

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION
FOR
EXCESS SCHOOL LEVY
TO THE VOTERS OF MERCER COUNTY**

TAKE NOTICE

That at a statutory meeting of the Board of Education of the County of Mercer, State of West Virginia, held on the 13th day of August, 2019, as provided by law, the following order was made and entered for record, to-wit:

The Board of Education of the County of Mercer being of the opinion that the Maximum Levies for current expenses authorized by Article 8, Chapter 11 of the Code of West Virginia, as amended, will not provide sufficient funds for the payment of current expenses of the Board of Education, including expenditures for the purpose or purposes hereinafter set forth, and that an election should be held to increase such levies under the provisions of Section 16, Article 8, Chapter 11 of the Code, as amended, it is hereby ordered:

1. That the purposes for which additional funds are needed, together with the approximate amount for each purpose, are as follows:
 - A. For continuing the upgrading and improving of the instructional program of the Mercer County School District by the employment of additional teachers and professional student support personnel, the retention of qualified professional personnel, the employment of substitutes, and the provision of coaching and employee supplements, thereby keeping the Mercer County School District in a competitive position with other counties in West Virginia, in the annual approximate amount of \$3,100,000.
 - B. For continuing to provide for the support of schools through the employment of additional service personnel, and for the maintenance of a fair and adequate salary schedule for all service and auxiliary personnel through the provision of employee salary supplements, and for the employment of substitutes for maintaining adequate services for the Mercer County School District, in the annual approximate amount of \$1,400,000.
 - C. For continuing to provide fringe benefits such as the employer contribution for salary supplements, flexible allowances for optical coverage for all employees, and /or their dependents, in the annual approximate amount of \$820,000.
 - D. For providing free textbooks (both print and electronic versions), instructional supplies, materials, and equipment including but not limited to workbooks, study materials, computer and electronic devices for student work, software, licenses, and classroom technology for grades PreK through twelve (12) as well as technical support to utilize and maintain such materials and equipment in the annual approximate amount of \$1,550,000.
 - E. For assistance in providing funding for alternative education programs including salaries, supplies, and equipment in the annual approximate amount of \$150,000.
 - F. For continuing support of public libraries, health services for students, employees, and 4-H activities in the approximate amount of \$140,000.
 - G. For continuing support of extracurricular activities for students including chorus, instrumental music, clubs, athletics, cheerleading, curricular and extra-curricular classroom field trips; providing stipends/supplements for sponsors/coaches/teachers, purchasing equipment, uniforms, supplies, and other such expenditures that support these activities including athletic field maintenance and improvements in the annual approximate amount of \$950,000.

- H. For the maintenance and upkeep of existing school facilities, including HV AC repair and renovations, school building repair, fire marshal requirements, payment of equipment through lease purchase agreements. Also, to purchase the tools, equipment, and vehicles needed to provide maintenance and delivery services to schools in the annual approximate amount of \$2,100,000.
- I. For assistance in maintaining, and providing a secure environment for students, and employees in the schools in the annual approximate amount of \$350,000.
- J. For supplementing the Permanent Improvement Fund for constructing new facilities, remodeling and major facility improvements to existing facilities, in the annual approximate amount of \$552,714.
- K. For assisting in meeting utility, and operational costs, including insurance, and custodial supplies in all buildings, in the annual approximate amount of \$1,600,000.
- L. For assisting in meeting the cost of transporting students to and from school in the annual approximate amount of \$250,000.
2. That the annual total approximate amount necessary to carry out the above purposes, after making due allowances for exonerations, and delinquencies, is approximately \$12,962,714.
3. That the total five (5) year approximate amount necessary to carry out the above purposes, making due allowances for exonerations, and delinquencies, is approximately \$64,813,570.
4. That the separate and aggregate assessed valuation of each class of taxable property within the County of Mercer is as follows:
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|-----------|---------------|
| Class I | 0 |
| Class II | 831,976,288 |
| Class III | 723,521,449 |
| Class IV | 377,204,037 |
| Aggregate | 1,932,701,774 |
5. That the proposed additional rate of levy in cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuations of each class of property is as follows:
- | | |
|-----------|-------------|
| Class I | 22.95 cents |
| Class II | 45.9 cents |
| Class III | 91.8 cents |
| Class IV | 91.8 cents |
6. That the proposed years to which the additional levy shall apply are the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2020; July 1, 2021; July 1, 2022; July 1, 2023; and July 1, 2024.
7. That the Board of Education of the County of Mercer is hereby authorized, and empowered to expend during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, accruing in excess of the amounts needed for any of the above-stated purposes, plus excess collections, due to increased assessed valuations for the enrichment, supplementation, operation, and improvement of educational services, and/or facilities in the public schools of the County of Mercer.
8. That the Mercer County Board of Education will not issue bonds against this levy.

9. That the question of continuing such additional levy shall be submitted to a vote at the Special Election, to be held on the 2nd day of November, 2019.
10. Notice calling such election shall be given by the publication of this order once a week for two successive weeks before said election, within fourteen consecutive days next preceding the election, in the BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH, which is the newspaper of general circulation in the County of Mercer.
11. That the registration of voters, and use of registration books shall be governed by the permanent registration laws of the State of West Virginia; and the Board of Education of the County of Mercer does hereby adopt the registrations lists of and for said Mercer County, as amended and corrected, according to law, as the official registration lists of said Mercer County School District for such Special Election.
12. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized, and directed to attend to the publication of this Order as herein set forth, and do any and all things necessary to present the questions proposed by this Order to the voters in the Mercer County School District at said Special Election.
13. That the ballot to be used at such election shall be in form as follows:

OFFICIAL LEVY BALLOT
Mercer County Board of Education
Excess School Levy
November 2, 2019

"Special Election to authorize additional levies for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2020; July 1, 2021; July 1, 2022; July 1, 2023; and July 1, 2024, and the approximate amounts necessary for each purpose are set forth as follows, according to the Order of the Board of Education entered on the 13th day of August, 2019."

1. That the purposes for which additional funds are needed, together with the approximate amount for each purpose, are as follows:
 - A. For continuing the upgrading and improving of the instructional program of the Mercer County School District by the employment of additional teachers and professional student support personnel, the retention of qualified professional personnel, the employment of substitutes, and the provision of coaching and employee supplements, thereby keeping the Mercer County School District in a competitive position with other counties in West Virginia, in the annual approximate amount of \$3,100,000.
 - B. For continuing to provide for the support of schools through the employment of additional service personnel, and for the maintenance of a fair and adequate salary schedule for all service and auxiliary personnel through the provision of employee salary supplements, and for the employment of substitutes for maintaining adequate services for the Mercer County School District, in the annual approximate amount of \$1,400,000.
 - C. For continuing to provide fringe benefits such as the employer contribution for salary supplements, flexible allowances for optical coverage for all employees, and /or their dependents, in the annual approximate amount of \$820,000.

- | | |
|---|---------------|
| D. For providing free textbooks (both print and electronic versions), instructional supplies, materials, and equipment including but not limited to workbooks, study materials, computer and electronic devices for student work, software, licenses, and classroom technology for grades PreK through twelve (12) as well as technical support to utilize and maintain such materials and equipment in the annual approximate amount of | \$1,550,000. |
| E. For assistance in providing funding for alternative education programs including salaries, supplies, and equipment in the annual approximate amount of | \$150,000. |
| F. For continuing support of public libraries, health services for students, employees, and 4-H activities in the approximate amount of | \$140,000. |
| G. For continuing support of extracurricular activities for students including chorus, instrumental music, clubs, athletics, cheerleading, curricular and extra-curricular classroom field trips; providing stipends/supplements for sponsors/coaches/teachers, purchasing equipment, uniforms, supplies, and other such expenditures that support these activities including athletic field maintenance and improvements in the annual approximate amount of | \$950,000. |
| H. For the maintenance and upkeep of existing school facilities, including HVAC repair and renovations, school building repair, fire marshal requirements, payment of equipment through lease purchase agreements. Also, to purchase the tools, equipment, and vehicles needed to provide maintenance and delivery services to schools in the annual approximate amount of | \$2,100,000. |
| I. For assistance in maintaining, and providing a secure environment for students, and employees in the schools in the annual approximate amount of | \$350,000. |
| J. For supplementing the Permanent Improvement Fund for constructing new facilities, remodeling and major facility improvements to existing facilities, in the annual approximate amount of | \$552,714. |
| K. For assisting in meeting utility, and operational costs, including insurance, and custodial supplies in all buildings, in the annual approximate amount of | \$1,600,000. |
| L. For assisting in meeting the cost of transporting students to and from school in the annual approximate amount of | \$250,000. |
| 2. That the annual total approximate amount necessary to carry out the above purposes, after making due allowances for exonerations, and delinquencies, is approximately | \$12,962,714. |
| 3. That the total five (5) year approximate amount necessary to carry out the above purposes, after making due allowances for exonerations, and delinquencies is approximately | \$64,813,570. |
| 4. That the Board of Education of the County of Mercer is hereby authorized, and empowered to expend, during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, accruing in excess of the amounts needed for any of | |

the above-stated purposes, plus excess collections due to increased assessed valuations for the enrichment, supplementation, operation, and improvement of educational services, and /or facilities in the public schools of the County of Mercer.

The additional levies per \$100 valuation shall be on Class I Property, 22.95 cents; on Class II Property, 45.9 cents; on Class III Property, 91.8 cents; and on Class IV Property, 91.8 cents.

- For the levies
- Against the levies

INSTRUCTIONS: Those favoring the additional levies, place an "X" in the square before "For the levies", and those against such levies, place an "X" in the square before "Against the levies."

12. The back or reverse side of the Official Ballot shall contain the language, date of election, and the designated title of the election officials, etc., as provided by law.

Adopted on the 13th day of August, 2019.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
COUNTY OF MERCER

By: Paul Hodges
Paul Hodges, PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

By: Deborah S. Akers
Deborah S. Akers, SECRETARY

CHAPTER 11. TAXATION.**ARTICLE 8. LEVIES.****§11-8-5. Classification of property for levy purposes.**

For the purpose of levies, property shall be classified as follows:

Class I. All tangible personal property employed exclusively in agriculture, including horticulture and grazing;

All products of agriculture (including livestock) while owned by the producer;

All notes, bonds, bills and accounts receivable, stocks and any other intangible personal property;

Class II. All property owned, used and occupied by the owner exclusively for residential purposes;

All farms, including land used for horticulture and grazing, occupied and cultivated by their owners or bona fide tenants;

Class III. All real and personal property situated outside of municipalities, exclusive of Classes I and II;

Class IV. All real and personal property situated inside of municipalities, exclusive of Classes I and II.

2019 LEVY RATES

CLASS II CLASS III CLASS IV

DISTRICTS 1.1380 2.2760
MATOAKA

PRINCETON 1.3880 2.7760
OAKVALE
BLUEFIELD
ATHENS

BRAMWELL 1.3792 2.7584