

Continuation of Millage Rate

Vote on the Monroe County School District Referendum

On August 23, 2022, the Monroe County School District will be issuing a referendum to the voters seeking authorization for the District to continue its reduced millage for capital projects, making a proportional amount available for operating expenses. While this referendum has historically been issued to residents as two separate votes, new legislation from the State of Florida requires that the District issue them together this year.

- Approval of this referendum has and will continue to represent NO tax millage rate increase to property owners.
- Since 2004, the voters of Monroe County have approved renewal of 'Flexible-Funding,' which results in no tax increase to residents. The Monroe County School District reduces non-voted capital millage by an amount equivalent to the operational millage approved by the voters.
- Flexible Funding provides for competitive teacher salaries which allows us to hire and retain great teachers. It also allows us to fund other critical positions necessary to provide the best educational opportunity for our children.
- In addition to Flexible Funding, this referendum also includes renewal of 0.0625 mills for the hiring of safe-schools officers required by Florida law since the Marjory Stoneman Douglas school shooting in 2018.
- While the school safety millage has historically been issued to voters as a separate referendum, new state legislation requires the District to request voter approval of both millages simultaneously.
- This referendum will be issued to voters at the August 23 election, which all Monroe County residents may vote in regardless of party affiliation. Approval of this referendum will allow the School District to continue to provide a high quality education and a safe learning environment to the students of Monroe County.
- If you vote to approve this referendum in August, these funds will not expire until December 31, 2026.
- If this does not pass, the district would lose 24 million dollars that equates to approximately 220 positions.

When you support this referendum, you are voting to support our amazing teachers and students.

REFERENDUM LANGUAGE

RENEWAL OF OPERATIONAL FUNDING FOR MONROE COUNTY SCHOOLS:

The School District seeks to continue its reduced millage for capital projects, making a proportional amount available for operational expenses, like teacher salaries. The District also seeks to continue retaining legally-required safe schools officers. Shall the District enact a yearly ad valorem tax of no more than 0.5625 mill, for four (4) years beginning January 1, 2023, for raising revenue for purposes of funding enhanced security measures and operational expenses of Monroe County schools?