

Rogers Millage Election -- May 9, 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a mill and how much will the proposed millage increase cost homeowners?

A mill is one-tenth of a penny. A 3.5 mill increase in property taxes will cost about \$6 per month for a \$100,000 home.

How much is the district growing? We have added 3,000 new students since 2003. Our enrollment has been growing about 2% per year. This year, however, we saw an increase of 350 students in one year, filling much of the capacity we had at the elementary level.

How will the funds be used? The increase would fund two additional elementary schools to relieve overcrowding as well as provide money to improve safety, security and older facilities as well as fund essential technology infrastructure needs.

How soon will we need additional schools? We are quickly reaching capacity at the elementary level. It typically takes about two years to plan and build an elementary school. The first elementary school would open in August 2019 if the millage is approved. The second elementary is projected to open in 2021, but the timeline can be adjusted based on the need.

Where will the schools be located? The district owns property in the growing southwest portion of the district on Garrett Road so that could be a potential location for the school board to consider. The district will also be looking at identifying more property in high growth areas for future schools.

How does the Rogers millage rate compare to other area rates? Rogers has the second lowest millage rate in the region at 38.4 mills.

How long has it been since the last millage increase? 14 years

Does the school district have a long-range facility plan? Yes, the district annually calculates enrollment projections based on three-, five- and ten-year enrollment trends. These enrollment numbers along with information about new housing projects help the school board and administration decide when it is time to update the district's long-range facility plan and build additional schools.

Where do you plan to make facility improvements? With more than 2.9 million square feet of existing facilities, we will try to make improvements throughout the district and maximize the funding that the voters approve. Some of the proposed projects include exterior lighting, video cameras in strategic locations, fencing security and preservation of the investment in older schools.

What will happen if the millage doesn't pass? Rogers voters know that the school district only asks for an increase when it is truly necessary, and they have never voted down an increase request. If it fails, we will need to ask again and deal with overcrowding and the negative effects on the district's reputation and property values until funding can be secured.

When can voters cast their ballots? Polling sites will be open from 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on May 9 at Southside Church of Christ (919 S. Dixieland, Rogers), Central United Methodist Church (2535 W. New Hope Road, Rogers), Prairie Creek POA Community Center (14432 E. Hwy. 12, Rogers), Lowell First Baptist Church (405 Johnson Ave., Lowell), and NEBCO Community Building (17823 Marshall St. - Hwy. 62, Garfield). Early voting will begin Tuesday, May 2, and will end Monday, May 8, during normal office hours from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Benton County Clerk's Offices (1428 W. Walnut in Rogers, and 215 E. Central in Bentonville).