

"Notes From School"

Revenue Limit Referendum

On Tuesday, April 3, 2018, residents of the School District of Mondovi will have the opportunity to vote on an important referendum question. This document provides information about the upcoming referendum and will be updated as community members call or email the District Office with questions.

How much additional money is being requested?

The April 3 referendum is a request to exceed revenue cap limits for three years. Passage of the referendum would provide the Board of Education authority to levy up to \$450,000 in excess of the revenue limits beginning with the 2018-2019 school year and ending with the 2020-2021 school year. The current \$300,000 per school year referendum that began back in 2015-2016 comes to an end with the 2017-2018 school year.

What will the additional funds be used for?

Additional funds are being requested to maintain current instructional programs, maintain staffing, to continue the integration & maintenance of technology resources into our students' classrooms, and maintain facilities & grounds.

What impact will the referendum have on my taxes?

At the end of the three-year referendum period, mill rates are expected to be lower than they were for the 2017-2018 school year even if the referendum is approved. The 2017-2018 mill rate was \$9.96 per thousand dollars of assessed value; the 2018-2019 mill rate will be very close to \$9.89. With a revenue limit override of \$450,000, mill rate projections for the next three years are:

2018-2019 \$9.89
2019-2020 \$9.96
2020-2021 \$9.94

Why do we need to do this referendum now?

Over the past six years, almost \$1 million dollars have been cut from our district budget. This is a very significant amount when the total general budget is approximately \$10 million dollars. These budget reductions have been accomplished through changes in employee health insurances and benefit plans, eliminations or reductions in post-employment benefits, postponement of upgrades to materials & equipment, and attrition.

Every year since revenue limits were put in place in 1993-94, our district has been able to successfully manage budgets built upon per-student revenue limits that have been LESS than the state average. For more than thirteen years, the district has never operated on a deficit budget. Every effort has been made to provide high-quality educational opportunities for children while being fiscally responsible with taxpayers' money.

With revenue limits and state aid continuing to decrease, we are now at the point where maintaining a balanced budget, without additional local support, could require the elimination of entire programs or classes, increasing class sizes by cutting teaching positions, or both.

Thank you for reviewing information on our referendum. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, April 3, 2018.