PROP O & PROP H
NOVEMBER 3, 2026 · FHSD · 2026 · #ONEHOWELL

Propositions O & H

FACT SHEET

2 PROPOSITIONS. *#ONEHOWELL.*

On November 3, voters have an opportunity to consider two **zero-tax-rate-increase** ballot measures.

- **PROP O:** Allows the District to transfer funds from debt service to the operating budget.
- **PROP H:** Authorizes the District to borrow money for facility repairs and improvements.

Here's what you need to know as you consider these initiatives:

1. Public education funding is uncertain.

Missouri's Foundation Formula is used to determine the amount of state aid provided to public schools each year. The Missouri legislature did not fully fund the Foundation Formula for the 2026 and 2027 fiscal years, which means schools across Missouri will receive less state funding than projected. FHSD specifically is estimated to receive $7.6 million less over those two years than a fully-funded formula would provide. A task force appointed by the Governor is exploring recommendations for revising the Foundation Formula, which may impact state funding beyond 2027. There have also been efforts to reduce or eliminate property taxes at the local level, including Prop RT and the Senior Citizen Property Tax Freeze. At FHSD, 75% of our budget comes from local taxes, so any reductions in this area could have a severe impact on the District's funding.

2. FHSD has a large physical plant to maintain.

FHSD has 2.9 million square feet of buildings and 503 acres of property to maintain. Our oldest schools are more than 60 years old. The District's capital budget alone cannot support the maintenance needs on all of these facilities. Addressing issues as soon as possible is likely to cost less than making those same repairs and replacements in the future.

3. Costs are on the rise.

Employee health insurance costs rose 21% in two years. Fuel costs for District school buses are up 18%. It costs approximately $4 million each year to provide a cost-of-living raise to our 2,500 teachers and staff.

4. FHSD has the lowest tax rate of all St. Charles County school districts.

The District's last operating levy increase was more than 20 years ago, in 2004. Today's tax rate is actually 20% lower than it was a decade ago. This decrease is a function of the Hancock Amendment, which prevents organizations from receiving a "windfall" of tax revenue when home values rise.

5. New legislation dictates the timing of ballot measures.

With the recent passage of Missouri Senate Bill 1002, school districts in St. Charles County can only place ballot measures before voters every two years in November. April and August elections are no longer an option. This means that the District will not be able to place another measure on the ballot for voters until the November 2028 general election.

6. There is a cost to waiting.

Costs for construction, maintenance and renovation projects typically increase due to inflation. Based on current inflation rates, $150 million of bond projects could cost more than $165 million by waiting until 2028 to seek voter approval and begin improvements.

7. Specific rules dictate how public funds can be spent.

School districts must seek permission from voters to move funds or borrow money.

a. **Levy transfers** allow school districts to move money from one account to another so the funds can be utilized where they are needed most - which may include support for daily operations, teacher salaries and/or learning materials for students. The overall tax rate stays the same, so there is no impact on taxpayers.

b. **No-tax-rate-increase bond issues** allow school districts to borrow money for big projects and pay it back over time without increasing the current tax rate. Bond funds can only be used on “bricks and mortar” projects such as construction, renovations, and infrastructure.

8. The FHSD Board of Education voted to place two zero-tax-rate-increase propositions on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

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Proposition O is a levy transfer intended to help stabilize the operating budget by moving 12.5 cents from the debt service fund to the operating fund. This transfer would make an additional $5.5 million available annually for the District’s operating budget without raising the District’s tax rate.

Proposition H is a $150 million bond issue intended to promote facility longevity by allowing the District to make repairs and improvements at multiple schools without increasing the current tax rate.

9. Voters have a say.

Voters will decide in the Tuesday, November 3, 2026 general election whether to authorize the District to transfer money from the debt service fund to the operating fund (Prop O) and whether to allow the District to borrow $150 million to address facility needs (Prop H). Prop O requires a simple majority to pass (50% plus 1 “yes” vote). Prop H requires a four-sevenths super-majority to pass (57.14%). The last day to register to vote is October 7, 2026.

Did you know?

- FHSD consistently ranks among the **Top 5%** of all Missouri school districts
- FHSD provides the **highest starting teacher salaries** in St. Charles County
- FHSD has the **lowest tax rate** of all St. Charles County school districts
- **Last operating tax increase:** 2004
- **Last ballot measure:** 2020 (Proposition S, a no-tax-rate-increase bond issue)
- With 2,500+ staff, FHSD is the **6th largest employer** in St. Charles County
- 84% of the District’s budget goes to **salary and benefits**

Learn more about **Prop O & Prop H**

Learn more about these propositions and public school funding at fhsdschools.org/PropOH.
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