

# Dallas Independent School District (DISD)

## TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION (TRE)

### DISD Proposition C,

**Early Voting – October 22 to November 2, 2018**

**Election Day November 6, 2018**

#### Proponents say:

A TRE is a special election called by a school district's board of trustees that asks voters to approve an increase in its maintenance and operating (M&O) tax rate. M&O taxes cover the day-to-day cost of school district operations. Since 2008, DISD has maintained an M&O tax rate of \$1.04. If approved, the tax ratification election would increase the M&O tax rate to the state cap of \$1.17.

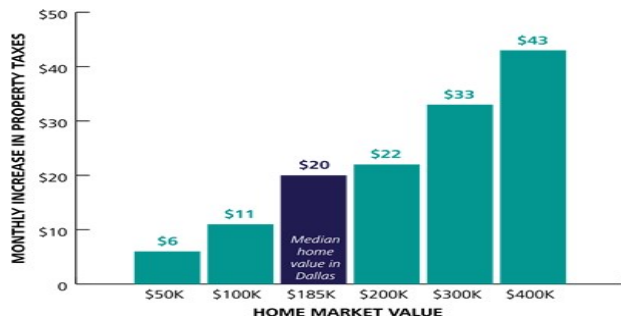
#### Opponents say:

DISD can obtain funds from the state, have an increase in enrollment, or from increased local property taxes. DISD and voters can and should advocate against further cuts to state funding of education and promote an increase in state funding with legislators rather than relying on additional property taxes. The district should promote and advertise DISD schools to families to increase student attendance.

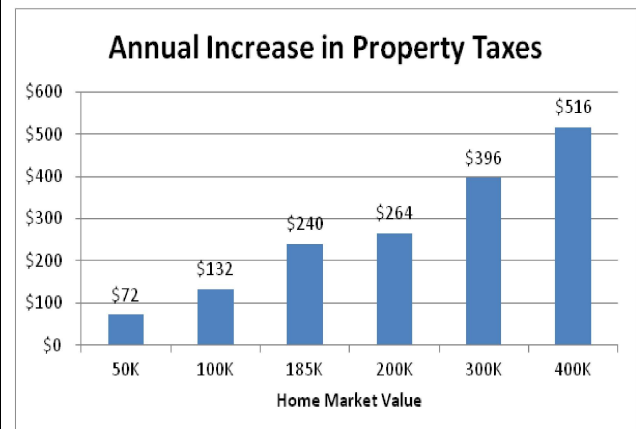
The District's administration is recommending adding 13 cents to the existing \$1.04 M&O tax rate for a new rate of \$1.17. Coupled with DISD's current debt service tax rate of \$0.24, the final combined District tax rate would total \$1.41. This increase will bring in an estimated \$126 million to DISD annually or on average \$630,000,000 over five years.

Even though the district will get more money, the District will send \$1,347,469,368 of local property taxes to the state over the next five years due to Recapture or Robin Hood. Meanwhile, the state removes state money from funding education. Voters need to demand that state legislators continue to pay the state's fair share and go back to paying 50% of local education costs.

The median market value of homes in DISD as determined by the US Census Quick Facts is \$184,700 (2012-2016). If voters approve increasing the tax rate by 13 cents, the increase would raise property taxes on homes at the median market value by \$0.65 cents per day or \$20 a month.



Annual increases to property tax better reveals the actual tax burden.



Go to the Central Appraisal District at <http://dallascad.org/TaxRateCalculator.aspx> to find your tax burden.

<p>The TRE will not affect taxpayers 65 years or older or those who are disabled if they have a frozen tax levy, which requires filing the appropriate homestead exemptions with the county appraisal district.</p>	<p>When you turn 65, you can receive a tax exemption. But if you significantly improve your home (other than ordinary repairs and maintenance), your taxes can go up, subject to the new property tax rate.</p>
<p>DISD proposes to use the money raised by the higher tax rate to pay for additional programs, to expand facilities, to improve teacher effectiveness, to achieve racial equity across programs and facilities, to provide more school choice, and to strategically compensate teachers, administrators and staff.</p>	<p>Many of the proposed programs and improvements are already in place. Furthermore, the actual cost or plan to achieve each item in the district's proposals is not known. The DISD Trustees and administration should look for ways to improve and accomplish the list without more money.</p>
<p>Of the 38 area districts in Dallas and Collin Counties, 25 (two-thirds) have passed a TRE. Some of them that passed a \$1.17 tax ratification include Plano, McKinney, Carrollton-Farmers Branch, Irving, Wylie, Coppell, DeSoto and Grand Prairie. Since 2006, more than 500 out of 1031 Texas school districts have called a TRE.</p>	<p>Just because one district approves the TRE for their district does not justify it for every district. The additional property taxes will place a burden on low-income tax payers. In Dallas, 22.9% of the population lives at or below the poverty rate and continues to increase. A tax increase makes it more difficult for middle income and the working poor to find any kind and keep housing.</p>

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