

SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held on March 15, 2025, in the Smyrna School District (“District”) pursuant to resolutions duly adopted on December 16, 2024 by the Board of Education of said school district, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, in order to permit the voters of the District to vote either for or against the following:

Authority to Levy Additional Operating Taxes

To support operations, the Smyrna School District is seeking authority to levy and collect an additional \$0.3933 per \$100 of assessed value in New Castle County and an additional \$0.0924 per \$100 assessed value in Kent County effective July 1, 2025, and every year thereafter on all assessed taxable real estate in the District. If approved, the total amount to be raised through this additional tax in FY 2026 shall be \$5,400,000.

This increase, if approved, is to provide funding for the District’s programs and operating expenses, primarily regarding the following:

- Recruit and retain staff by providing competitive salaries.
- Expand the public safety initiative to support additional constables.
- Support programming and extracurricular activities for the new middle school.
- Enhance student instructional technology materials.
- Provide for inflationary increases across all operations including utilities, technology, etc.

The district spans parts of New Castle County and Kent County.

If approved, the annual current tax shall increase on average by \$277.00 for a New Castle County property in the district assessed at \$70,500 (a market value of \$300,000) and a Kent County property in the district assessed at \$300,000.

VOTER INFORMATION

Voters may only vote one time in this special election even if the voter has more than one child attending school in the Smyrna School District.

The polls for the Special Election will be open on Saturday, March 15, 2025 at 7:00 AM and will remain open until 8:00 PM. Voters may vote in any of the following designated polling places, all of which are accessible to voters with disabilities:

Smyrna Elementary School
121 South School Lane, Smyrna

Clayton Intermediate School

86 Sorrento Drive, Clayton

Sunnyside Elementary School

123 Rabbit Chase Lane, Smyrna

Smyrna Middle School

700 Duck Creek Parkway, Smyrna

Kenton Ruritan Club

249 Main Street, Kenton

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

- Must be a citizen of the United States and Delaware
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must be a resident of the Smyrna School District
- You do NOT have to be a registered voter for purposes of a general election

ABSENTEE BALLOT

You may vote by absentee ballot if you cannot vote at a polling place on the day of election for one of the following reasons:

1. You are in the public service of the United States or the State of Delaware, or are a Citizen of the U.S. temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the U.S. and the District of Columbia, or such person's spouse or dependent when residing with or accompanying such person, or absent from this State because of illness or injury while serving the Armed Forces of the U.S.
2. You are in the Armed Forces of the U.S. or the Merchant Marine of the U.S., or attached to and serving with the Armed Forces of the U.S. in the American Red Cross or United Service Organizations.
3. Due to the nature of your business or occupation. This reason includes:
 - a. the business or occupation of providing care to one's parent, spouse, or child who is living at home and requires constant care due to illness, disability, or injury;
 - b. students; and
 - c. otherwise eligible persons who are incarcerated.
4. You are sick or physically disabled (temporarily or permanently).
5. You are absent from the district while on vacation.
6. You are unable to vote at a certain time or on a certain day due to the tenets or teachings of your religion.
7. You are otherwise authorized pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to vote by absentee ballot.
8. You are otherwise authorized by federal law to vote by absentee ballot.

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To vote by absentee ballot:

- Download an Absentee Application from <https://de.gov/schabsapp>, request one by email at absenteekc@delaware.gov; or request one by phone at 302-739-4498.
- If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you, send a completed application so that it arrives at the Department of Elections, Kent County Office no later than 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 11,

2025. You may either email the completed application to absenteekc@delaware.gov, or mail it to PO Box 699 Dover, DE 19903.

- In order to be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received at the Department of Elections, Kent County Office, 100 Enterprise Pl, Suite 5, Dover, DE 19904 no later than 8 p.m. on Saturday, March 15, 2025.
- Vote in person by absentee ballot at the Department of Elections, Kent County Office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Thursday, March 13, 2025, or from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025.
- NOTE: If you are a voter with a “permanent absentee status”, this status does not cover school elections. You will not automatically be mailed an absentee ballot. You must request one. Please follow instructions above to request an absentee ballot.

PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION AND ADDRESS

- Persons appearing to vote must present satisfactory proof of identity and address to the Election Officers at the Polling Place before being permitted to vote. Persons who do not present satisfactory proof of identity and address, may – upon majority vote of the Inspector and the two Judges – be permitted to vote.

Contact Smyrna School District at 302-653-8585 with any questions you may have regarding the referendum.

By Order of the SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Christine Malec, President

Posted in accordance with Delaware Code, Title 14, Section 1074. Do not remove until March 16, 2025.