



Claiborne Parish School Board

Claiborne Parish Millage Election - Investing in our School Facilities

Voters in Claiborne Parish have the opportunity to invest in maintaining high-quality school facilities for our students at an upcoming election..

The Claiborne Parish School Board recently approved a resolution to ask voters to consider a proposal for a special tax of 9 mills on all property subject to taxation in the district. These funds would be used to make improvements at all of our schools. The election is scheduled for Saturday, April 27, with early voting beginning on April 13 through April 20.

More information on the millage proposal is included below, but here are a few important facts about the millage proposal:

- The 9 mills will **replace the current millage amounts** that parish residents are currently paying in their respective districts. The current millage is not increasing by 9 mills.
- The proposed millage will generate about **\$1,017,000 per year for 10 years** beginning in 2024 and ending in 2033.
- The funds generated by the millage proposal will be used to **maintain and improve school facilities and other school properties** at all three campuses in the parish. The funds cannot and **will not be used for other purposes such as staffing costs**.

Along with the information here, the school board will provide information to voters for the next several weeks to help voters understand the millage proposal. We are required by law to provide factual information. If you have any additional questions, [click here](#).

The Need - Maintenance of our Schools

Approval of the millage proposal would allow the district to address current facility issues as well as having the funds available to proactively address future needs. The purpose of proposing the parish-wide millage is to have all property owners contribute equitably to the maintenance of school facilities. The millage proposal also aims to:

- Continue and enhance the investment in our schools

- Provide schools and other facilities that align with classroom instruction and modern learning environments
- Ensure that the parish has an ongoing (10 years) source of revenue to maintain, repair and renovate our school facilities

If the millage proposal is not approved, funds will not be available to maintain facilities and each district will likely need to increase its millage in coming years. These increases are likely to cost taxpayers more than the proposed parish-wide millage based on projected facility needs.

Financial Facts - Cost of Millage Proposal

Here are a few financial facts to better understand the Claiborne millage proposal:

1 mill generates the following revenue:

- **Parishwide** - 1 mill will generate about \$112,000 per year (this is a re-assessment year so this amount will likely change).
- **Haynesville District** - 1 mill generates about \$38,000 per year. Oil and gas property in this area generates a large portion of the revenue. Moving forward, oil and gas properties will be assessed under the new law passed recently, which will result in these properties generating less than in the past.
- **Summerfield-Eastern Pineview District** - 1 mill generates about \$24,000 per year
- **Existing Homer District** (*not including Western Plainview and Athens*) - 1 mill generates about \$30,000 per year
- **New Homer District** (*including Western Plainview and Athens*) - Projected that 1 mill will generate about \$60,000 per year

The 9 mills will **replace the current millage amounts** that parish residents are currently paying in their respective districts and is estimated to total about \$1 million each year for 10 years.

Plan to Vote - Important Dates

(Content taken from DeSoto website)

- In-person / By Mail Registration Deadline — Wednesday, March 27
- Geaux Vote Online Registration Deadline — Saturday, April 6
- Early Voting Starts — Saturday, April 13
- Early Voting Ends — Saturday, April 20
- Deadline to Request a Mail Ballot — Tuesday, April 23
- Deadline for Mail Ballots to be Received — Friday, April 26

- Election Day – Saturday, April 27

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When would the funds from the new millage be available?

A. The funds from the new millage would be available beginning December 1, 2024. If approved by voters, the current millage tax would end and be replaced by the 9 mills tax.

Q. Can the funds generated by the new millage be used to construct schools?

A. No. The funds cannot be used for construction and can only be used for the maintenance of current school facilities.

Q. Can facility maintenance and improvements be funded in other ways?

A. No. All public funds available to the district are designated for specific uses.

Q. What will happen if the millage proposal is not approved?

A. If the millage proposal is not approved, the current millage amounts will stay in place and there will be no immediate adjustment in the millage amounts paid by taxpayers.

Q. If the millage proposal is not approved, where will funds come from to maintain facilities?

A. Districts that currently have a millage in place could use these funds. Districts that do not have a millage in place for maintenance would need to decide how to proceed.

Q. What is the current enrollment?

A. Current student enrollment in Claiborne Parish is about 1,680. Enrollment has declined slightly in the past 10-15 years, but has remained relatively stable for the past several years.

Q. How much would 1 mill generate for Claiborne Parish?

A. 1 mill will generate about \$112,000 per year (this is a re-assessment year so this amount will likely change).