

VATRE 2024

VOTER-APPROVAL



TAX RATE ELECTION

WHAT IS A VATRE?

State law requires that school districts seek voter approval to raise their maintenance and operations tax rate above a prescribed amount. The election is referred to as a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election, or VATRE. Northwest ISD's VATRE asks voters to consider a 3-cent increase to the district's M&O tax rate for an estimated impact of \$10 per month for a property owner with a \$500,000 house and a homestead exemption.

WHY DID NISD CALL A VATRE?

Northwest ISD called a VATRE because of a lack of legislative action to address an outdated school funding formula. School districts across the state are adopting deficit budgets because state leaders did not update the funding model for public schools, which left districts with significant budget shortfalls because of inflation.

VATRE FUNDING PRIORITIES



STUDENT PROGRAMS:

Class Sizes and Student Opportunities

Northwest ISD continues to offer award-winning academic programs, such as its career and technical education academies and pathways, and will prioritize protecting student opportunities. The district continues to focus on maintaining or decreasing class sizes for the best learning environments possible.

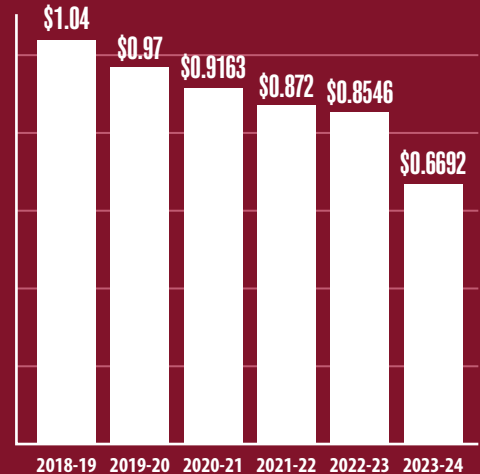
COMPETITIVE PAY:

Retaining and Recruiting Quality Teachers and Staff

If a VATRE is approved by voters, Northwest ISD will continue to focus on increasing teacher and staff salaries and benefits with competitive compensation. This focus allows the district to continue to retain and recruit quality talent to educate students and support classroom teachers.

TAX RATE HISTORY

Northwest ISD's current M&O tax rate of \$0.6669 is among the lowest M&O rates in the area. Additionally, the district's 2023-2024 total tax rate of \$1.0902 per \$100 of taxable property was an 18-cent reduction from the prior year's tax rate and marks the district's lowest total tax rate in more than 30 years.



AREA M&O TAX RATES

Fort Worth ISD	\$0.7904
Birdville ISD:	\$0.7892
Ponder ISD:	\$0.7892
Keller ISD:	\$0.7575
Azle ISD:	\$0.751
Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD:	\$0.7492
Lewisville ISD:	\$0.7492
Grapevine-Colleyville ISD:	\$0.7290
Argyle ISD:	\$0.7122
Denton ISD:	\$0.6792
Carroll ISD:	\$0.6725
Boyd ISD:	\$0.6692
Decatur ISD:	\$0.6692
Northwest ISD:	\$0.6692

Tax rates from 2023-24 are listed because of varying timelines to ratify tax rates.

VATRE 2024

RATE ELECTION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

DOES NORTHWEST ISD USE TAX DOLLARS WISELY?

Northwest ISD has received an "A" rating, the top score possible, in the Texas Education Agency's Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas, or FIRST, for 21 consecutive years. By comparison, some school districts in the area have received a "C" rating.

WHAT WOULD THIS MEAN FOR MY TAXES?

Any property owner who lives within Northwest ISD boundaries would pay 3 cents more per \$100 of property valuation. For a property owner with a \$500,000 house and a homestead exemption, this would mean \$120 more per year – or \$10 per month – in taxes. The proposed 2024-2025 maintenance and operations tax rate for Northwest ISD is \$0.6669. If voters within Northwest ISD approve the 2024 VATRE, the tax rate would instead be \$0.6969.

WOULD THIS AFFECT HOMEOWNERS AGES 65 AND OLDER?

Homeowners ages 65 and older would not be affected if voters approve Northwest ISD's VATRE if they have filed for and received an Over 65 Homestead Exemption through their local appraisal district.

HOW DOES NORTHWEST ISD'S TAX RATE COMPARE TO OTHER FAST-GROWTH DISTRICTS?

Northwest ISD is tied for the lowest maintenance and operations tax rate among districts that are part of the Fast Growth School Coalition. Both Northwest ISD's M&O tax rate as well as its total tax rate rank below both the mean and median of fast-growth Texas school districts. To see a list of fast-growth Texas school district tax rates, view this document.

HOW DOES NORTHWEST ISD STAFFING COMPARE TO SIMILAR DISTRICTS?

Northwest ISD staffing prioritizes classroom needs above all else. According to the most recent Texas Academic Performance Reports, teachers account for 59.6% of Northwest ISD's total staffing compared to the state average of 48.7%. This also exceeds area school districts such as Lewisville ISD (58.1%), Keller ISD (56.9%), Carroll ISD (56%), Denton ISD (54.9%), Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD (53.4%) and Fort Worth ISD (49.5%).

REGISTER TO VOTE BY OCTOBER 5

EARLY VOTING | October 21 - November 1

ELECTION DAY | November 5

LEARN MORE AT
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