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When will the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) override be on the ballot?

The override will be on the Nov. 8, 2022 ballot. Early voting for the measure will begin on Oct. 12, 2022. For information on registering to vote, how to request an early mail-in ballot, and where to find in-person Vote Centers visit elections.maricopa.gov.

What is an M&O override?

State law allows Arizona school districts to increase their M&O budgets by up to 15% per year than the revenue control limit imposed by the state legislature.

How long do M&O override funds last?

An override lasts for seven years. The district receives full funding for five years. If not renewed, the amount decreases by one-third in the sixth year and two-thirds in the seventh year. In year eight, it expires. If PVSchools M&O Override doesn't pass this November, the district will have to cut \$9-10 million out of the 2023-24 budget.

Have voters in the district approved M&O overrides in the past?

Yes. The proposed override is a continuation of the existing 15% M&O Override. This was passed by voters in November 2017.

What is the override amount the voters are being asked to approve?

The district is requesting a 15% M&O override, which is a continuation of the current rate. The district is not seeking an increase but is asking to continue the current override funding. The override before the voters is approximately \$28 million annually, and there is no expected increase in the tax rate for taxpayers. Approximately 85% of the M&O budget goes toward staff salaries and benefits.

Why is the override being requested?

Inflation in the Phoenix area is measuring at 11% from April 2021 to April 2022. School districts are capped at 2% inflation on the per-student allocation from the legislature. Districts must find a way to make up the gap when inflation is higher than that 2%. With inflation, the district is able to purchase less with each dollar. The override is needed to maintain the district's current programs and minimize further budget reductions.

What will the override do for students?

- Ensure current academic programming remains in place.
- Provide competitive salaries to retain and attract highly qualified teachers and staff.
- Continue instruction for technology, physical education, and fine arts such as music, art and drama, foreign language, and other electives.
- Promote a safe and healthy school environment.

What will happen if the M&O override is not renewed?

Since 2023-24 will be the sixth year of the current M&O Override, the district will cut between \$9-10 million from its operating budget for next year and will ultimately have to cut \$28-30 million if the current override is completely phased out. Class sizes will increase, programs for students will be reduced or eliminated, and salaries will not be competitive with other area school districts.

How much will the override increase the cost for the average taxpayer?

There is no increase in the tax rate for taxpayers. This override is a continuation and maintains the current level of funding.