

## The Details



### Indian River School District Current Expense Referendum

**Date:**

November 22, 2016

**Time:**

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Polling Places:\***

East Millsboro Elementary School

Georgetown Elementary School

Indian River High School

Long Neck Elementary School

Lord Baltimore Elementary School

Selbyville Middle School

\* - District residents who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age are eligible to vote. Registration is not required, but residents must provide proof of identification or residency at each polling place. Absentee ballots are available by mail until noon on November 18 and in person until noon on November 21. Affidavits are available at all district schools. For more information, contact the Department of Elections at (302) 856-5367.

**Questions? Contact the Referendum Hotline at (302) 436-1079 or visit [irsd.net/referendum](http://irsd.net/referendum)**



# Indian River District News

## "A Model of Excellence"

Special Referendum Edition

Fall 2016

## IRSD to Host Current Expense Referendum

### Voting set for November 22; growth issues on ballot

The Indian River School District will host a current expense referendum on **Tuesday, November 22**, to seek additional local funding for school security programs, technology, textbooks, student organizations and measures related to enrollment growth.

Voting on November 22 will be from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Residents of the Indian River School District who are U.S. citizens and at least 18 years of age are eligible to vote at any one of the following polling places: East Millsboro Elementary School, Georgetown Elementary School, Indian River High School, Long Neck Elementary School, Lord Baltimore Elementary School and Selbyville Middle School. Proof of identification or residency is required at each polling place.

The district is proposing a tax increase of 49 cents per \$100 of assessed property



*Technology upgrades are among the proposals included in the November 22 current expense referendum.*

value. The measure will raise \$7,350,000 in additional local revenue. The average district taxpayer will see an increase of \$95.41 in his or her annual property tax bill.

"The district is in an era of unprecedented enrollment growth; revenues simply cannot keep up with the needs of our students," IRSD Superintendent Susan Bunting said. "Our total enrollment is 10,467 students for the 2016-2017 school year. This represents an increase of 296 students from

last year. Overall, our enrollment has grown an average of 3 to 4 percent every year since 2010. This has created a need for additional teachers and paraprofessionals, classroom supplies and materials, technology, textbooks and school safety initiatives. Meeting these needs has put a strain on the district's budget. Growth is expected to continue into the future, with district enrollment projected to be at or near 12,000 by 2022.

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# Why is the Referendum Needed?

District enrollment has increased by 1,681 students since 2010 and now totals 10,467 students in Grades PreK-12. This represents an average growth rate of 3 to 4 percent per year. Such growth has created a need for additional teachers and paraprofessionals, classroom supplies and materials, technology, textbooks and school safety initiatives. Meeting these needs has put a strain on district budgets.

## Total District Enrollment

<u>Year</u>	<u>Enrollment</u>
2005	7,885
2010	8,786
2016	10,467
2019	11,147*
2022	11,937*
2024	12,464*
2026	12,991*

\* - Projected

Figures based on annual Sept. 30 unit count

## Additional Students and Teaching Units

<u>Year</u>	<u>Additional Students</u>	<u>Additional Teaching Units</u>
2011-12	85	22
2012-13	276	22
2013-14	288	48
2014-15	407	34
2015-16	329	33
2016-17	296	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,681</b>	<b>194</b>

Figures based on annual Sept. 30 unit count



## Current Expense Referendum Set For November 22

From Page 1

"The Indian River School District always strives to be a good steward of its taxpayers' dollars. We are extremely grateful for the past support of our public. Hopefully, residents will be supportive of this important initiative on November 22 that will strongly influence our schools' future."

The breakdown of the tax increase and the amount of revenue to be generated is as follows: School Safety, 10 cents (\$1,500,000); Student Enrollment Growth, 33 cents (\$4,950,000); Technology, 3 cents (\$450,000); Textbooks, 2 cents (\$300,000) and Student

Organizations, 1 cent (\$150,000).

**School Safety** – This expenditure includes the continued funding of the district's 15 armed school security monitors, five School Resource Officers and two district investigators. Additionally, it will fund improvements to doors and windows and the purchase of radios, school and bus cameras, card readers and other security devices.

**Student Enrollment Growth** – Funding will be used to hire additional teachers and paraprofessionals authorized through the annual unit count. As a cost-savings measure, the

district has left most of these positions vacant for 2016-2017. The tax increase will also fund the purchase of additional supplies, materials and furniture to accommodate student enrollment growth.

**Technology** – Increased tax dollars will be invested in technology upgrades such as computer/tablet purchase and replacement, SMART board replacements, switch expansions/replacements and software license upgrades.

**Textbooks** – The additional tax monies will be used for textbook adoptions during the next three years in English language arts, math, social

studies, science, art, music, dance and theater.

**Student Organizations** – Funding will support student clubs such as Odyssey of the Mind, Business Professionals of America (BPA), Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA), FFA, robotics teams and Math League. Funds may also be used for band and athletic uniforms.

"Additional funding for these measures is needed if our district is to continue providing students the top-quality education they've received in the past," Bunting said. "One cannot put a price on school safety."

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The Indian River School District is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate or deny services on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, domicile, marital status or disability in its programs and activities.

# How Much Will These Initiatives Cost?

## Tax Impact and Revenue

The Indian River School District is proposing a property tax increase of 49 cents per \$100 of assessed value. This will generate \$7,350,000 in local funding and result in an estimated tax increase of \$95.41 for the average district taxpayer.\*

<u>Proposed Expenditure</u>	<u>Tax Increase</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Tax Impact</u>
School Safety	10 cents	\$1,500,000	\$19.47
Student Enrollment Growth	33 cents	\$4,950,000	\$64.26
Technology	3 cents	\$ 450,000	\$5.84
Textbooks	2 cents	\$ 300,000	\$3.89
<u>Student Organizations</u>	<u>1 cent</u>	<u>\$ 150,000</u>	<u>\$1.95</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49 cents</b>	<b>\$7,350,000</b>	<b>\$95.41</b>

\* - Estimates based on the average district property assessment of \$19,472. (Market value of \$199,00-\$225,000.)

## Tax Rate for IRSD is Lowest in Sussex

Indian River currently has the lowest school property tax rate in Sussex County.

The chart below shows the tax rate for every Sussex County School District. Figures represent the rate per \$100 of assessed value.

<u>District</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>
Milford	\$5.3913
Laurel	\$4.989
Delmar	\$4.1417
Woodbridge	\$3.609
Seaford	\$3.36
Cape Henlopen	\$3.213
Indian River	\$2.578

With passage of the referendum, IRSD would continue to have the lowest tax rate (\$3.068) in the county.

**Questions? Call the Referendum Hotline at (302) 436-1079**

## Computing Your Tax Increase

To calculate the increase in your tax bill for the referendum, use a rate of **.49** (49 cents).

Divide your property assessment by 100. Multiply that number by the tax rate above to determine the overall increase in your bill.

### Example

Assessment: **\$19,472**

Divide assessment by 100 = **194.72**

Multiply 194.72 by tax rate of **.49** = **\$95.41**

Your overall tax bill will increase by **\$95.41**

## Assessment Information

For information about your property tax assessment, visit [www.sussexcountyde.gov](http://www.sussexcountyde.gov) and click on the "Tax Information" link at the bottom right.

## Funding Needed to Accommodate Enrollment Growth

From Page 2

The Board of Education showed tremendous foresight four years ago by placing armed security monitors in all of our schools. Since this program has been a rousing success, we want to maintain the quality of these services in the future. We believe the additional tax is a small price to pay to ensure the safety of our students and to maintain the quality of instruction they receive in our schools."

The Indian River School District currently has the lowest school property tax rate in Sussex County and will con-

tinue to have the lowest rate with passage of the referendum. In addition, the Board of Education has reduced the tuition, debt service and minor cap tax rates each of the past three years. This represents a total decrease of 16.5 cents and a savings to the average district taxpayer of \$32.13. However, these funds could not have been used for the current expense initiatives described earlier.

The district recently implemented a series of cost-cutting measures, including reducing school, curriculum and Board of Education discretionary

budgets by 30 percent. The budgets for district office and the personnel department have been reduced by 50 percent. The Outdoor Education Center at Ingram Pond has been temporarily closed to save on salaries, transportation, energy and supplies. Through administrative restructuring, the district has also saved money by allowing a director, an assistant superintendent, a principal and two assistant principal positions to remain vacant. District-sponsored travel for staff has also been curtailed for 2016-2017. Finally, the district will not hire

most of the additional teachers and paraprofessionals to which it's entitled through the annual unit count.

If the referendum is not approved by voters, the district could face cuts to school safety, a significant reduction in staff due to an inability to meet payroll, larger class sizes, further discretionary budget cuts, the loss of staff to other school districts and inadequate instructional supplies and materials.

Anyone with questions about referendum is encouraged to call the district's

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# Ballot and Voting Information

## Official Ballot

To increase the current expense tax rate by \$0.49/\$100 of assessed value (49 cents/\$100 of assessed value). Such tax increase is to be used in the following manner:

Proposed Expenditures	Increase in Local Tax
School Safety	\$0.10
Student Enrollment Growth	\$0.33
Technology	\$0.03
Textbooks	\$0.02
Student Organizations/Programs	\$0.01
<b>TOTAL TAX INCREASE:</b>	<b>\$0.49</b>

FOR THE ADDITIONAL TAX

AGAINST THE ADDITIONAL TAX

## Polling Places

East Millsboro Elementary School  
 Georgetown Elementary School  
 Indian River High School  
 Long Neck Elementary School  
 Lord Baltimore Elementary School  
 Selbyville Middle School

*Polls Open*

*10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.*

## Voter eligibility information

Indian River School District residents who are U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age are eligible to vote in the referendum. Voter registration is not required but residents must provide proof of identification or residency at each polling place. Absentee ballots are available by mail until noon on November 18 and in person until noon on November 21. Affidavits are available at all district schools. Contact the Department of Elections at 856-5367.



## Voting Set for Nov. 22

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 Referendum Hotline at (302) 436-1079 or visit [irsd.net/referendum](http://irsd.net/referendum).

Voters on November 22 must reside within the boundaries of the Indian River School District, be U.S. citizens at least 18 years of age, and provide identification at the polling place. Acceptable proofs of identity, name and address include, but are not limited to, State of Delaware driver's license; State of Delaware automobile registration card; State of Delaware ID card; work ID with photo and address; credit card with photograph and signature; document identifying person by photograph or signa-

ture; recent utility bill, rent receipt, business letter setting forth the person's address or telephone directory listing in the current issue of the phone book; or any other reasonable document that identifies the person's address.

Absentee voting is handled by the Sussex County Department of Elections at 119 North Race Street in Georgetown. Absentee ballots are available by mail until noon on November 18 and in person until noon on November 21. Affidavits are available at all district schools. For more information, contact the Department of Elections at (302) 856-5367.

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**Vote FOR the current expense referendum on  
 November 22!**