

APRIL 2023 BOND AND LEVY INFO



STRAFFORDSTRONG!



STRAFFORD SCHOOLS APRIL 2023 BALLOT MEASURES



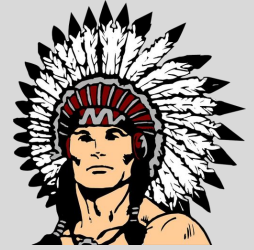
On April 4, 2023, voters in the Strafford R-VI School District will be asked to consider two separate ballot measures:

Proposition K.I.D.S. will be a No-Tax Increase Bond Referendum that would provide \$10 Million in funds for renovations, improvements, additions, and safety & security needs of the district. It is important to note this measure would not increase the adjusted debt service tax rate, which would remain at \$.70.

Proposition 2 will be an operating tax levy increase for the purposes of attracting and retaining quality certified, support, and safety faculty and staff, maintaining facilities, and meeting additional operating expenses.

(If this proposition is approved, the adjusted operating tax levy of the District is estimated to increase from \$2.750, currently, to \$3.1000 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and will be applied to the assessed valuation in Tax Year 2023 and each year thereafter.)

PROPOSITION K.I.D.S.



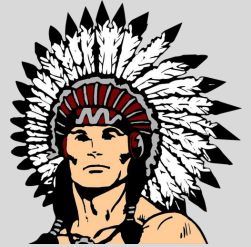
NO-TAX INCREASE BOND REFERENDUM

On April 4, 2023, voters in the Strafford R-VI School District will be asked to consider a No-Tax Increase Bond Referendum that would provide \$10 Million in funds for renovations, improvements, additions, and safety & security needs of the district.



PROPOSITION K.I.D.S.

(KEEP IMPROVING DISTRICT SCHOOLS)



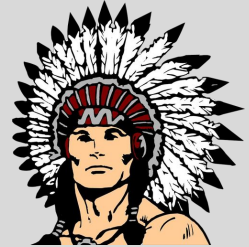
Ballot Language

Shall the Board of Education of the Strafford R-VI School District, Missouri, without an estimated increase in the current debt service property tax levy, borrow money in the amount of Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000) for the purpose of providing funds to construct, equip, and furnish classroom additions and complete renovations at the Lucille Cogdill Early Childhood Center; to upgrade safety and security; to acquire property for school purposes; to reconfigure current parking lots for better traffic flow; to the extent funds are available, improve District athletic facilities and complete other repairs and improvements to the existing facilities of the District; and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof?

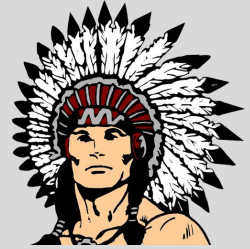
If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the School District is estimated to remain unchanged at \$0.7000 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

THREE MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS FOR BOND ISSUE

- GROWTH
- ACADEMIC NEEDS FOR OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS
- SAFETY AND SECURITY



GROWTH



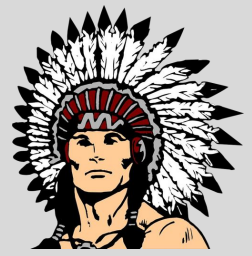
GROWTH

The district has seen an increase of over 100 students in the past two years. With new home construction taking place in Strafford, that number is projected to at least double in the next few years. Currently it is anticipated our ECC and elementary will be stretched the most by this expected growth, so we need to address the ECC building first. SMS and SHS are also experiencing growth, but those buildings currently have enough capacity to meet immediate growth needs.

An addition to the Lucille Cogdill Early Childhood Center would address growth by allowing for an increased preK program as well as moving current kindergarten classrooms located in the elementary to the new ECC addition. This movement would result in opening elementary classrooms to absorb the growth in elementary enrollment.

Also on the topic of growth, if the bond issue passes the district would have funds to purchase land to address long range needs. The district values the benefits of the district being on one large campus, being somewhat landlocked, we desire for future land purchases to focus on keeping students on the one campus, while possibly moving the bus barn or Central office off campus if needed to maximize the current school campus.

Lucille Cogdill Early Childhood Center - Addition



HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPLOYED IN SCHOOL DISTRICT

A1-1



HOUSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT REVIEW RECOMMENDATION FOR EMPLOYED IN SCHOOL DISTRICT

A1-0

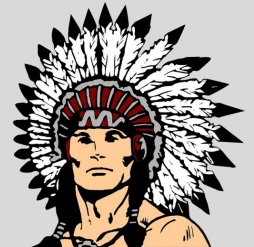
ACADEMIC NEEDS OF OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

ACADEMIC NEEDS OF OUR YOUNGEST LEARNERS

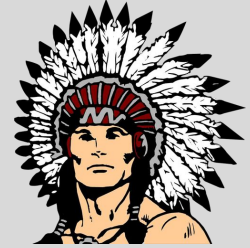
An addition to the ECC building allows us to serve additional PreK students. We typically have a waiting list for PreK students wanting to enter our free full day program.

We currently serve approximately 65 PreK students. The addition to the ECC would allow us to potentially serve approximately 150 preschool students.

In the words of kindergarten teachers, preschool is the “great equalizer” in helping students be ready to learn and grow as they enter kindergarten. Early childhood education is vital to a child’s development as a student all through elementary school.



SAFETY AND SECURITY



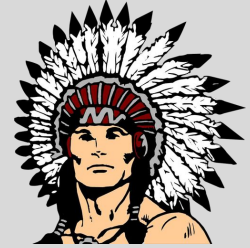
SAFETY AND SECURITY

The ECC addition would include some classrooms built to high wind speed specifications.

The addition of these classrooms along with the FEMA Safe Room at the MS and HS as well as the current hardened classrooms at the elementary would provide ALL preschool through 12th grade students and employees a high quality shelter in inclement weather.

These classrooms are designed to sustain high wind speeds and allow the ECC students to shelter in place and eliminate the need for them to walk across the street to the MS/HS FEMA building in case of an inclement weather event.

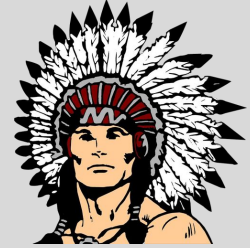
PROPOSITION 2



Proposed Operating Tax Levy Increase:

On April 4, 2023, voters in the Strafford R-VI School District will be asked to consider authorization to increase the operating tax levy to \$3.1000 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the purposes of attracting and retaining quality certified, support, and safety faculty and staff, maintaining facilities, and meeting additional operating expenses?

PROPOSITION 2



Ballot Language

Shall the Board of Education of the Strafford R-VI School District, Missouri, be authorized to increase the operating tax levy to \$3.1000 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the purposes of attracting and retaining quality certified, support, and safety faculty and staff, maintaining facilities, and meeting additional operating expenses?

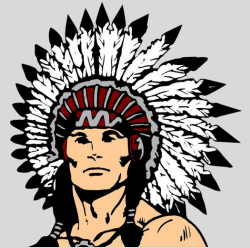
(If this proposition is approved, the adjusted operating tax levy of the District is estimated to increase from \$2.7500, currently, to \$3.1000 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation and will be applied to the assessed valuation in Tax Year 2023 and each year thereafter.)

WHY DO WE NEED TO PASS A LEVY INCREASE NOW?

The simple answer is our kids deserve the BEST! Our goal as a district is to be the Gold Standard and the district of choice for school districts in Southwest Missouri.

It's NOT ABOUT utilizing the latest and greatest programs or keeping up with the surrounding districts. It's ABOUT giving our students the best opportunities, demonstrating the community supports them, and providing them a reason to be proud to call Strafford home!

In order to do this, we have to hire and retain the highest quality educators that we can. The number one factor in student success is the quality of the educators in their classroom. To provide the best, we have to hire and retain the best!

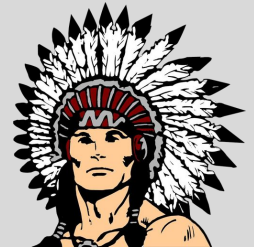


CURRENT TAX RATE

- The current adjusted operating levy tax rate for Strafford is \$2.75.
- This is the lowest rate for the 12 cohort districts in our area, including our Mid-Lakes Conference schools.
- Strafford is one of 61 schools in the state of Missouri with the minimum \$2.75 rate out of 516 districts in the state.

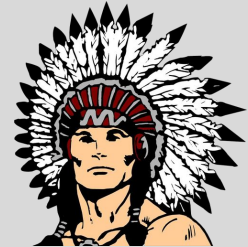
DISTRICT OPERATING TAX RATE

NIXA	3.65
LOGAN ROGERSVILLE	3.56
CLEVER	3.54
SPRINGFIELD	3.49
HOLLISTER	3.45
FORSYTH	3.34
OZARK	3.26
MARSHFIELD	3.24
REPUBLIC	3.21
WILLARD	3.03
FAIR GROVE	2.96
SKYLINE	2.88
STRAFFORD	2.75



THREE MAIN AREAS OF FOCUS FOR TAX LEVY INCREASE

- RECRUITING AND RETAINING HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF
- GROWTH
- SAFETY AND SECURITY



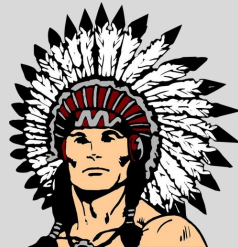
RECRUITING AND RETAINING HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF

These funds will allow us to raise our teacher and support staff salaries considerably, making us competitive with the salaries of surrounding larger and comparably sized districts.

While some districts are going to 4 day school weeks to benefit teachers, our district currently values a 5 day school week because we believe it is best for kids for a variety of reasons, including:

- Impact on academics.
- Families being responsible for the cost of child care on the 5th day not in session.
- Difficulties arranging transportation to 5th day activities.
- Access to free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches on 5th days.
- Impact of longer days on children.
- Impact on students with disabilities who depend on consistency and structure, or on the medical care they receive at school.

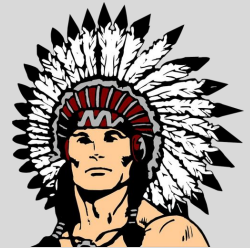
Increasing salaries for teachers and staff, will offset the idea of a 4 day school week being a benefit to teachers.



CURRENT SALARY SCHEDULE

- Strafford Schools have fallen behind some of the neighboring schools in regard to the teacher salary schedule. In addition support staff are also behind the compensation levels of many surrounding districts, making it difficult to recruit and retain quality employees.
- We are no longer just competing with other districts for the best teachers and employees, we are now competing with other professions, leading to quality people getting out of education altogether.

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>BASE SALARY</u>	<u>MASTERS + 10 YEARS</u>	<u>MASTERS + 30 YEARS</u>
NIXA	\$40,100	\$48,790	\$69,691
OZARK	\$40,000	\$48,950	\$66,325
SPRINGFIELD	\$41,544	\$55,566	\$71,603
REPUBLIC	\$40,685	\$50,985	\$60,735
WILLARD	\$40,180	\$49,625	\$64,907
LOGAN ROGERSVILLE	\$38,000	\$47,350	\$63,650
MARSHFIELD (4 DAY)	\$36,500	\$47,220	\$61,560
STRAFFORD	\$36,500	\$46,125	\$60,625



GROWTH

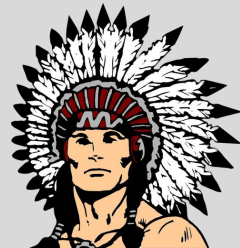
These funds will also help us to add teachers to help keep class sizes small and keep up with the student enrollment growth. There is also a need to hire additional staff in much needed positions in the areas of:

- *Counseling services

- *Career readiness offerings

- *Interventionists

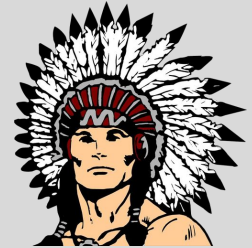
- *Higher level and dual credit offerings



SAFETY AND SECURITY

These funds will also help us to hire additional staff in order to add to our school safety department.

*Goal is to hire an additional School Resource Officer to focus on the ECC and Elementary buildings.

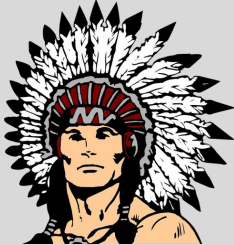


(LEVY INCREASE) CURRENT YEAR:

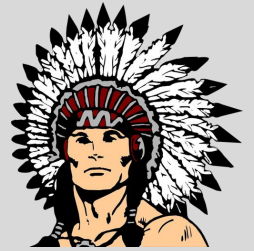
Strafford Levy Calculator

Assessed Valuation	\$255,000,000
Assumed Collection Percentage	99.10%
Operating Levy	\$2.75
Debt Service Levy	\$0.70
Operating Revenue *	\$6,949,388
Debt Service Revenue *	\$1,768,935

* *Current and Delinquent Total*



2023-24 IF RAISED TO \$3.10



Stafford Levy Calculator

Assessed Valuation

\$255,000,000

Assumed Collection Percentage

99.10%

Operating Levy

\$3.10

Debt Service Levy

\$0.70

Operating Revenue *

\$7,833,855

Debt Service Revenue *

\$1,768,935

*** Current and Delinquent Total**

Total increase from 2.75 to 3.10 = \$884,467

Questions (More Information)

Please feel free to contact Dr. Mark D. Hedger, Superintendent of Schools with any questions: markh@straffordschools.net

More information (FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions) can be found on the district website: <https://www.straffordschools.net/content/550>