



Stephenville ISD Tax Ratification Election

**November
3**

At the August 24, 2015 Called Board meeting, the Stephenville ISD Board of Trustees approved a Maintenance and Operations (M & O) tax rate that is above the maximum rate allowed without voter approval. This M & O rate must be approved by voters before it can be adopted by the school district. The Board adopted an order calling for a Tax Ratification Election (TRE) to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2015.

The passage of the TRE coupled with an Ordinance passed by the SISD Board of Trustees would effectively move 13¢ from the Interest and Sinking Fund (I & S) to our Maintenance and Operations Fund (M & O). This shift would generate approximately \$360,000 in additional state funding for the school district with no increase in tax rate for the SISD taxpayers.

What is a TRE?

A district that adopts a tax rate above its maximum M & O tax rate must hold a Tax Ratification Election (TRE) to provide voters the ability to ratify the higher rate. If a majority of the votes are cast in favor of the proposition, the tax rate for the current year is adopted by the Board. If the proposition is not approved, then the Board may not adopt a tax rate for the current year that exceeds the maximum rate.

How will the TRE affect my taxes?

No matter the outcome of the TRE, the tax rate for taxpayers in SISD will remain at \$1.2349 per \$100 of property value. If the TRE is approved, the shift in the M & O and I & S tax rates will generate an additional \$360,000 for the district. If the TRE is not approved, the tax rate will remain at \$1.2349 and no additional funding will be created.

Current Rate		
\$1.0400	\$0.1949	\$1.2349
<input type="checkbox"/> M & O	<input type="checkbox"/> I & S	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

Total
\$1.2349

Proposed Rate		
\$1.1700	\$0.0649	\$1.2349
<input type="checkbox"/> M & O	<input type="checkbox"/> I & S	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

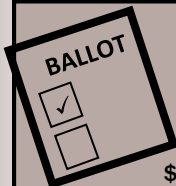
Total
\$1.2349 + \$360,000

Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Tax

Taxes generated by the M & O tax rate fund day-to-day expenses such as salaries, building maintenance, transportation, utilities, and supplies.

Interest and Sinking (I & S) Tax

Taxes generated by the I & S tax rate fund the debt payments of the district, which includes the construction of new facilities.



The wording for the ballot for the Tax Ratification Election is prescribed by law. The ballot reads: "Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.3649 per \$100 valuation in Stephenville Independent School District for the current year, a rate that is \$.13 higher per \$100 valuation than the school district roll-back tax rate."

Why does the ballot show a tax rate of \$1.3649 when everything else says the tax rate will remain at \$1.2349?

Law requires to word the ballot as it reads above. The ballot shows a total tax rate of \$1.3649, which is an increase of \$.13 in the Maintenance and Operations (M & O) tax rate. The Board of Trustees adopted an Ordinance at the August 24, 2015 Called Board meeting that should the TRE pass, the Interest and Sinking (I & S) tax rate will be lowered by \$.13 to offset the increase in the M & O rate. This shift will keep the tax rate at \$1.2349 for the 2015-2016 school year.

EARLY VOTING

October 19-23
October 26-30
Erath County Courthouse
100 W. Washington
Hours: 8:00 am—5:00 pm

ELECTION DAY VOTING

Tuesday, November 3
Hours: 7:00 am—7:00 pm
Erath County Courthouse
100 W. Washington
Centurylink Telephone Office
1505 W Frey
Texas Bank
988 Wolfe Nursery Road
Dublin County Annex
219 S. Grafton, Dublin TX

Visit www.sville.us/TRE for additional information.