



November 7, 2017

M&O Budget Override Election

Fact Sheet

Local voters will be asked to continue to support our local schools with a Maintenance & Operations (M&O) Budget Override. FHUSD is requesting voters approve a rate of 15 percent, an additional 2 percent over the current 13 percent Override.

About Overrides

Arizona state law allows school districts to seek voter approval to increase their annual M&O budget up to 15 percent over the per pupil funding level set by the state legislators. M&O funds are used almost exclusively for teachers and staff salaries.

Why is the Election Being Held?

The District is requesting a 15 percent M&O Override, a slight increase from the current rate of 13 percent. The increase is being sought so the District can maintain current programs and increase teacher and staff compensation. The override before the voters is for seven (7) years. It would provide approximately \$1,115,857 million annually for 5 years and then be reduced by one-third in the sixth and seventh year. It would be funded in the first year by an estimated tax rate of \$0.24 per \$100 of secondary assessed valuation. This is approximately \$0.03 higher than the existing secondary tax rate for the current override.

How Will Your Taxes Be Affected?

The current yearly tax for the existing override is approximately \$21 per \$100,000 in assessed value of a home. The requested increase in the override to 15 percent will result in approximately an additional \$3 in the yearly property tax per \$100,000 of assessed value of a home, bringing the new total to \$24 per \$100,000 of assessed value of a home. The assessed value of a home is set by the Maricopa County Assessor's Office and is frequently lower than current market value of a home.

What will the Override do for Students?

- Maintain All-day Kindergarten
- Provide Teacher Salary Increases
- Provide Professional Development
- Hire Additional Staff for Reading Literacy Support
- Financially reward staff for outstanding performance
- Enable the District to maintain its outstanding award winning programs

What Happens if the M&O Override is Not Approved?

The existing override is part of the district's "funding foundation" and cannot be replaced with other funds. Renewal is vital to the academic success of our students. The district will ultimately have to cut \$1,100,000 million if the current override is completely phased out. Programs for students will be reduced or eliminated, salaries will not be competitive with surrounding school districts, and class sizes will increase.

When is the Election?

Election Day is Tuesday, November 7, 2017. A ballot will be mailed to EVERY registered voter starting October 11, 2017. Ballots may be returned by mail or dropped off at ballot centers, prior to, or on election day. Voters may also vote in-person at a ballot center. For more information regarding these new voting procedures, please call Maricopa County Elections Office at 602-506-3535 or visit : www.recorder.maricopa.gov/elections.

FHUSD Highlights

- Strong Academics
- Comprehensive Fine Arts Program
- Tremendous Athletic & Extracurricular opportunities
- Community-centered & Community supported
- Safe schools in a nurturing environment
- High achieving students



FOUNTAIN HILLS
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT