

VATRE

2026

VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE ELECTION

What is a VATRE?

A Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election is an election that allows voters to decide whether the school district can increase its Maintenance & Operations (M&O) tax rate above the amount allowed by state law without an election. Unlike a bond election, **a VATRE does not pay for new buildings or construction projects.**



2¢ per \$100 valuation

M&O \$0.6922	25-26 +	I&S \$0.1517	=	Total \$0.8439
M&O \$0.6854	26-27 +	I&S \$0.1517	=	Total \$0.8371
M&O \$0.7054 (if passed)	26-27 +	I&S \$0.1317	=	Total \$0.8371

Actual property taxes may vary based on taxable value, exemptions, appraisal adjustments, tax ceilings, and other factors.

INVEST IN OUR STUDENTS & STAFF

SAFETY & SECURITY

MAINTAIN DAILY OPERATIONS

PRESERVE STUDENT PROGRAMS

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Maintenance & Operations (M&O)

Pays for the every day operations of the District : employee salaries, supplies, utilities, repairs, and other costs

Interest and Sinking (I&S)

This rate is used to pay our bond debt, which is primarily associated with larger construction and capital projects.

M&O ²⁵⁻²⁶ \$0.6922	+	I&S \$0.1517	=	Total \$0.8439
M&O ²⁶⁻²⁷ \$0.6854	+	I&S \$0.1517	=	Total \$0.8371
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Golden Pennies

The state allows up to 8 Golden Pennies

First 5 = no election needed

**6 - 8 = must have voter approval
(VATRE)**



SISD Currently = 6 Golden Pennies

Voter approval = Total of 8 Golden Pennies

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**Recapture = “Robin Hood”
More local tax revenue than the
complicated state formula allows -
portion is sent back to the state.**

**Golden pennies are not subject to
recapture = \$750,000 additional revenue
stays here!!!**

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**Sweeny ISD's total tax rate for 2026 will
be
\$0.8371**

**Reduction from last year's total tax rate
\$0.0068**

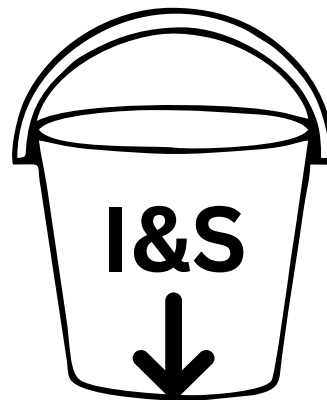
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This will not increase overall tax rate.

**Changes the composition of that rate to
generate additional revenue.**





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**Approval means we gain access to \$750,000
for students and staff of
Sweeny ISD that will remain in the district.**

**Not approved means we use the money in the
I&S side to pay off debt early.**