



News Release

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## Alvarado ISD Board of Trustees Calls for VATRE Election

On November 5, 2024, and during early voting hours, voters residing within the Alvarado ISD boundaries will be asked to consider a 11.77-cent increase to the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate. This would generate approximately \$3.7 million in funding for school district operations, including safety, instruction, staff, transportation, maintenance, and other daily operating expenses.

Like most school districts across the state, Alvarado ISD adopted a deficit budget for the 2024-2025 school year following legislative inaction. State funding for school districts has not been updated since 2019 despite substantial inflation, leading to multimillion-dollar budget shortfalls in school districts across Texas. Additionally, though they approved \$4 billion in new funding for public schools in 2023, state leaders still have not made those funds available to public schools.

Alvarado ISD adopted a deficit budget of \$1.3 million for the 2024-2025 school year without being able to provide educators with a raise. To lessen the deficit, the district cut staff through attrition, is no longer providing school supplies for scholars, discontinued our universal breakfast at the elementary level, and much more. If voters approve, a VATRE would generate nearly \$3.7 million for the 2024-2025 school year and additional funding each year as the district continues to experience enrollment growth. These funds would be used to protect safety and security, provide competitive salaries for educators, and address facility maintenance.

“Asking the community to raise the tax rate is not a decision we came to easily,” Alvarado ISD Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Estes said. “Our administrative team has worked to find ways to reduce expenditures over the past few years while maintaining our educational quality. We have the most supportive School Board in the state. They regard the stewardship of the taxpayers' money as a high priority, along with safety and learning. They spent a lot of time deliberating on deciding to call for this election.”

The district's M&O tax rate has been compressed to the lowest possible level and has seen a 30-cent reduction since 2021. If the voters approve a Voter Approved Tax Ratification Election, it would represent an average yearly increase of \$180 (\$15 a month) on a home valued at \$250,000 that has a homestead exemption.

Any Alvarado ISD resident registered to vote may cast a ballot in this election. Voters will be asked to vote “for” or “against” the proposition. Early voting runs from Monday, October 21, to Friday, November 1, and Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Monday, October 7, is the final day to register to vote in the November 5 General Election.



# ALVARADO ISD

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Alvarado ISD officials will schedule informational meetings to share details and answer questions. Once those meetings are finalized, information will be shared through the district's regular communication channels. We encourage the community to learn more about the VATRE, budget information, and district tax rates and ask questions before voting in this election.

