

Ritenour NEWS

A Ritenour School District Publication | October 2026

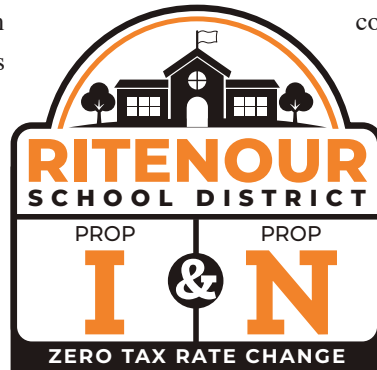
Two Ritenour Proposals. Zero Tax Rate Change. Look for Propositions I + N on the Nov. 3 Ballot

The Ritenour School District Board of Education voted unanimously in July to place two measures on the Nov. 3, 2026, ballot that would not increase the current school tax rate: a \$42 million bond issue to fund facility improvements and a tax transfer that would shift a portion of existing tax revenue to support district operations.

The initiatives are called Proposition I (bond issue) and Proposition N (tax transfer).

If approved by voters, Proposition I would provide funding for needed facility, maintenance and safety improvements throughout the district, while Proposition N would shift a small portion of existing tax revenue from debt service to support day-to-day operating expenses such as teacher salaries, classroom supplies and student services. Neither proposal would change the current school tax rate for Ritenour School District residents.

Together, Propositions I and N address both the district's long-term facility needs and its ongoing operational needs. While Proposition I provides funding for major building improvements, Proposition N helps ensure the district can



continue investing in students and staff without changing the current school tax rate.

"Our students and community deserve excellent facilities," said Superintendent Dr. Chris Kilbride. "Ritenour has a proud tradition of providing outstanding opportunities for students, and we remain committed to that legacy. In past years, our residents made a commitment in Ritenour - to both our schools and our educational staff.

We have a responsibility to honor that commitment and maintain these facilities for our community so they continue serving students and families for generations to come."

"Approval of Propositions I and N would allow us to maintain our aging facilities while continuing to invest in the students and staff who learn and work in them every day," Kilbride said. "These measures will help ensure Ritenour remains financially strong, and keep our schools safe and well maintained. Ritenour schools have always been the foundation of our community and we are working everyday to continue to make solid management decisions for our residents and our district."

Proposition I

Proposition I would allow the district to borrow \$42 million in bonds to pay for major school maintenance and repair projects - including HVAC upgrades, new windows, classroom renovations and much more. A list of Prop I projects are on Pages 2-3 of this edition of *Ritenour News*.

Funds from a bond issue cannot pay for salaries, benefits, supplies, utilities or other operating costs. Voters last approved a zero rate change bond issue in 2020 for \$19.5 million. Passage of Proposition I requires 57% (4/7) yes vote – not just a simple majority.

Proposition N

Proposition N would allow the district to transfer 15 cents of existing tax revenue from the debt service fund to the operating fund in 2027 and again in 2030. If approved, Proposition N would provide approximately \$1.4 million annually for district operations starting in 2027, with an additional estimated \$1.5 million starting in 2030. Prop N requires a simple majority for passage.

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What is Proposition I?

Proposition I would allow the district to borrow \$42 million in bonds to pay for major school maintenance and repair projects. Specifically, projects would include:

Building Improvements

- HVAC replacement or upgrades at all K-8 Schools
- Tuckpointing and Asbestos Abatement to accompany HVAC work at elementary and middle schools
- New window installation at all elementary schools
- Flooring improvements at all schools

Safety & Learning Environment

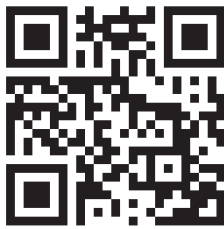
- Safety and security access control upgrades
- District safety and security server upgrade
- Furniture updates in all schools where needed
- Information technology upgrades at all K-12 schools
- New fire panels at Hoech Middle School and Buder, Kratz and Marvin elementary schools

School/Building Renovations

- School for Early Childhood Education playground updates
- Buder Elementary cafeteria renovation
- Wyland Elementary gymnasium and library renovations
- Husky Support Center improvements
- Administrative Center Board of Education Room audio/visual and room renovations

Other

- Moving payments from Certificates of Participation for capital projects from the operating fund to the debt service fund. This frees up dollars for educational programs and students' needs. It can be done with zero change in the district's overall tax rate.



Scan this QR code to view a list of Prop I projects by building.

Visit www.ritenourschools.org/PropIN to view the list of Prop I projects by school.

What is Proposition N?

Proposition N would allow the district to transfer 15 cents of existing tax revenue from the debt service fund to the operating fund in 2027 and again in 2030. Due to conservative and responsible financial management by the district, those tax dollars can instead be used to support day-to-day operating expenses such as teacher salaries, classroom supplies and student services. The measure would not increase taxes; it would simply reallocate existing tax revenue.

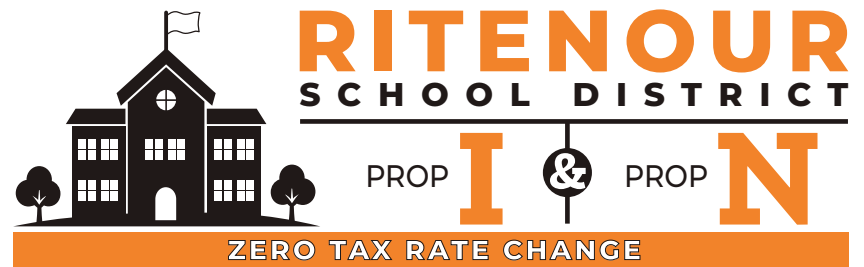
If approved by voters, Proposition N would provide approximately \$1.4 million annually for district operations starting in 2027, with an additional estimated \$1.5 million starting in 2030.

Disclaimer: These materials were paid for by the Ritenour School District. These materials are intended solely to disseminate and provide factual information about questions that will be before voters. These materials are not intended to advocate, support, oppose or defeat the measure.

Both propositions are zero tax rate change

Propositions I & N

on the November 3 Ballot



Frequently Asked Questions:

Why is this being proposed?

Ritenour has nearly 1 million square feet of school facilities with a replacement value of more than \$320 million. The average age of a Ritenour school is 77 years old. The buildings are safe and well-constructed, but require extensive ongoing maintenance, repair and renovation, just like our homes. Ritenour has a responsibility to ensure these facilities are properly maintained for future generations of students. Ritenour has a history of working with the community to protect our schools and the value of the buildings in our district.

Because of solid financial management and a recent increase in property values, if Props I and N are approved, Ritenour can make these repairs and renovations without changing the school tax rate for district residents.

How can we complete Proposition I projects without changing the school tax rate?

As Ritenour pays off debt from previous bond issues, the district has room to take on new debt without changing the current tax rate. This allows Ritenour to fund the Proposition I projects using the tax rate residents already pay.

Simply put: Proposition I would fund these projects without increasing the school tax rate.

Why is the district able to make the Prop N tax transfer?

Through long-term financial planning, Ritenour has identified a way to use an existing tax rate in a different way that supports students and teachers. Prop N would transfer a portion of the existing tax rate from the debt service fund to the operating fund. Ritenour can make this transfer because projections show that the debt service fund will have sufficient resources to meet debt obligations for building renovations and construction. This would not increase the district's overall tax rate, and Ritenour will continue to meet all existing debt obligations.

I don't have students in Ritenour. How do Props I + N affect me?

The school district in each community is an important part of maintaining property values. High-quality schools are one of the key components people look for when moving into a new community, and studies have confirmed the link between strong school districts and strong communities. A strong public school system protects property values, provides a qualified workforce and creates a better sense of community.

When is the election?

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026. Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Who may vote?

Any Ritenour resident, 18 years or older, who has registered to vote in the Ritenour School District by Oct. 7 may vote in this election.

How many votes are required for passage of Proposition I & N?

Passage of Proposition I requires 57% (4/7) "YES" vote – not just a simple majority. Prop N requires a simple majority vote, meaning more than 50 percent of voters must vote "Yes" for the proposal to be approved.

How will the Propositions appear on the ballot?

(The format and language of the proposal are written as required by election law)

PROPOSITION I

For the purposes of updating safety and security systems and classroom technology, improving, maintaining, repairing and renovating school classrooms and buildings, funding other needed upgrades to facilities including energy efficiency improvements and refinancing existing leases for capital improvements, shall the Board of Education of the Ritenour School District, St. Louis County, Missouri, borrow money in the amount of Forty-Two Million Dollars (\$42,000,000) and issue general obligation bonds for the payment thereof, resulting in a zero rate change to the debt service property tax levy. If this proposition is approved, the adjusted debt service levy of the District will remain \$0.84 per \$100 of assessed valuation of real and personal property.

(Note: If Propositions I and N are both approved, the District's adjusted debt service levy is estimated to be \$0.69 per \$100 of assessed valuation of real and personal property in 2027 and \$0.54 per \$100 of assessed valuation of real and personal property in 2030)

PROPOSITION N

For purposes of paying salaries and benefits to teachers and other district staff, providing classroom educational material including instructional technology, avoiding cutbacks in educational programming, and providing funds for other operating purposes, shall the Board of Education of the Ritenour School District of St. Louis County, Missouri be authorized to increase the operating tax levy ceiling by \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed valuation in tax year 2027, and by an additional \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed valuation in tax year 2030. If this proposition is approved, the total levy of the District is expected to remain unchanged due to the expected voluntary reductions to the District's debt service tax levy of \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed valuation in tax year 2027 and an additional reduction of \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed valuation in tax year 2030, resulting in the estimated adjusted operating levy of the District per \$100 of assessed valuation to be \$3.0384 for residential real property, \$3.7558 for commercial real property and \$4.5491 for personal property in tax year 2027 and \$3.1884 for residential real property, \$3.9058 for commercial real property and \$4.6991 for personal property in tax year 2030.

measures and each requires a separate vote.

Propositions I & N: What Ritenour Voters Need to Know

Ritenour voters will see two separate district measures – Propositions I and N – on the Nov. 3, 2026 ballot. Both are zero tax rate change proposals, and each proposition requires a separate vote.

When you vote, look for both Proposition I and Proposition N to make sure you are aware of both Ritenour measures on the ballot.

Proposition I is a \$42 million zero rate change bond issue that would fund maintenance, repairs, safety and security improvements, technology and renovations throughout the district.

Proposition N would transfer existing tax revenue from debt service to the district’s operating fund to support expenses such as salaries, classroom materials and student services. The transfer would occur in phases beginning in 2027 and would not change the



district’s overall tax rate.

Because the district has paid

down existing debt and property values have recently increased, neither measure would change the current school tax rate for Ritenour School District residents.

Learn more about both propositions, including projects planned for each school, at www.ritenourschools.org/PropIN



Remember to vote!

Early Voting Begins Oct. 20, 2026
Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026



Two Ritenour Zero Rate Change Propositions on the Nov. 3 Ballot

Ritenour voters will consider two district propositions in the Nov. 3 election. Prop I would provide \$42 million for facility, safety, technology and renovation projects, while Prop N would redirect existing tax revenue to support district operating expenses. Neither proposition would change the district’s overall tax rate.