

SMYRNA SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held on March 9, 2024, in the Smyrna School District (“District”) pursuant to resolutions duly adopted on December 13, 2023 by the Board of Education of said school district, in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 10,19, and 21 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, in order to permit the voters of the District to vote either for or against each of the issues described in the following two sections:

Section 1: Authority To Issue Bonds

To access matching state funds afforded to school districts due to increased construction costs caused by market pressure, the Smyrna School District seeks authorization to issue bonds in the amount of \$ 8,618,951 for Major Capital Projects. The bonds will be used to support the three previously approved Major Capital Projects (described below) and are to be financed through an increase in property taxes. These bonds represent 23% of the total increase in cost of \$37,473,701. The Major Capital Projects will address enrollment growth and capacity issues, and include extraordinary site conditions, which include:

- Planning, construction and equipment of the new 600 student elementary school.
- Planning, construction and equipment for additions and renovations to North Smyrna Elementary School.
- Planning, construction and equipment for additions and renovations to Clayton Intermediate School.
- Legal fees, architectural fees, contingencies and costs of supervision and auditing incidental to and accruing from said program.

To be funded as follows:

\$28,854,750 – State’s Share
\$ 8,618,951 – District’s Local Share
\$37,473,701 – Total

- If the District is authorized to issue bonds for the reasons stated above, the District shall levy and collect additional property taxes to provide for the payment of interest and principal on such bonds. Smyrna School District spans parts of New Castle County and Kent County. The amount of each annual tax increase that would be imposed in each county as a result of the proposed bond issuance, depending upon market conditions, is estimated as follows over the twenty years the bonds will amortize:

For New Castle County

Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match		Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match
1	2025	0.0188	0.3097	0.0846		11	2035	0.0094	0.1689	0.0000
2	2026	0.0000	0.3097	0.0000		12	2036	0.0188	0.1689	0.0000
3	2027	0.0000	0.3097	0.0000		13	2037	0.0093	0.1407	(0.0282)
4	2028	0.0282	0.3097	0.0000		14	2038	0.0093	0.1407	0.0000
5	2029	0.0189	0.2909	(0.0188)		15	2039	0.0094	0.1314	(0.0093)
6	2030	0.0047	0.2298	(0.0611)		16	2040	0.0188	0.1314	0.0000
7	2031	0.0094	0.1970	(0.0328)		17	2041	0.0141	0.1267	(0.0047)
8	2032	0.0094	0.1876	(0.0094)		18	2042	0.0094	0.1126	(0.0141)
9	2033	0.0187	0.1876	0.0000		19	2043	0.0094	0.1126	0.0000
10	2034	0.0094	0.1689	(0.0187)		20	2044	0.0141	0.0844	(0.0282)

For Kent County

Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match		Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Receive State Market Pressure Match
1	2025	0.0235	0.3892	0.1062		11	2035	0.0118	0.2123	0.0000
2	2026	0.0000	0.3892	0.0000		12	2036	0.0236	0.2123	0.0000
3	2027	0.0000	0.3892	0.0000		13	2037	0.0118	0.1769	(0.0354)
4	2028	0.0353	0.3892	0.0000		14	2038	0.0118	0.1769	0.0000
5	2029	0.0238	0.3657	(0.0235)		15	2039	0.0118	0.1651	(0.0118)
6	2030	0.0059	0.2889	(0.0768)		16	2040	0.0236	0.1651	0.0000
7	2031	0.0117	0.2476	(0.0413)		17	2041	0.0177	0.1592	(0.0059)
8	2032	0.0108	0.2359	(0.0117)		18	2042	0.0117	0.1415	(0.0177)
9	2033	0.0236	0.2359	0.0000		19	2043	0.0117	0.1415	0.0000
10	2034	0.0118	0.2123	(0.0236)		20	2044	0.0177	0.1061	(0.0354)

Notes regarding this Section 1 table: Estimated "Annual Tax Increase" amounts are rounded and are stated in Cents/\$100 of Assessed Value. The "Annual Tax Rate" is based on the District's current debt service rate (0.2251 per \$100 of assessed value in New Castle County and 0.2830 per \$100 assessed value in Kent County) and several other factors including market interest rates. Retirement of existing debt will offset annual tax increases in future years. The calculations in the above table were prepared without regard to any future referenda that may be pursued by the District.

For a New Castle County property in the District assessed at \$47,000 (average market value is \$200,000) and for a Kent County property in the district assessed at \$37,400 (average market value is \$200,000), the increased debt service cost to the homeowner is as follows over the first five of the twenty years the bonds will amortize, and accounting for debt retirement:

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
\$35.80	\$35.00	\$34.21	\$33.41	\$32.62

**Section 2:
Authority to Levy Operating Taxes**

To support operations, the Smyrna School District is seeking authority to levy and collect an additional \$0.5170 per \$100 of assessed value in New Castle County and an additional \$0.6497 per \$100 assessed value in Kent County effective July 1, 2024, and every year thereafter on all assessed taxable real estate in the District. If approved, the total amount to be raised through this tax in FY 2025 shall be \$5,510,000.

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

- Recruit and hire constables for every school building.
- Deliver mental health supports in every school building.
- Maintain competitive salaries.
- Enhance student instructional technology materials.
- Provide extracurricular activities for the new middle school.

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

If approved, the current tax shall increase on average by \$242.98 for a New Castle County property in the district assessed at \$47,000 (average market value is \$200,000) and a Kent County property in the district assessed at \$37,400 (average market value is \$200,000).

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 9th, 2024 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

Smyrna Middle School
700 Duck Creek Parkway, Smyrna

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:

- You are temporarily or permanently disabled;
- You are serving in the public service of the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- You are the spouse or a dependent living with or accompanying a person serving the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- The nature of your job or occupation does not permit you to go to the polls;
- You are sick;
- The tenets or teachings of your religion prevent you from voting on the days or times set for the election;
- You are incarcerated but otherwise eligible to vote;
- You are away on vacation;
- You are the caregiver to a parent, spouse or that person's child who is living at home and requires constant care due to illness or injury;
- You are temporarily living outside of the U.S.;
- You cannot go to the polls because of illness or injury received while serving in the Armed Forces;
- You serve in the Armed Forces, Red Cross, U.S.O., or the Merchant Marine; or
- You are authorized pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) [42 U.S.C § 1973ff et seq.], or any other federal law, to vote by absentee ballot.

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 5th, 2024. 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 9, 2024.
- Vote in person by absentee ballot at the Department of Elections, Kent County Office, Mon-Fri from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Thursday, March 7, 2024, or from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024.
- 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:

Christopher Scuse, President

Dr. Susan Brown, Executive Secretary and Superintendent

Posted in accordance with Delaware Code, Title 14, Section 1074. Do not remove until March 10, 2024