



Be the BEST (Back Education for Students Today) Vote!

On November ballots, voters will see two referendums related to funding for our schools. Passing these two referendums is crucial for our school district to secure essential funding for teacher salaries and capital projects.

The Monroe County School District has relied on these two funding sources - known as the $\frac{1}{2}$ mill and $\frac{1}{2}$ cent - for the past twenty years.

FACTS ON THE 1/2 MILL

- ✓ This referendum does NOT increase individual tax bills. It will however determine whether the school district can use the revenue for the Operating Fund.
- ✓ The current $\frac{1}{2}$ mill generates \$27 million or a little over 16% of the district's operating fund revenues, which equates to \$3,046 loss per student if the referendum fails.
- ✓ What have we done with our revenues? Monroe County has been able to attract and retain highly skilled teachers and staff with competitive pay and benefits that allow them to find housing and maintain a comfortable life-style for themselves and their families.
- ✓ Without the $\frac{1}{2}$ mill the Monroe County School District will face a major operating budget shortfall that will impact each classroom.

FACTS ON THE 1/2 CENT

- ✓ This referendum does not increase sales tax – it is a continuance of the current $\frac{1}{2}$ cent sales tax. It will determine whether the school district can use the much-needed revenue for the Capital Fund.

- ✓ The current ½ cent sales tax generates \$26 million or a little over 48% of the district's capital fund revenues.
- ✓ What have we done with our revenues? We used it to build new facilities, renovate existing ones, enhance security measures, upgrade technology, and purchase new school buses. Additionally, a portion of the funds supported our charter schools, ensuring equitable resources across the district.
- ✓ Without the ½ cent sales tax referendum the Monroe County School District will face a major capital budget shortfall.

Voting for these two referendums will enable us to continue to attract and retain high quality staff, while also enhancing school security measures for all Monroe County students. In addition to teacher salaries, we also use these funds to build new facilities as needed, renovate existing ones, enhance security measures, and upgrade technology.

The following projects show how we use these funds:

- The construction and renovation of Plantation Key, Gerald Adams, Switlik and Sugarloaf Schools
- The renovation of athletic complexes at Key West High School, Marathon Middle/High School, Coral Shores High School, Key Largo School and Tommy Roberts Memorial Stadium.
- Construction of the lower keys operations annex.
- Annual safety and security upgrades and improvements at all district buildings
- An annual refresh of technology, devices and software.

With funding from the upcoming referendum, we will continue to use these funds for similar projects and we will be able to purchase new school buses for our students, which are necessary to meet ongoing transportation needs for our students.

A portion of the funds will support our charter schools, ensuring equitable resources across the district. Approval of this referendum ensures we can continue to provide a safe, modern, and effective learning environment for all our students.

Ultimately, all funding from these resources benefit the education of the students of the Monroe County School District.