

Local Option Levy 2015

What is the Local Option Measure?

- This 5-year property tax levy will provide continued funding for education delivered by the Riverdale School District. 100% of the funds raised by the levy will flow directly to Riverdale Schools to serve the community's children.

Why does the Riverdale School District need Local Option revenues?

- Measures 5 and 50, and the shift from local to State funding of school districts in the 1990's reduced the amount of money our school district receives for each student. The legislature made provision for school districts to seek additional funds from voters using the Local Option Tax Levy to recover some of the lost funding.
- Although state dollars allocated for education in general were increased by the legislature for the coming biennium, actual dollars projected to flow into the classroom will remain stagnant due to previously mandated, yet underfunded full-day Kindergarten. The Local Option Tax Levy partially offsets for Riverdale this insufficiency in state funding.
- Operational costs have continued to rise at a rate exceeding increases in revenue.
- Both homeowners and school families benefit from the existence of a strong neighborhood school. The Local Option Tax Levy distributes the cost of the exceptional Riverdale education among all property owners in the school district.

What will passage of this measure do?

- This measure continues the existing Local Option Tax Levy that has been supported and approved by voters in 2000, 2005 and 2010. It provides a predictable, stable source of funding to support Riverdale's Strategic Plan.
- Allows our neighborhood to continue to fund programs such as Art and Music, which are no longer feasible with the current State School Funding formula.
- It helps to maintain Riverdale's current level of core academic programs and services.

How will the Local Option dollars be used?

- Local Option resources become part of Riverdale's school operating budget and are used to:
 - Retain classroom teachers.
 - Maintain low student-to-staff ratio.
 - Support current programs.
 - Purchase instructional supplies.
 - Support operational needs such as security and maintenance.

What would happen if the levy fails?

- The Local Option Levy is an investment in our community's public schools. Without this support, the District would face:
 - Loss of approximately 7.5% of Riverdale's annual operating funds.
 - Potential cuts district-wide to back fill for loss of revenue.

How will this levy affect my taxes?

- The exact amount varies from property to property, based on Ballot Measure 5 limitations. For a home assessed at \$1,000,000 and taxed at the maximum Local Option tax rate of \$1.37, the increase over current rate would be about \$300 per year.
- Property owners can find their current Local Option costs by looking at the Riverdale SD #51 Loc Opt line on their property tax statement. This renewal may moderately increase this amount.