#### 2024 MISD VATRE

The McLean ISD Board of Trustees called a local school funding election for Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, also known as a Voter Approval Tax Rate Election or VATRE.

Data obtained from the Efficiency Audit performed by Johnson & Sheldon, PLLC

# What is a Voter Approval Tax Rate Election or VATRE?

- A Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) is a special election that allows school districts in Texas to seek voter approval to increase their Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate above the state-mandated threshold.
- The M&O tax rate is part of the overall property tax rate and is used primarily for the day-to-day operations of schools, including salaries, utilities, and supplies.
- Under Texas law, if a school district wants to set its M&O tax rate above a certain amount, it must obtain approval from the voters in the form of a (VATRE). This process is vital because it ensures that any increase in local property taxes, which directly affects homeowners and businesses, is supported by the community.

#### District Info & Comparisons

- The District earned a Superior Achievement Rating for The School Financial Integrity Rating of Texas (FIRST) for 2022-2023, 2021-2022, 2019-2020, & 2018-2019, and Above Standard for 2020-2021
- The District, as a whole, earned an "A" (100 out of 100 points in 2023-2024, the last year accountability ratings were issued.
- MISD currently receives \$3,000 less per student than 8 peer districts with similar student demographics.
- The District spends almost the same amount per student as peer districts and \$2,000 more per student than the state average.
- MISD pays teachers \$7,000 less than the state average and has a lower student per teacher ratio when compared to the state average.

#### Why hold a VATRE now?

- The M&O tax rate for fiscal year 2025 is \$0.7692.
- District administration adopted an M&O rate above the voter approval tax rate, which triggered a voter approval tax rate election (VATRE).
- The District is projecting a pre-VATRE budget shortfall of \$369,507 for fiscal year 2025.

#### How will this affect you?

- The estimated revenue from the proposed increase in tax rate is \$272,860 and represents about 7.78 percent of the total expenditures of the 2024-2025 adopted budget of \$3,509,330.
- The average home taxable value of a single-family residential property for tax year 2024 is \$78,697.
- The homestead exemption, which reduces the taxable value of property for school tax purposes, reduces the taxable value of property qualifying for the homestead exemption by \$100,000.

#### How will the money be used?

- If a VATRE is successful, the District intends to use the additional tax revenue for teacher and staff salaries, quality student programs and activities, and to address increasing maintenance and operations costs due to inflation.
- The District is also considering using additional tax revenue for school supplies.
- All additional revenue generated from the new tax rate will remain with the District each year.

#### What will be on the Ballot?

MCLEAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE ELECTION MCLEAN ISD PROPOSITION A		
	FOR	<ul> <li>) RATIFYING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF</li> <li>) \$0.9847 IN MCLEAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL</li> <li>) DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, A RATE THAT</li> <li>) WILL RESULT IN AN INCREASE OF -3.7 PERCENT</li> </ul>
	AGAINST	<ul> <li>IN MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TAX</li> <li>REVENUE FOR THE DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT</li> <li>YEAR AS COMPARED TO THE PRECEDING YEAR,</li> <li>WHICH IS AN ADDITIONAL -\$28,041.</li> </ul>

# When and where can I vote early?

District voters must vote at an Early Voting location in the County in which they reside. Early Voting Dates & Times vary by location, please check your County's Elections Website.

Gray County Courthouse, 205 N. Russell, Room 104, Pampa, Texas 79065

Donley County Annex, 300 S. Sulley, Clarendon, Texas 79226
Collingsworth County Courthouse, Room 3, 800 West Avenue, Wellington, Texas 79095

Wheeler County Courthouse, 401 Main St., Wheeler, Texas 79096 Shamrock City Hall, Meeting Room, 305 N. Main, Shamrock, Texas 79079

# When and where can I vote on Election Day?

Voting for the McLean Independent School District's VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE ELECTION shall be between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on November 5, 2024.

District voters must vote in the County Precinct in which they reside at the following locations:

Gray County Precinct 4: Lovett Library, Pioneer Room

302 N. Main, McLean, TX 79057

**Donley County Precinct 401:** Donley County Annex

300 S. Sulley, Clarendon, Texas 79226

Collingsworth County Precinct 402: Samnorwood High School

15781 FM 1036, Samnorwood, Texas 79079

Wheeler County Precinct 301: Shamrock City Hall, Meeting Room

305 N. Main, Shamrock, Texas 79079

#### **Additional information**

- Additional information including the Efficiency Audit, Tax Calculator and more can be found on the District website: www.mcleanisd.com
- Other information can be found by visiting:
  - www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/index.shtml
  - www.co.gray.tx.us/page/gray.Elections
  - www.co.collingsworth.tx.us/page/collingsworth.Elections
  - www.co.donley.tx.us/page/donley.Elections
  - www.wheelercounty.texas.gov/page/wheeler.Elections