

Ballot Issue 4A Explanation



Ballot Issue 4A

WITHOUT INCREASING TAXES, SHALL ELIZABETH SCHOOL DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND ITS EXISTING TAX FOR BONDED DEBT, AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE TO COLLECT UP TO \$1,590,000 IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUE IN 2019 AND ANNUALLY THEREAFTER, WHICH MONEYS SHALL BE DEPOSITED INTO THE GENERAL FUND OF THE DISTRICT AND USED TO:

- ATTRACT AND RETAIN TEACHERS AND SUPPORT STAFF BY OFFERING COMPENSATION THAT IS COMPETITIVE WITH SURROUNDING SCHOOL DISTRICTS;
- EXPAND SAFETY AND SECURITY MEASURES THROUGH EQUIPMENT, TRAINING, AND PREPAREDNESS, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ADDITION OF A SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS;
- PROVIDE ALL STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY THAT FACILITATES LEARNING AND POST-GRADUATE SUCCESS;

PROVIDED THAT IN 2019 A PORTION OF THE \$1,590,000 WILL BE USED TO MAKE THE FINAL PAYMENTS ON THE DISTRICT'S GENERAL OBLIGATION DEBT;

AND, BASED ON STUDENT COUNT, SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO ALLOCATE A PORTION OF THE REVENUE RAISED TO LEGACY ACADEMY, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, TO USE FOR THE PURPOSES SET FORTH HEREIN;

AND SHALL THE DISTRICT BE AUTHORIZED TO COLLECT, RETAIN, AND SPEND ALL REVENUES FROM SUCH TAXES AND THE EARNINGS FROM THE INVESTMENT OF SUCH REVENUES AS A VOTER APPROVED REVENUE CHANGE?

This ballot measure won't raise taxes because the mill levy override (MLO) replaces the district's existing bond that retires in 2019. In fact, the MLO is a flat amount and as the community grows the \$1.59 million will be spread across additional taxpayers and each taxpayer will contribute less.

The MLO addresses fundamental and enduring district needs. Since a significant portion of the money is earmarked for ongoing expenses, the MLO does not sunset, as that would create a financial cliff that would require cuts at the time of the sunset.

The majority of the total MLO revenue - 86% - would go toward increasing compensation for teachers and support staff to enable Elizabeth Schools to be more competitive with neighboring school districts. The minimum increase for teaching staff would be 10%. The minimum increase for support staff would be 7.5%.
To see additional information regarding staff within the district who would be impacted, visit <http://bit.ly/2PopHfn>.

Approximately 8 to 9% of the proceeds from the MLO would go toward a School Resource Officer (SRO) employed by the Elizabeth Police Department. The SRO would be assigned to split their time between Elizabeth High School and Elizabeth Middle School. The school district would pay for nine months of compensation for this position. For an overview of the SRO's role, visit <http://bit.ly/SROdetail>.
Additionally, facility safety improvements would be made at all district schools, not just the middle and high schools.
Funds would also be allocated to staff training, assemblies, guest speakers, safety experts, threat assessments, and other resources to improve social and emotional support for all students.

About 5 to 6% of the funds from the MLO would be used to increase the availability of technology in the classroom, including additional tablets and student laptops, increased software tools for students, and more STEM resources like robotics, simulators, drones and 3D printers.

The district's existing bond that was used to build Elizabeth High School will be paid off in 2019. If voters pass the mill levy override, a portion of the \$1.59 million will be used to make the final payments on the bond in 2019.

Accountability for the use of the mill levy override proceeds will be monitored by the District Accountability Committee (DAC).

House Bill 17-1375, passed in 2017, requires school districts to share a portion of override revenues with charter schools.