



Proposal: Waco ISD has called a tax ratification election for **November 3, 2015**, asking voters to approve a net increase of **5 cents** in the District's tax rate.



LITERACY:

With these funds, Waco ISD has set a goal to have 83 percent of third-graders reading on grade level by 2020:

Highly qualified literacy **aide in every Pre-K and Kindergarten classroom;**

A literacy aide for every two classes in 1st and 2nd grades;

Additional reading teacher positions at middle schools;

Expand Brazos Credit Recovery program to include older middle school students who are not yet ready for high school.



COLLEGE CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES:

Maintain an **8-period day** at the high school;

Allow **all juniors and seniors** to take **every dual credit course** they want at MCC or TSTC at no cost to their families.



BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE:

"Behavior Classrooms" for disruptive students;

Expanded Saturday Diversion Classes for students and parents;

Campus-based health services (health professionals, social workers, behavioral specialists, etc.)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Maintenance & Operation (**M&O**) tax rate **will be increased 13 cents**. However, the refinancing of two prior bond issues and spending some of the fund balance in the I&S (debt service) fund has allowed Waco ISD to **reduce its I&S tax rate by 8 cents**.

Of the \$8.2 million, approximately \$3 million will come from the state. Local taxpayers will have a guaranteed annual return on investment of 57 percent.

For every \$100 we invest, the state matches it with an additional \$57. Said another way, every year we do NOT do this, we are leaving \$3 million on the table in Austin.

28 percent (\$2.3 million) of the additional revenue will come from local residential property taxes. **35.4 percent** (\$2.9 million) will come from taxes on commercial property. **36.6 percent** (\$3 million) will come from the state.

The reduced I&S rate, coupled with an increased homestead exemption (from \$15,000 to \$25,000), will result in most Waco ISD homeowners actually paying **less** in school taxes:

Homes valued at...

- \$75,000 will see their school taxes go down \$110.
- \$99,000 (the Waco ISD average) will see their school taxes go down \$98.
- \$125,000 will see their school taxes go down \$85.
- In fact, every home valued at \$314,000 or less will see their school taxes reduced.
- If you are **over 65 or disabled, your taxes are frozen**.
- But if your taxes are lower because of increased homestead exemption, then they will be frozen at the new lower amount.

ADDITIONAL POINTS

Six-hundred public school districts have filed a lawsuit against the state, alleging that the school finance system in Texas is inadequate and inefficient. Under the current system of funding, several school districts **receive more money per pupil than Waco ISD**.

These initiatives will **create more than 200 new jobs** in our community.

Last year, the District had a teacher turnover rate of 27.3 percent. If approved, a portion of the new revenue will be used to fund **additional staff on campuses** to assist teachers.

These initiatives are **campus driven** and based upon conversations, input and feedback from campus personnel. The additional money will **go to the campuses**, not central office.

This plan includes **specific goals and measurable outcomes** that will be reported out to the community

If the additional \$10,000 homestead exemption passes, taxpayers **65 and older** whose property taxes were frozen for the 2014 tax year would actually have their **taxes lowered** as a result of the proposed TRE **even more** than if the TRE does not pass. When the tax office calculates the (65 and older) new frozen taxes, it will use the new homestead exemption (a higher number) and multiply that by the tax rate. That amount will then be subtracted from their prior frozen taxes. **So, the higher the tax rate, the higher the amount subtracted from their current frozen taxes.**