

PR  **P** **E**

Educational Equity

April 6, 2021



EQUALIZE
EDUCATE
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FACT BOOK

**NEW OPERATING TAX LEVY FOR
RIVERVIEW GARDENS SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Riverview Gardens School District

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

PROPOSITION E OPERATING TAX LEVY INCREASE

VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

You must be 17-1/2 in order to register (18 years old by Election Day). You must produce a valid form of identification (driver's license or Missouri ID) to show you are a resident of St. Louis County. All county Department of Motor Vehicle offices and other state offices providing services to communities, some schools and most City Halls, libraries, colleges and universities are voter registration sites. If you have recently moved, we may need to register again under the new address.

If you are not registered to vote and would like to know more, please visit one of the sites listed above or contact:

The St. Louis County Board of Elections

725 Northwest Plaza Dr., St. Ann, MO 63074

Phone: (314)-615-1800

<https://www.stlouisco.com/yourgovernment/elections>

IMPORTANT DATES

Deadline for Voter Registration March 10, 2021
General Municipal Election Date April 6, 2021

ACCREDITATION

The Riverview Gardens School District is provisionally accredited by Missouri's Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

DISTRICT MISSION

The Riverview Gardens School District, along with families and the community nurtures academic excellence in all scholars, preparing them to be college and career ready in an ever-changing society.

RGSD SERVES THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITIES:

The Riverview Gardens School District serves scholars and families in the surrounding areas of Bellefontaine Neighbors, Castle Point, Dellwood, Glasgow Village, Moline Acres, Riverview and portions of Ferguson, Jennings and Unincorporated St. Louis County.

For more information, please visit rgsd.k12.mo.us.

Recent Accomplishments

- Monsanto School of Excellence in Education Award (Riverview Gardens High School, Oct 2016)
- Gained Provisional Accreditation (2017)
- The International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) Model School Award (June 2017)
- Bayer School of Excellence in Education Award (Moline Elementary, 2018)
- Emerson YMCA Community Hero Award (Feb 2019)
- Established School Based Health Center (2020)
- Missouri School Board Association (MSBA) FutureBuilders Foundation Early Childhood Education Program of the Year (Sept 2020)
- Student Transfer Program ended (2021)
- Gained 1-to-1 status with technology (2021)



**The Riverview Gardens School District
TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021 - PROPOSITION E
OPERATING TAX LEVY INCREASE**

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Will the District have a measure on the April 6, 2021 ballot?

A Yes. The District's **Proposition E, an Operating Tax Levy Increase**, is on the April 6, 2021 election ballot.

Q Who determined that there should be a tax levy, the specific items to be included and the amount?

A At the December 8, 2020, Special Administrative Board (SAB) meeting and after previous meeting presentations, the SAB unanimously approved a recommendation by District administration to place Proposition E, an Operating Tax Levy Increase on the April 6, 2021 ballot. If passed, PROP E would generate an estimated \$3.481 million annually, based on the current assessed valuation, to expand early childhood education, expand transportation, improve the salary schedule to attract and retain high quality staff, align school district goals with state standards and strive to regain full accreditation.

Approval would result in an increase tax rate of \$1.65 per of assessed valuation. The current rates are \$4.1455 per \$100 assessed valuation for residential property and \$4.3500 per \$100 per of assessed valuation for commercial property. **Prop E requires a 50% majority + 1 vote for passage.**

Q How will the tax levy read on the ballot?

A Proposition E official ballot language is as follows:
“For the purpose of maintaining the current level of student programs, increasing salaries to attract and retain high quality teachers, support staff, and administrators, striving to regain full accreditation, equipping facilities and paying general operating expenses, shall the Special Administrative Board of the School District of Riverview Gardens, St. Louis County, Missouri be authorized to increase the operating tax levy ceiling of the District by \$1.65 per \$100 of assessed valuation? If this proposition is approved, the adjusted operating levy of the District per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation is estimated to be \$5.7955 for residential real property, \$6.0000 for commercial real property, \$5.8609 for agricultural real property and \$5.7677 for personal property?”

Q What is the difference between a tax levy and a bond issue?

A **TAX LEVY** is an increase in the property tax levy rate and is primarily used to generate operating funds for day-to-day expenses. Unless otherwise designated, a tax levy is permanent.

A BOND ISSUE is used to generate funds for maintaining or improving district facilities, or for equipment/technology. The sale of bonds by the District is a long-term obligation that is paid by a debt service tax levy for a period of time (generally 20 years, much like a home mortgage). Bond issue funds cannot be used for operating purposes.

Q How will tax levy funds be used?

A Prop E tax levy funds will be used only for the purposes stated in the tax levy, i.e., **expanding** access to early childhood education, **expanding** transportation to students who live within a mile, **enhancing** the salary schedule to attract and retain high quality staff and **ensuring** school district goals align with state standards.

Q What are the differences between operating funds and capital funds?

A **OPERATING FUNDS** are unrestricted and may be used for, as examples, employee salaries and benefits, supplies and materials, routine custodial and utilities costs.

CAPITAL FUNDS are used for the purchase of buildings and equipment, erection of buildings, renovation of existing buildings and the purchase of capital equipment items such as computers (and other technology items).

Q When was the last time the District passed a tax levy or bond issue?

A Nearly 19 years have passed since Riverview Gardens School District has placed a tax levy on the ballot. The last tax levy brought to voters was in April of 2002. It passed.

More recently, **on April 3, 2018**, with solid support from our community, the administration passed a \$11.7 million bond issue largely geared towards **REPAIRING, RENOVATING AND REVITALIZING** facilities and schools. Projects included upgrades to safety and security; heating and AC; technology systems; classroom and interior renovation; paving and rooftop repairs; playground upgrades; restroom renovations; curbside and exterior repairs. To date, at least 24 Prop R projects have been approved by the Special Administrative Board. At least 21 Prop R projects have been completed.

Q Why is the Riverview Gardens School District submitting a tax levy to voters?

A Thanks to a successful bond issue in 2018, a great many improvements and upgrades were made district wide. However, funds raised through a bond issue are limited to being used for maintaining or improving district facilities, or for equipment/technology. Due to a decrease in state funding, we must take action now to ensure the District can properly equip facilities and cover all operating expenses and continue to provide safe, healthy, comfortable and supportive learning environments for all scholars.

Q What will happen if the tax levy increase does not pass?

A If Prop E does not pass, Riverview Gardens School District may be forced to consider staff reductions in order to combat the District's funding challenges. The District's fund balance will continue to suffer, which would have a negative impact on the district's goal to regain full accreditation. School districts that maintain a fund balance of 3% or less are considered "financially stressed" by the Missouri Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

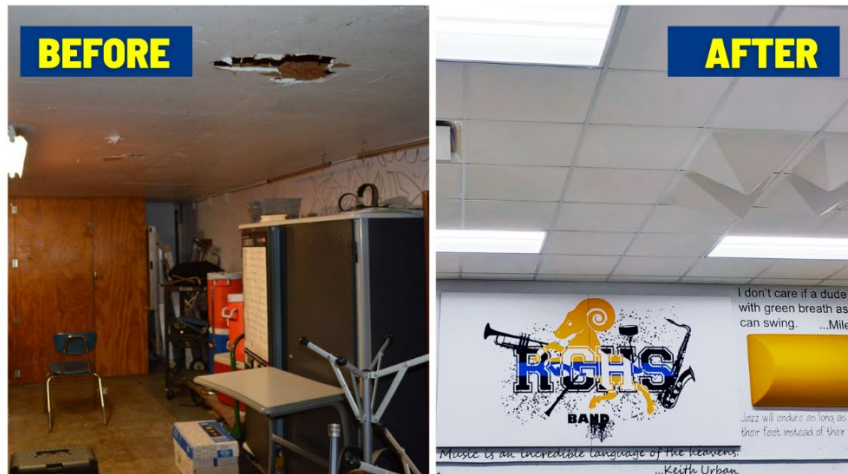
Failure to address the budget deficit may result in a reduction of extra-curricular activities including athletics, school clubs and field trips. It would likely continue to stagnate salaries, causing more employees to leave the District for higher paying jobs in surrounding school districts. It could also lead to increased class sizes.

We firmly believe that this tax levy increase is critical to ensuring the District's continued success. Our scholars and teachers are working hard and we have seen their progress. The tax levy will allow us to expand early childhood education, expand transportation services, enhance the salary schedule to attract and retain quality staff, expand health services, increase academic support services and strive to establish community and adult education programs.

Q I do not have children in the Riverview Gardens School District. Is there any benefit to me?

A Absolutely! If passed, the scope of work provided by PROP E would help support and enhance property values. In addition, the completed projects, programs and services are important to overall pride and complementary to the ongoing improvement projects across our communities.

Prop R Completed Projects



Q What exactly is the school district asking voters to consider?

RGSD Operating Tax Levy

	Residential	Commercial
Current Operating Rate	\$4.1455	\$4.350
Prop E Rate	\$5.7955	\$6.00

For additional information, please visit our website at
www.rgsd.k12.mo.us

Q What percentage of votes is needed to pass the tax levy?

A Prop E requires a simple majority of fifty-percent (50%) plus one “YES” vote in order to pass on April 6, 2021.

In 1988, Missouri voters approved an amendment to Article X, 11(c) of the Missouri Constitution stating that “...Increase of tax rate by popular vote... provided in school districts the rate of taxation as herein limited may be increased for school purposes so that the total levy shall not exceed six dollars on the hundred dollars assessed valuation.” The April 6, 2021 election is a general municipal election.

RGSD Operating Tax Levy

Increase Amount	Approval
\$.01 - \$2.75	No Voter Approval Required
\$2.76 - \$6.00	Simple Majority of Voters Required (50% + 1 Vote)
\$6.01+	Two-Thirds Majority of Voters Required (66.67%)

Q How much will my taxes increase if this measure passes?

A Proposition E will increase the current operating tax levy by \$1.65. For a home valued at \$60,000, the homeowner will see an estimated \$188.10 increase. We believe our children and our community is worth the investment. For additional estimates to see how your tax rate may be affected, please see the chart below.

Additional Tax Impact – 60K-100K Home

Assessed Valuation			\$210,986,000.00			
Approx. Home Value			\$60,000 - \$100,000			
<u>Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>Levy Increase</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Impact to Tax Bill</u>			
			<u>Home Value</u>	<u>Res. Ass. Rate</u>	<u>Total Annual Increase</u>	<u>Total Monthly Increase</u>
\$210,986,000.00	\$1.65	\$3,481,269.00	\$40K	0.19	\$125.40	\$10.45
\$210,986,000.00	\$1.65	\$3,481,269.00	\$60K	0.19	\$188.10	\$15.68
\$210,986,000.00	\$1.65	\$3,481,269.00	\$80K	0.19	\$250.80	\$20.90
\$210,986,000.00	\$1.65	\$3,481,269.00	\$100K	0.19	\$313.50	\$26.13

Starting Salaries For Area Teachers

School District	Minimum Salary
Pattonville	\$44,800
Ritenour	\$42,070
University City	\$41,931
Hazelwood	\$40,941
Ferguson-Florissant	\$39,456
St. Louis Public Schools	\$39,015
Riverview Gardens	\$38,433
Normandy	\$38,200

Riverview Gardens School District

2020-21 District Statistics

Ratings: The District has scored in the fully accredited status range and is provisionally accredited by the Missouri Department of Education.

Total District Enrollment (as of February 17, 2021) – 5,262

School Enrollment

Site	Enrollment
Danforth	268
Gibson	450
Glasgow	261
Highland	286
Koch	280
Lemasters	276
Lewis & Clark	145
Meadows	314
Moline	286
Central Middle School	727
Westview Middle School	559
Alternative Middle School	0
Riverview Gardens High School	983
Alternative High School	179
Early Childhood Education	163
Early Childhood Preschool	85

Riverview Gardens School District
April 6, 2021 Tax Levy Team

SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD:

Lynn Beckwith, Jr., Chair
Veronica Morrow-Reel, Vice-Chair
Mary Oswald, Secretary/Treasurer

ADMINISTRATION:

Scott Spurgeon, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Triplett, Assistant Superintendent, Leadership and Accountability
Stacey Nichols, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Tanya Patton, Assistant Superintendent of Community and Student Support Services
Monica Williams-Woods, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
Lavon Singleton, Chief Financial Officer
Yvonne Green, Director of Facilities
Warren Newton, Director of Safety and Security
Chad Lent, Director of Special School District
Tonya Ross, District Curriculum Coordinator
Shannon Ebron, Director of Child Nutrition Services
Jesolyn Larry, Director of Technology
Phil Kennedy, Executive Director of Assessment
Patricia Layman, Human Resources Manager
Stefanie Arnold, Payroll Administrator
Barbara Sharp, Professional Development Coordinator/PDC
Stephanie Shumpert, Students in Transitions Coordinator

PRINCIPALS:

Traci Nave – Riverview Gardens High School, Principal
Dominic LeNoir – Westview Middle School, Principal
Rachel Clark – Central Middle School, Principal
LaKena Curtis – Glasgow Elementary, Principal
Crystal Henderson – Gibson Elementary, Principal
Sheri Schjolberg – Danforth Elementary, Principal
LaShanda Johnson – Koch Elementary, Principal
Tiandra Bland – Lewis & Clark Elementary, Principal
Shaun Jones – Highland Elementary, Principal
Travis Brown – Lemasters Elementary, Principal
Amber White – Moline Elementary, Principal
Windy Winfield – Meadows Elementary, Principal
E'mita Meeks-Williams – Michelle Obama ECAC, Interim Director

COMMUNICATIONS:

Ishmael Sistrunk, Executive Director of Communications (314) 869-2505, ext. 22242
Leata Price-Land, Secretary
Carolyn McClain-Smith, Substitute Secretary (314) 869-2505, ext. 28129