

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

To: Media Outlets
From: Monroe County Community School Corporation
Date: June 28, 2022
RE: Monroe County Community School Corporation to Hold Fall Referendum

Monroe County Community School Corporation to Hold Fall Referendum

State funding doesn't keep pace with inflation, local funds to bridge gap

(Bloomington, IN.) – At its June 28 meeting, the Board of School Trustees for Monroe County Community School Corporation unanimously approved a referendum tax levy resolution to renew and increase the current operating levy in the November 8, 2022 general election. The resolution sets the final referendum ballot question and authorizes the Superintendent to send the resolution to the Department of Local Government Finance to be placed on the ballot as a referendum question.

“Throughout the process of community engagement this winter and spring, and public meetings with the board, we have received very positive feedback from community members that the operating levy is essential to our operations and to the continued success of our students,” said Superintendent, Dr. Hauswald.

An operating levy was first approved by MCCSC voters in 2010 and renewed by voters in 2016. The 2016 levy expires at the end of this year.

Since 2010, the approved operating levy was for a set amount of revenue, \$7.3 million per year. To collect that amount, voters approved a levy of 14 cents on \$100 of property value in 2010; in 2016, as the value of property increased in the area, MCCSC only needed to levy 11 cents to collect revenue of \$7.3 million. This year the operating levy is 9 cents.

“Inflation has eroded the value of our operating levy, and state funding has not kept pace with inflation either,” Hauswald said. “The new rate we have chosen is close to what the rate would be if we adjusted the original 14 cent authorization for inflation.”

The district will ask voters for an 18.5 cent operating levy in the general election on Nov. 8. Currently, 93% of the 9-cent 2022 referendum funding goes to teacher salaries. The additional 9.5 cents per \$100 of the assessed valuation of a property in MCCSC’s school district will be used in the following ways:

- 4.5 ¢ : An increase in teacher salaries,
- 3.75 ¢ : An increase in support staff salaries, and
- 1.25 ¢ : Funding for special programs, including special education, STEM, and Performing Arts.

“The job market is so tight right now, and we’re competing for staff not just locally, but statewide,” Hauswald said. “The additional funds will help us remain competitive, and fund educational programs that our community considers to be a high priority.”

Currently, MCCSC tax rates are the 8th lowest for school districts in the state. Even if the referendum is approved, tax rates will still be among the lowest in the State of Indiana. If the referendum is not approved, the district will lose \$7.3 million in operating income which will result in significant staff and educational program cuts, and wage/salary stagnation.

For information contact Superintendent Dr. Hauswald at mccscsupt@mccsc.edu. The community will be updated through the MCCSC website, community meetings, district newsletters, and social media platforms. More information is available at mccsc.edu on the 2022 Referendum page.

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The Monroe County Community School Corporation (MCCSC) serves nearly 11,000 students from diverse populations in 25 schools in Monroe County, Indiana. MCCSC is a leader in STEM and EARTH curricula, encompasses a Performing Arts Academy, International Baccalaureate schools, Dual Immersion programs, multiple Career Pathways, a Career Center, as well as numerous College Credit opportunities to prepare students towards college and career readiness. Our commitment, as we educate tomorrow’s leaders, is to Engage, Empower, and Educate all students in a world-class learning environment empowering them to maximize their educational success in becoming productive, responsible global citizens.

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