

$\frac{1}{2}$ Mill Referendum
“Renew the Promise”
Flexible Funding for Monroe County Schools

- ✓ The District’s objective is to continue to make available a portion of the existing capital ad valorem tax levy for operations – such as teachers, school nurses and classroom materials. The District intends to continue its reduced millage for capital projects, and continue to make available the equivalent amount for operations.
- ✓ The voters will be asked to approve a renewal of the $\frac{1}{2}$ mill on March 15, 2016. The $\frac{1}{2}$ mill was first approved in March 2003 to be assessed in the 2004 tax year and was renewed twice since the initial vote. Those elections were held in January of 2008 and January of 2012 and passed by overwhelming margins.
- ✓ The current $\frac{1}{2}$ mill generates \$11.3 million or a little over 12% of the District’s revenues and is used for the items noted above.
- ✓ What have we done with our revenues? We promised the voters that we would use a large portion of the referendum revenue for the teachers. As of last year, Monroe County teachers had the highest average and median salaries in the State.
- ✓ It is important to understand that no matter how anyone votes on the referendum it will not increase individual tax bills. It will only affect where the school district can use the revenue - either the General Fund or the Capital Fund. Our Capital Fund balances are sufficient to meet the needs of the capital program.
- ✓ Should the $\frac{1}{2}$ mill fail to be approved by the voters then the Monroe County School District will face a major budget shortfall. Should the General Fund absorb a \$11.3 million budget reduction in the next fiscal year, it would most likely have a detrimental effect on student outcomes and assuredly have a devastating effect on our employees.
- ✓ District schools continue to perform well on State required tests. School grades (including charter schools) released on February 12, 2016, show that ten district schools earned a grade of “A”, five schools earned a “B”, and one school earned a “C” grade. In addition, the District earned an overall grade of “A”.