

RHS – March 15, 2016 Referendum – FAQs

Is there a need to increase Reavis' Education Rate?

- The world, country, state, and local economies have all taken a major downward spiral for the last eight (8) years.
- The District's revenues have been mostly flat since 2008.
- The District's expenses have increased over this same time period.
- The major line items that have caused the District's deficit are
 - increased special education costs
 - tax rebates to corporations
 - State of Illinois' limited reimbursement on several state mandated expenses.
- We cannot depend on Springfield to assist us in continuing the great educational opportunities Reavis has provided to our community for over 65 years.

What about all the money that was spent on the renovations and new construction?

- The majority of renovations over the last six (6) years were classified as Life Safety work. These updates were necessary to bring many of the areas up to code and safe for our students.
- There are separate funds for each of the District's expenses.
- The **Education Fund** is almost 85% of the District budget and pays for almost all of the educational programs, services, and extra-curricular activities.
- The **Building Fund** makes up approximately 10% of the District budget and pays for all renovations, new construction, and yearly maintenance for the building and campus.
- You cannot legally combine these funds.

What about the high salaries of staff members?

- Although staff salaries are very good, there have been several cuts and sacrifices made, both for the short-term and long-term, to help the overall budget.
- All three (3) Unions (Teachers', Support Staff, and Maintenance Staff) renegotiated their Collective Bargaining Agreements that will ultimately save the District hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in the long term.
- Every employee of the District, including the Administrative Team, accepted a **0% raise last school year** and has very nominal raises over the next three (3) years, with nothing exceeding 3%.
- These monetary concessions are historical and will save the District a great deal of money in the future. However, we need to fill the present financial gap in order to a) keep all the great programs and services we currently offer our students and community and b) continue to grow our educational opportunities moving forward.

What will the new revenue be used for?

- First and foremost, the additional money will be used to fill the current financial gap so we can keep all of our great programs and services here at Reavis High School.
- The new revenue will also position the District to move to a **"1:1 Student Electronic Device Initiative."**
- Eventually, every Reavis student will be using his or her own electronic device (laptop or tablet) on a daily basis at school. This will allow our District to save thousands of dollars on textbooks; access curriculum updates; go paperless with school work and assignments; and increase school-to-home engagement and communication.

RHS – March 15, 2016 Referendum – Fact Sheet

What is Reavis' current Education Rate?

- The current Education Rate for Reavis High School is \$1.91.

How much of a rate increase is the District asking for?

- The District is asking the homeowners for a 29 cent increase to this current rate.
- The proposed new rate would be \$2.20.

When was the last time the rate was increased?

- Reavis' Education Rate has not been changed/increased in over 50 years.
- Reavis has been a great steward of the homeowner's money over this time period.
- With increased expenses and flat to lower revenue over the last eight (8) years, the District has been using its cash reserves to fill the gap.

How does this rate compare to the surrounding high schools?

- Reavis' Education Rate (\$1.91) is the lowest of any high school district in the area.
- Examples:

○ REAVIS	D220	\$1.91
○ Oak Lawn	D229	\$2.51
○ Argo	D217	\$2.64
○ Richards / Shepard / Eisenhower	D218	\$2.90
○ Evergreen Park	D231	\$3.26
○ Thornton Fractional N & S	D215	\$3.37
○ Bremen HS	D228	\$3.41
- Even with the proposed 29 cent increase, Reavis will still have the lowest Education Rate of any high school in the area.

What will the proposed rate, on average, cost the homeowner?

- The average homeowner will see the following yearly, monthly, and weekly cost to their tax bill:

○ \$100K Home Value	\$ 79 per year	\$ 6.50 per month	\$1.50 per week
○ \$150K Home Value	\$119 per year	\$10.00 per month	\$2.30 per week
○ \$200K Home Value	\$158 per year	\$13.20 per month	\$3.05 per week

What is the date of the election?

- The 2016 Election is on Tuesday, March 15th. Polls open at 6:00 a.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. Early voting takes place from February 29 through March 14.

Who can vote?

- Any registered voter living within the Reavis High School District 220 boundaries.

Where can I register to vote?

- You can register in person (at Bridgeview Courthouse, for example). Please visit Cook County Clerk's website at <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/register tovote/Pages/default.aspx>.

Where can I vote?

- Please check the Cook County Clerk's website to locate your polling place: <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/voterprofile/Pages/default.aspx>.
- As of Monday, February 29, 2016, early voting can be done at Oak Lawn Village Hall, 9446 S. Raymond Ave. in Oak Lawn or Bridgeview Courthouse, 10220 S. 76th Avenue in Bridgeview, as well as other locations.

What about absentee voting?

- Absentee ballots can be requested at any time using the following link: <http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/elections/mailvoting/Pages/default.aspx>. Absentee voting applications will be accepted until the Thursday before the election, March 10, 2016. Apply as early as possible to make sure you receive your ballot in time to vote. Your ballot must be postmarked no later than Election Day.

What does the Referendum look like?

To the Voters of High School District 220

"Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for Reavis High School District 220, Cook County, Illinois, be increased by an additional amount equal to .29% above the limiting rate for the purpose for which the School District is organized for levy year 2014 and be equal to 2.972% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2015?"

- 1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is \$22,027,824, and the approximate amount of taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is \$24,412,540.
- 2) For the 2015 levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be \$79.03.
- 3) If the proposition is approved, the aggregate extension for 2015 will be determined by the limiting rate set forth in the proposition, rather than the otherwise applicable limiting rate calculated under the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (commonly known as the Property Tax Cap Law).

Yes/No

You can still register to vote all the way up to and including ELECTION DAY, March 15, 2016.

As of Wednesday, February 17, 2016 you can register at:

Bridgeview Courthouse – Room 238

10220 South 76th Avenue

Bridgeview, IL

708-974-6150

Monday through Friday / 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(you will be registering to vote and then must actually vote at the same time)

As of Monday, February 29, 2016 you can still register to vote at Bridgeview Courthouse as well as:

Oak Lawn Village Hall

9446 South Raymond

Oak Lawn, IL

Monday through Saturday / 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sundays: March 6 and March 13 / 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

(you will be registering to vote and then must actually vote at the same time)

On Election Day, Tuesday, March 15, 2016, you can still register to vote at your local polling place.

When registering to vote in person, you must display two pieces of identification. Neither needs to be a photo ID, but one must include your current address. Acceptable forms of ID include:

- Illinois driver's license
- Illinois state ID
- Employee or student ID
- Credit card
- Social security card
- Birth certificate
- Utility bill in applicant's name
- Mail postmarked to the applicant
- Valid U.S. passport
- Lease or rental contract

*Please note...the Reavis High School District 220 REFERENDUM information will
be near the bottom of the ballot. Scroll all the way down to read the
REFERENDUM and then make your choice.*