



# STRONG SCHOOLS... STRONG COMMUNITIES.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PROPOSED 1 MILL REFERENDUM



## COUNTYWIDE SCHOOL QUESTION

Shall the School Board of Palm Beach County have authority to levy 1.00 mills of ad valorem millage dedicated for operational needs of non-charter District schools to fund school safety equipment, hire additional school police and mental health professionals, fund arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers, and improve teacher pay beginning July 1, 2019 and automatically ending June 30, 2023, with oversight by the independent committee of citizens and experts?



### What is the need?

**Enhance school safety.** The District is committed to placing a certified law enforcement officer in every school. Funds from the approved mill will also be utilized to outfit Police Officers and Schools with the most up-to-date safety equipment.

**Hire additional school counselors and mental health professionals.** The community's children are growing up in rapidly changing and complex times.

Additional mental health counselors and school counselors will support the social and emotional development of students.

**Improve teacher pay.** By enhancing teacher pay through retention supplements, schools will be able to improve upon academic achievements and keep their best teachers.

**Keep arts and music education.** Continue to fund over 650 Art, Music, PE, Health, Choice and Career education teachers.

Ensure there are no cuts made to existing teaching staff levels.



### How will the money be spent?

- Continue to fund over 650 Art, Music, PE, Health, Choice and Career education teachers
- Add more School Police Officers and safety equipment
- Hire additional mental health professionals, school counselors, school social workers and school psychologists
- Maintain current teaching staff levels
- Improve teacher pay for experienced teachers



### Accountability to taxpayers

Every dollar collected and spent will be overseen by an independent Referendum Oversight Committee of citizens and experts.

If approved by voters, the levy would automatically expire after four years.



### How much will teachers receive?

Teachers will receive annual retention supplements based on their years of experience as follows:

- \$1,000 Retention Supplement
  - Full-time teacher with 1 to 4 years of experience.
- \$5,000 Retention Supplement
  - Full-time teacher with 5 to 9 years of experience.
- \$10,000 Retention Supplement
  - Full-time teacher with 10 or more years of experience.

Unlike various State bonus programs, these Retention Supplements will count towards a teacher's Florida Retirement System (FRS) pension benefit and be paid out on a bi-weekly basis along with base salary.



### When is the election?

Voters will find the countywide ballot question on the November 6 ballot. To request a ballot by mail, call the Supervisor of Elections offices at (561) 656-6200.



### What about the lottery money?

Most of the Florida Lottery funds go to the Bright Futures Scholarships for graduating seniors and higher education. The District receives enough lottery money each year to fund just two days of operational expenses.



### Will Charter Schools receive any portion of this funding?

No. Funds generated by the levy will be dedicated solely to traditional District-operated non-charter public schools.

**ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 6**

