




CRITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BESD


The Buckeye Elementary School District will hold a special election on November 5, 2024, to vote on the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Budget Override. This funding is crucial to maintaining the quality of education and programs our children receive. The district has already faced a \$1.3 million budget cut during the 2023/2024 school year, and another \$2.8 million reduction is expected for 2024/2025. Without the override, the district will lose more than \$4.2 million annually, leading to significant impacts on various aspects of your child's education. After significant review and consideration, the following needed cuts have been identified:

BUDGET CUTS:

 **One Special Area Class Reduced per School:** One special area class (Physical Education, Computers, etc.) will be eliminated at each school.

 **Increased Class Sizes:** Four teaching positions will be eliminated at each school, leading to larger class sizes.

 **Pay-to-Play Sports:** Parents will need to pay for extracurricular sports, which are currently free.

 **Senior Staff Cuts:** A senior staff position will be cut, affecting the quality and oversight of education and programs within the district.

ADDITIONAL KEY POINTS:

- **Attracting and retaining teachers is more challenging than ever:** M&O funds help attract, recruit, and retain highly qualified teachers, directly impacting student achievement and maintaining educational standards. With the ongoing teacher shortage, funding for competitive teacher salaries has been a priority. However, pay is not the only consideration for talented teachers. Class size and other working conditions are weighed by good teachers who are being recruited by other districts in need.
- **Full-Day Kindergarten:** The funding supports full-day kindergarten programs at all schools, ensuring young learners get the best start possible.

IMPACT ON TAXES IF OVERRIDE IS APPROVED:

- **Tax Rate Increase:** If approved, the override will result in an estimated average annual tax rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of limited assessed valuation for residential property owners.
- **Cost to Taxpayers:** A home valued at \$100,000 would pay approximately \$109 a year in property taxes.

TIMELINE FOR 2024 ELECTION:

- **September 21, 2024:** Military & Overseas ballots mailed
- **October 7, 2024:** Voter Registration Deadline
- **October 9, 2024:** Ballots mailed and drop-off boxes available
- **October 25, 2024:** Last day to request a ballot in the mail
- **October 29, 2024:** Last day to mail back your ballot
- **November 5, 2024: ELECTION DAY!**

For More Information: Visit our website or contact the school district office for detailed information on how the M&O Budget Override affects our community and schools.