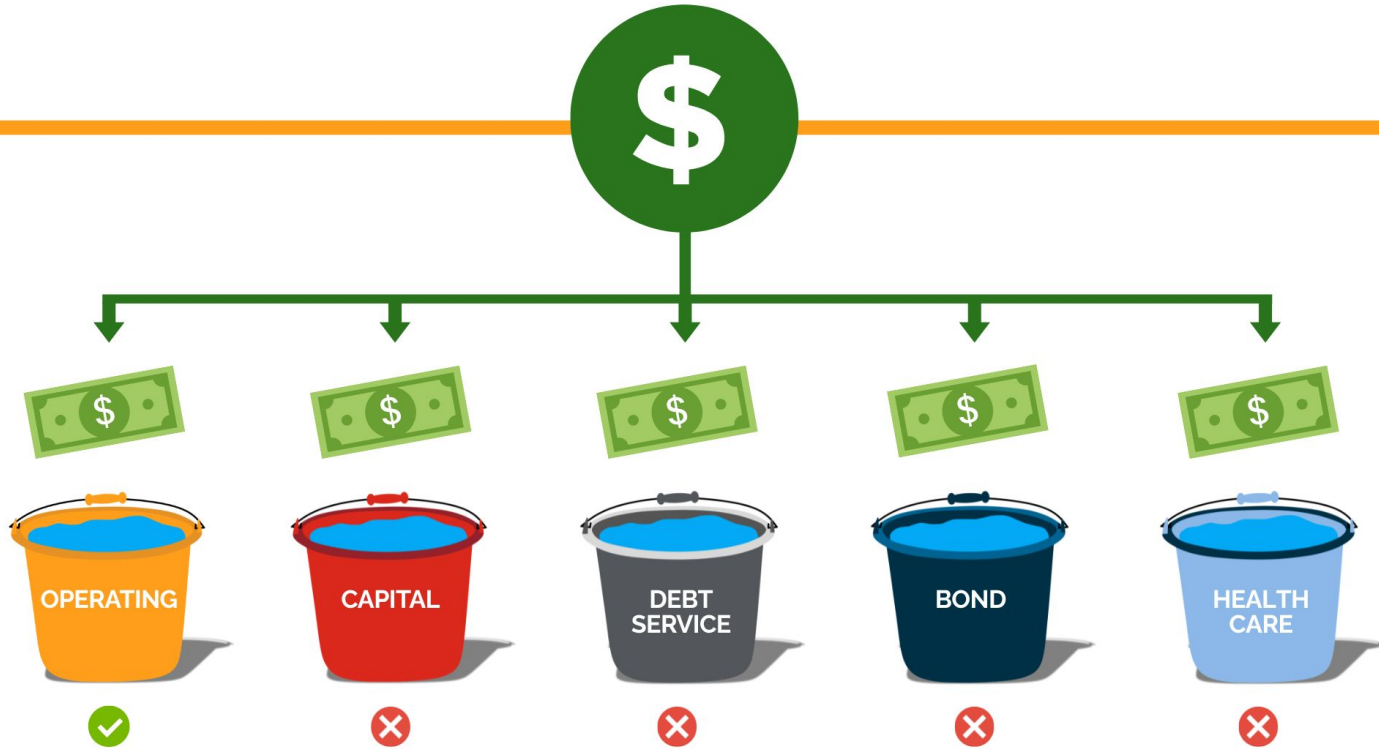
Federal – **\$285**

County – **\$225**

Other – **\$32**



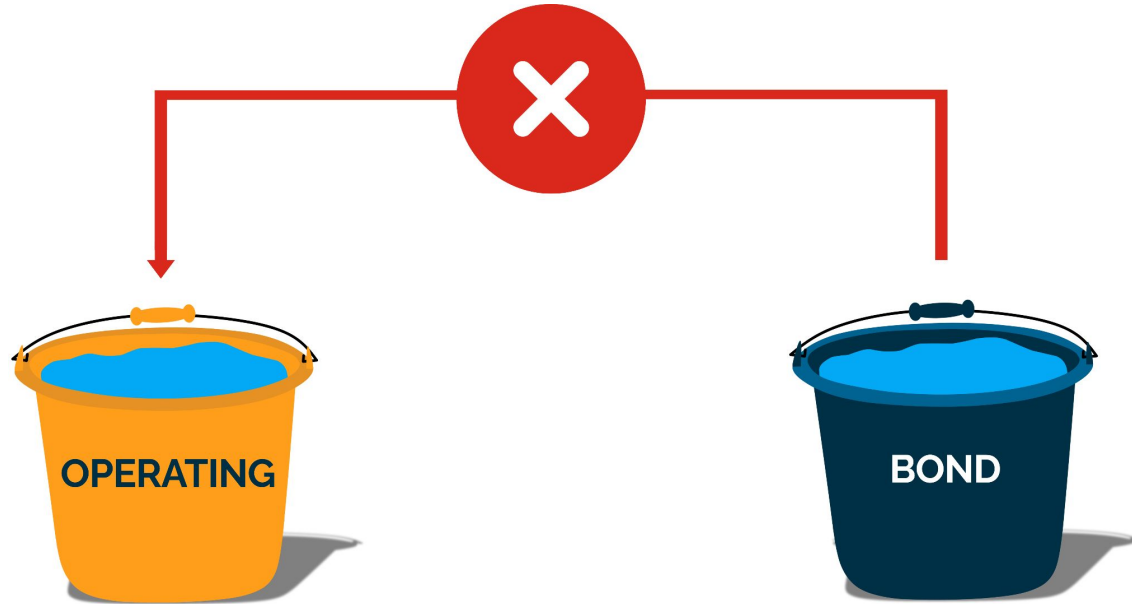
# All funds: A total picture



- ✓ 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%



EVERYTHING ELSE

17%



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**Let's play a game**

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**2016**

**2021**

**2026**

\$1.68

\$1.67

\$4.24

\$80

\$100

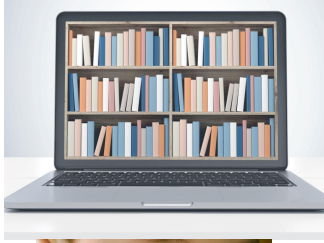
\$207

\$15,000

\$22,000

\$35,000





**2016**

**2021**

**2026**

\$4,322,916

\$6,478,232

\$10,779,903



\$375,324

\$415,442

\$982,000



\$90,000

\$109,896

\$162,258



\$31,761,311

\$38,798,715

\$55,760,181

# Current Fiscal Storm

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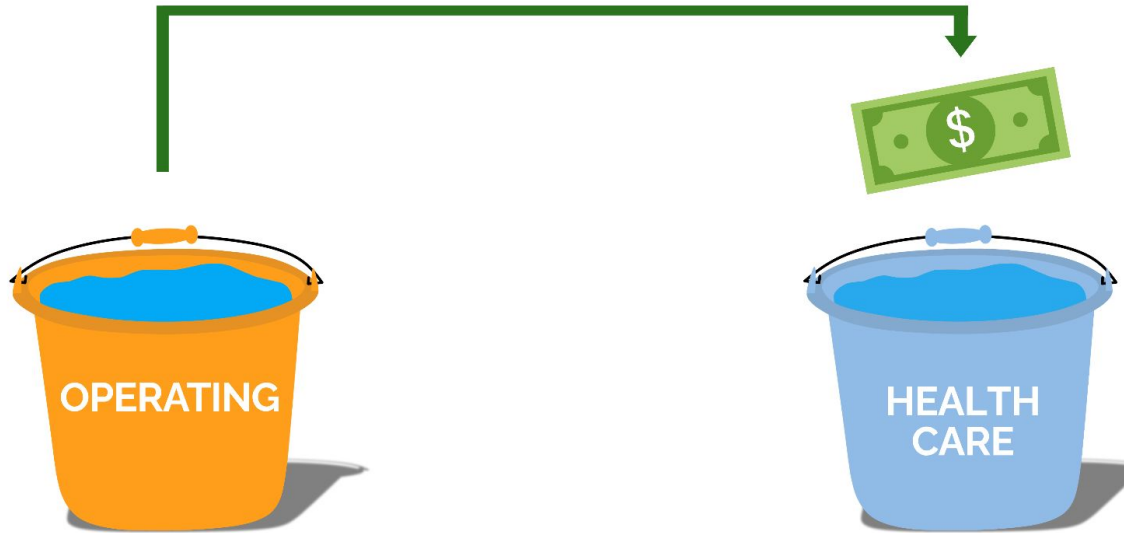
- Rapid increase in costs for basics
  - Rapid increase in cost of healthcare
  - Reduced ability to collect funding:  
Senior Tax Freeze and Hancock Amendment
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# Solving for rising healthcare

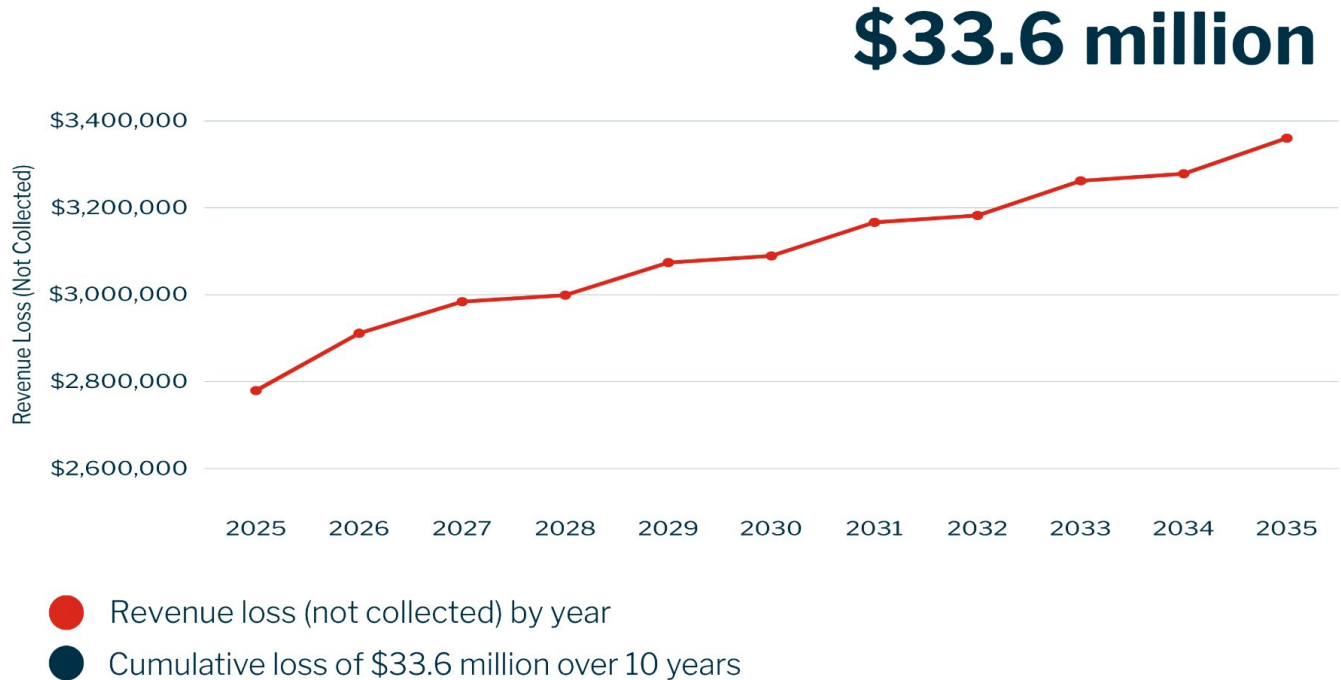
**\$7.5 MILLION TO HEALTH CARE**

**+ 15%**

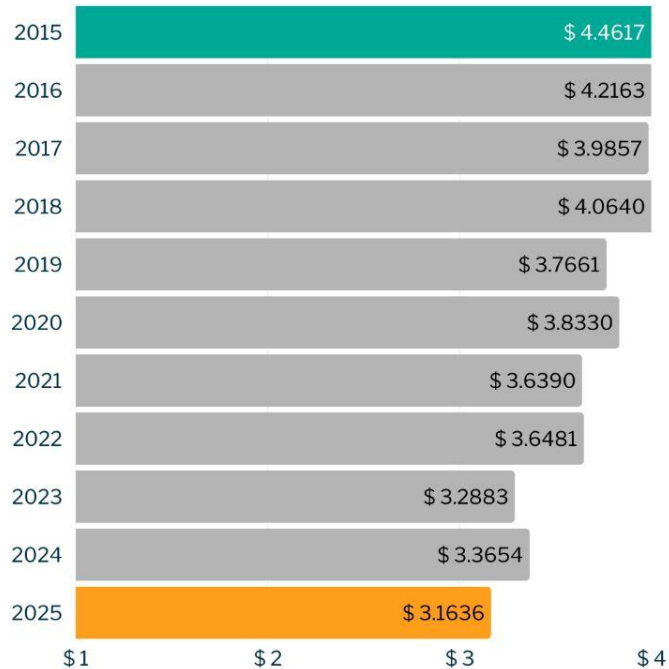
**Increase in  
Employee  
Premiums  
and Plan  
Changes**



# 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.**

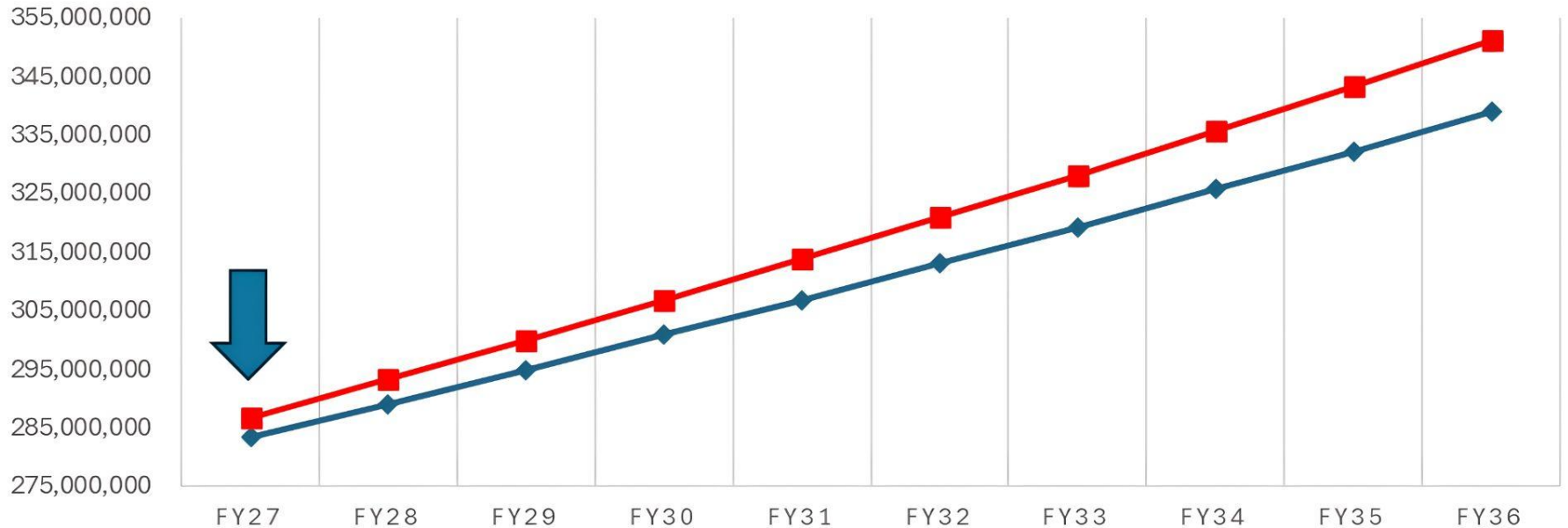
*Source: stlouiscountymo.gov (2025)*



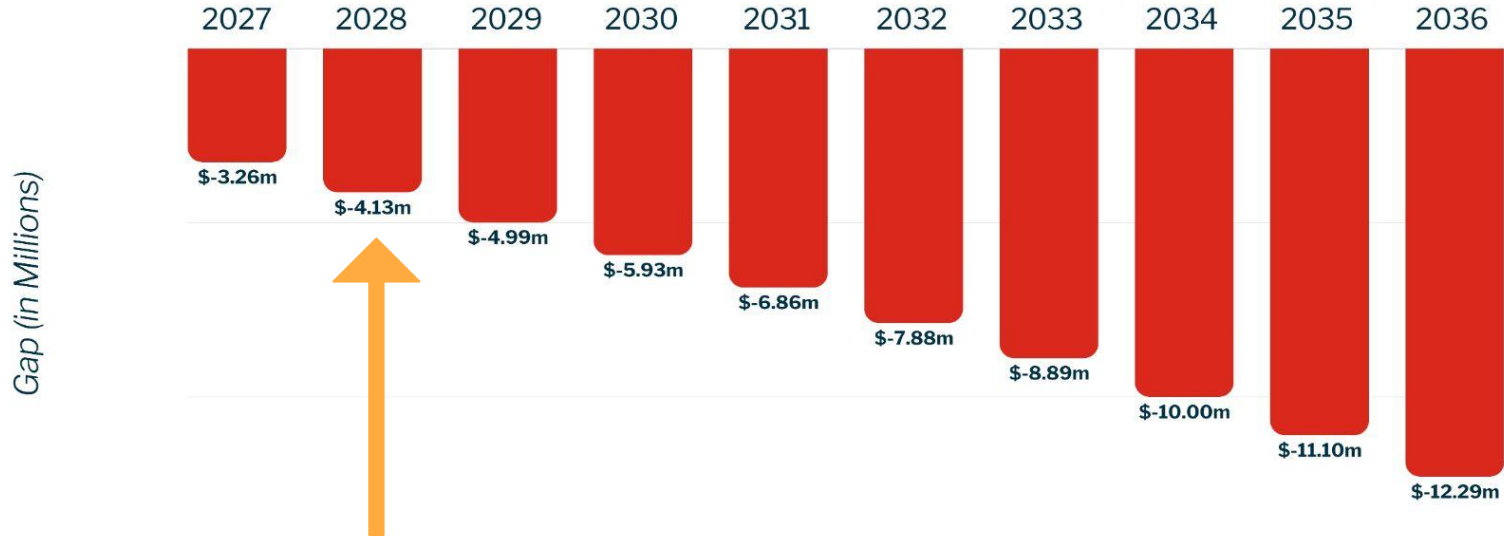
# The Challenge

## 10-year forecast

—◆— Operating Funding    —■— Operating Expense



# The Funding Shortfall



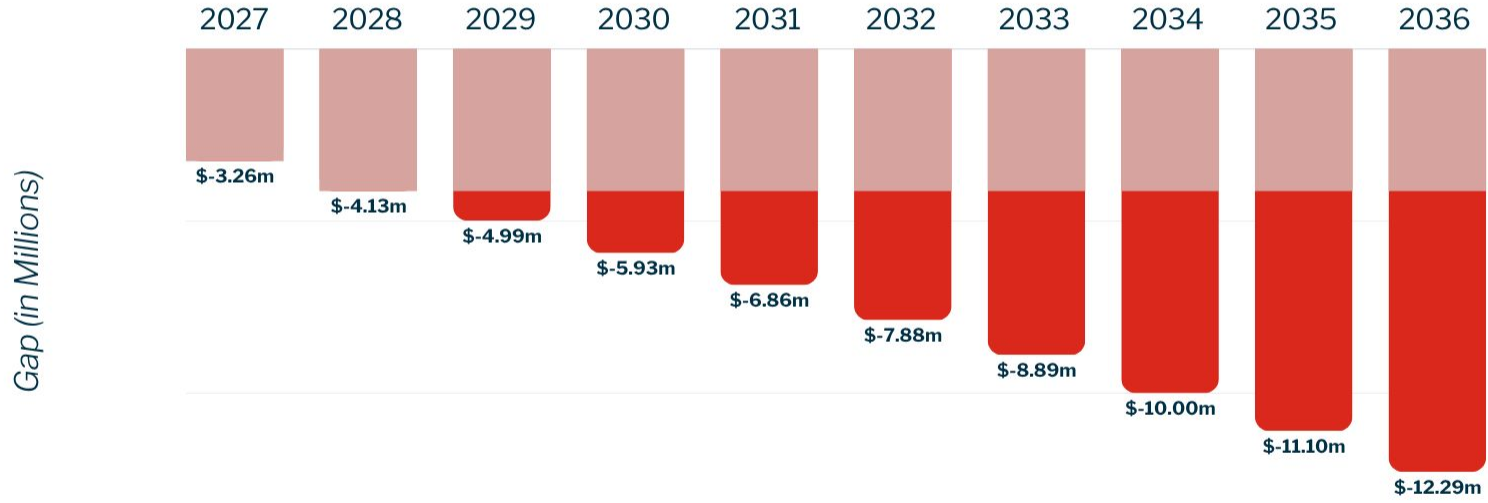
# What does a \$4.1 million funding shortfall equate to?

- **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

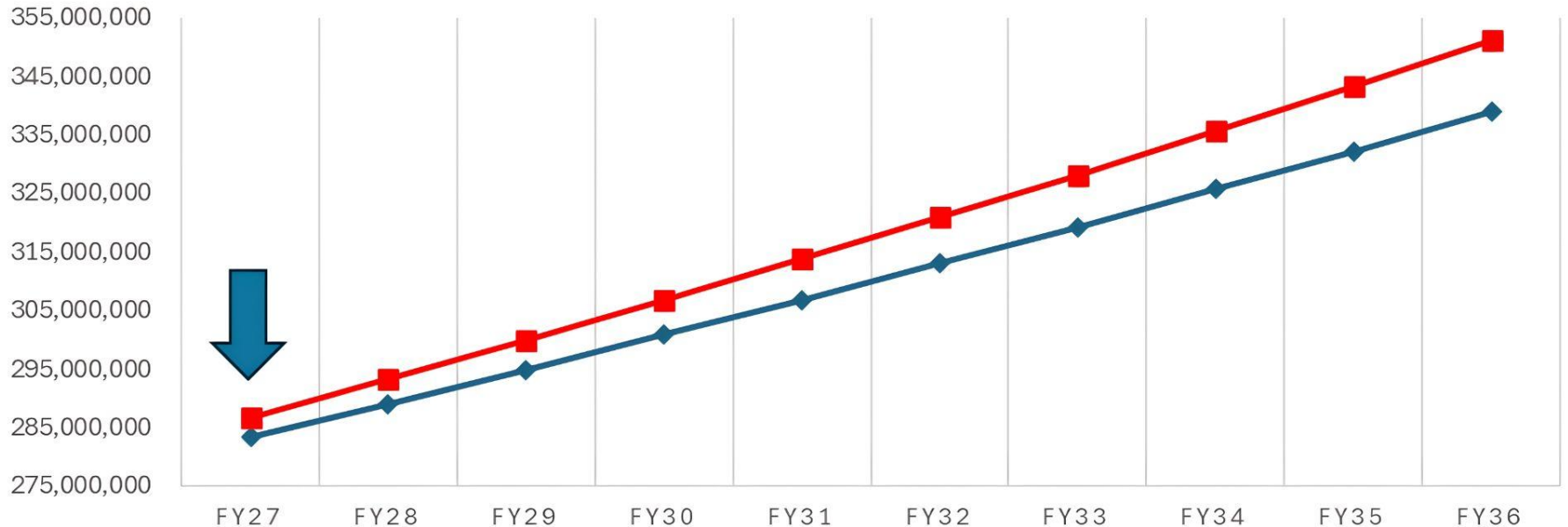
What we have already done

Dr. Melissa Schneider

# My introduction to Parkway

## 10-year forecast

Operating Funding    Operating Expense



# Cuts that protected students and classrooms

2025-26

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

**= \$12.7 million**

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# Cuts planned to protect students and classrooms 2026-27

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- 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
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# Recap and How we move forward

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- Current reality:
    - Rising costs
    - Reductions in funding
  - How do we move forward?
  - Addressing this challenge will require additional funding and/or significant reductions in expenses.
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# Group Discussions

*We want to hear from you*

Elisa Tomich  
Chief Communications Officer

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# Discussion process

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**At each table:** A facilitator and a note taker

**Format:** You will discuss three questions and decide what to share

**At the end:** Share out from 5 tables per question

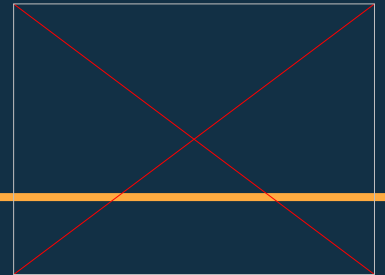
**Norms:** Listen respectfully, allow everyone to share, and stay focused on the questions

**Questions:** Write them with contact info on notecards

**Timing:** We'll have 30 minutes before we share out

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1. What are your group's **top three surprises and concerns** from what you heard?
2. Budget challenges can be solved by identifying new funding or reducing expenses. **What does your group see as the pros and cons of each approach? Which approach does your group prefer?**
3. What questions should we consider as we determine the best path forward?



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**Share Out**

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# What's next?

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- **Community Conversations**
    - April 27 - North High - 6-7:30 pm
    - April 30 - Central High - 6-7:30 pm
  - Feedback from tonight will inform our next two conversations, please come!
  - **Community Survey** - look for a postcard
  - **Report to the Board of Education** later this spring
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**Thank You!**

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