

School Board Authorizes Tax Levy Ballot Measure For April 2 Election

At their monthly business meeting on January 18th, the school board voted to place a question on the April 2, 2024 election asking voters within Grain Valley Schools to authorize a new operating tax levy ceiling to improve pay and benefits for our teachers and other district employees. The result would be an estimated overall tax levy increase of \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

This ballot measure provides our community with an important opportunity to impact the future of our school district.

In 2021, with significant input from stakeholders, the district set a CSIP strategic planning goal to provide competitive pay to our teachers and staff within five years. The goal is to be in the top half of other high-quality Kansas City area school districts to ensure we attract and retain high-quality teachers and other personnel.

Our teachers and other members of the CSIP Steering Committee expressed that they understood we wouldn't be the top-paying school district, but they felt strongly we needed to keep pace.

Sadly, our pay has fallen behind in recent years and we are seeing a sharp decline in the number of applicants for teacher and other openings. Improvements to pay are expected to help us stay competitive.

The approval of this ballot measure is anticipated to improve pay and benefits for our teachers and other staff, elevating them from their current position near the bottom to the midpoint compared with other school districts in the KC area.

Voters will be asked to raise the operating tax levy rate ceiling by \$0.65. The district commits to reducing the debt service levy by \$0.40, resulting in an estimated overall tax levy ceiling increase of \$0.25. With the passage of this measure, the owner of a home with a market value of \$250,000 would see an increase of \$119 per year.

The primary purpose of this ballot measure is for competitive pay, but some general operating expenses of the district including security are also expected to be impacted.

It has been 20 years since our community voted on the school district's tax levy rate and our school district has grown and changed a lot in that time. Besides new academic and activity offerings for students, the number of district employees has increased from 348 in 2004 to 682 today.

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There will be more details to share as they become available. What questions do you have regarding this ballot measure? Call or [email](#) me at (816) 847-5006 x1026.

Brad Welle
Superintendent