

BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL TAX REFERENDUMS, MAY 4, 2019

April 12, 2019 special called board meeting

MOTION: To take no position, but offer feedback to the School Board (by paper ballot)

RECOMMENDATION: The Bossier Chamber Board of Directors recommends to the Bossier Parish School Board that they pull the propositions off the May 4, 2019 ballot and come back with a better collaborative offering.

Proposition No. 1 of 2 (Millage)

Shall Parishwide School District of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana (the "District"), levy a twenty-two and ninety-four hundredths (22.94) mills tax on all property subject to taxation in the District for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2019 and ending with the year 2028 (an estimated \$22,192,464 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for the purpose of giving additional support to the public elementary and secondary schools of the Parish by providing funds for the payment of salaries and benefits of teachers and other school employees?

- **A vote for** would increase property taxes across the parish for businesses and residents alike. According to the Bossier Parish Tax Assessor's office, Proposition 1 at 22.94 mills would constitute an **increase of 21.10% for businesses within the city of Bossier City** but the increase varies outside of the city limits. For the schools, it would increase teacher pay by \$7,200 across the board and \$3,000 for support personnel.
- **A vote against** would maintain property taxes at approximately the current levels.

****If both millages pass, according to the Bossier Parish Tax Assessor's office, this would constitute a total property tax increase of 24% for businesses within the city of Bossier City but the increase varies outside of the city limits.**

Proposition No. 2 of 2 (Millage)

Shall Parishwide School District of the Parish of Bossier, State of Louisiana (the "District"), levy a three and twenty-two hundredths (3.22) mills tax on all property subject to taxation in the District for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2019 and ending with the year 2028 (an estimated \$3,090,000 reasonably expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for the purpose of giving additional support to the public elementary and secondary schools of the Parish by funding the acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation of the infrastructure, hardware, software and related furnishings, equipment, supplies and facilities for computer and related technology training and instruction in the public elementary and secondary schools of the Parish?

- **A vote for** would increase property taxes across the parish for businesses and residents alike. According to the Bossier Parish Tax Assessor's office, Proposition 2 at 3.22 mills would constitute an **increase of 2.96% for businesses within the city of Bossier City** but the increase varies outside of the city limits. It would give the schools approximately \$3 million per year to invest in technology upgrades, mainly in infrastructure, to increase wireless capability and allow the school district to comply with FCC national recommendations for bandwidth and Internet broadband capability per student.
- **A vote against** would maintain property taxes at approximately the current levels.

IN 2012: The Chamber made recommendations to the Bossier Parish School Board, including:

"We are of the opinion that a longer term approach to teacher compensation be considered that does not tie this permanent financial obligation to temporary resources."

"We enthusiastically offer collaborative assistance in fashioning a plan that will not only meet current needs, but ensure proper growth and improvement to Bossier Parish Schools without hampering the growth and improvement of Bossier Parish business."

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2018 Bossier Parish Schools
TAX REVENUE **\$64,518,253.97**
*According to the Bossier Parish Tax Assessor's Office

In 2018, businesses paid approximately
70% OF PROPERTY TAXES **\$45,162,777.77**

FOR 2019 ESTIMATES **TAX REVENUE** **\$25,000,000**
from new proposed millages
*According to the Bossier Parish Schools March 26, 2019 presentation

Cost to business, approximately
70% OF PROPERTY TAXES **\$17,500,000**

 **BOSSIER CHAMBER PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION**

NEW TEACHER LUNCHEON

- > Lunch paid for by **business sponsors**
- > Served 200-plus teachers in 2018
- > Approximately \$7,500 in classroom giveaways **from businesses to teachers**, including tablets for one entire classroom

BOSSIER YOUTH LEADERSHIP

- > 25+ years, taking high school students **to area businesses** and organizations to show how our community runs
- > **Sponsored by businesses**

EDUCATION AND INNOVATION LUNCHEON

- > Invite students to a free luncheon, **sponsored by businesses**, to learn about the workforce of tomorrow
- > Have awarded almost \$20,000 in scholarships, thus far, to students, **sponsored by businesses**

STATE OF EDUCATION

- > Event where the school system and higher education tell their stories directly to the **business community**
- > **Sponsored by businesses**

SURVEY: The Bossier Chamber of Commerce polled its membership, asking about their support for the two tax referendum propositions on the May 4 ballot. The results were:

Proposition 1 (salaries):

- 22.2% For
- 16.6% Against
- 60% Against but encourage collaboration

Proposition 2 (technology)

- 32.2% For
- 18.8% Against
- 48.8% Against but encourage collaboration