

# APPOQUINIMINK SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

## TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held on December 12, 2023, in the Appoquinimink School District (“ASD” or the “District”) in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 19, 20, and 21 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, in order to permit the voters of the District to vote either for or against each of the following three items:

**Section 1:**

**To support the increased growth and ongoing district operations, the Appoquinimink School District is seeking authority to levy and collect an additional \$0.4300 per \$100 of assessed value in local school taxes for current operating expenses as set forth below, effective July 1, 2024 and every year thereafter on all assessed taxable real estate in the District to fund operating expenses totaling \$12,029,694.**

For a property in the District assessed at a rate of \$92,700 (Appoquinimink School District average assessment), the increased current expense cost to the homeowner would be \$398.61 per year.

The purpose of this proposed tax increase is to provide funding for programs such as, but not limited to, the following:

- Continued staff retention and recruitment to support the growth of the District.
- Safety and Security initiatives including constables and weapons detection system.
- Sustaining programs and services affected by growth such as curriculum, instructional materials, and maintenance of theater, music, band and performing arts equipment.
- Operating expenses associated with enrollment growth, including, but not limited to, 1:1 devices for all students, software and hardware for staff, and IT maintenance support.

**Section 2:**

**To support continued enrollment growth, the Appoquinimink School District is seeking authority to issue bonds in the amount of \$66,663,550 to be used for funding for the following:**

- **Construction of a New High School and New Middle School – Planning, construction, and equipment for the building of a new 1,600 student capacity high school and a new 1,000 student capacity middle school to address enrollment growth and capacity issues.**
- **Construction of a New Elementary School – Planning, construction, and equipment for the building of a new 840 student capacity elementary school to address enrollment growth and capacity issues.**

The bonds represent \$66,663,550 or 23% (Appoquinimink School District’s local share) of the total cost of \$289,841,521 for the three projects listed above.

\$223,177,971 – State’s Share  
\$66,663,550 – District’s Local Share  
 \$289,841,521 – Total

If the District is authorized to issue bonds, the District shall levy and collect additional taxes to provide for the payment of interest on the bonds and for the retirement of the bonds as they fall due. The cost of the bonds will adjust to market rates. The amount of each annual tax increase that would be imposed as a result of the proposed bond issuance, depending upon market conditions, is estimated as follows:

Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond to Fund Three New Schools	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Three New Schools	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Three New Schools	Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond to Fund Three New Schools	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Three New Schools	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Three New Schools
1	2025	0.0300	0.3971	0.0300	12	2036	0.0300	0.3148	-0.0823
2	2026	0.0300	0.3971	0.0000	13	2037	0.0300	0.3037	-0.0934
3	2027	0.0300	0.3971	0.0000	14	2038	0.0300	0.2928	-0.1043
4	2028	0.0300	0.3971	0.0000	15	2039	0.0300	0.2525	-0.1446
5	2029	0.0300	0.3971	0.0000	16	2040	0.0300	0.2097	-0.1874
6	2030	0.0300	0.3971	0.0000	17	2041	0.0300	0.1806	-0.2165
7	2031	0.0300	0.3954	-0.0017	18	2042	0.0300	0.1488	-0.2483
8	2032	0.0300	0.3717	-0.0254	19	2043	0.0300	0.1347	-0.2624
9	2033	0.0300	0.3492	-0.0479	20	2044	0.0300	0.1047	-0.2924
10	2034	0.0300	0.3375	-0.0598	21	2045	0.0300	0.0925	-0.3046
11	2035	0.0300	0.3261	-0.0711	22	2046	0.0300	0.0559	-0.3413

Notes regarding the above table: Estimated “Annual Tax Increase amounts” are rounded and are stated in Cents/\$100 of Assessed Value. The “Annual Tax Rate” is based on the District’s current debt service rate (\$0.3671 per \$100 of assessed value) and several other factors

including market interest rates. Retirement of existing debt will offset annual tax increases in future years. The calculations in the above table were prepared without regard to any future referenda that may be pursued by the District.

For a property in the District assessed at a value of \$92,700 (Appoquinimink School District average assessment), the increased debt service cost to the homeowner would be \$27.81 per year.

**Section 3:**

**To address needed capital improvements, the Appoquinimink School District is seeking authority to issue bonds in the amount of \$70,874,375 to be used for funding of the projects in Section 2 plus funding for the following:**

- **Bus Lot for A.G. Waters Middle School – Planning, construction, and equipment for the construction of a bus lot behind the school. Projected cost is \$4,210,825.**

The amount of the bonds for the Bus Lot item above represents 100% of the total cost of the project, which is \$4,210,825.

If the District is authorized to issue bonds, the District shall levy and collect additional taxes to provide for the payment of interest on the bonds and for the retirement of the bonds as they fall due. The cost of the bonds will adjust to market rates. The amount of each annual tax increase that would be imposed as a result of the proposed bond issuance, depending upon market conditions, is estimated as follows:

Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond to Fund Three New Schools (Section 2), and Capital Improvement listed above (Section 3)	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Two New Schools and Land (Section 2), and Capital Improvement listed above (Section 3)	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Two New Schools and Land (Section 2), and Capital Improvement listed above (Section 3)	Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond to Fund Three New Schools (Section 2), and Capital Improvement listed above (Section 3)	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Three New Schools (Section 2), and Capital Improvement listed above (Section 3)	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of this Proposed Bond Issuance to Fund Three New Schools (Section 2), and Capital Improvement listed above (Section 3)
1	2021	0.0400	0.4071	0.0400	12	2032	0.0400	0.2356	-0.1615
2	2022	0.0400	0.4071	0.0400	13	2033	0.0400	0.2302	-0.1669
3	2023	0.0400	0.4071	0.0400	14	2034	0.0400	0.2248	-0.1723
4	2024	0.0400	0.4071	0.0147	15	2035	0.0400	0.2195	-0.1776
5	2025	0.0400	0.4070	0.0099	16	2036	0.0400	0.2144	-0.1827
6	2026	0.0400	0.3653	-0.0318	17	2037	0.0400	0.2093	-0.1878
7	2027	0.0400	0.3271	-0.0700	18	2038	0.0400	0.2043	-0.1928
8	2028	0.0400	0.3121	-0.0850	19	2039	0.0400	0.1635	-0.2336
9	2029	0.0400	0.2697	-0.1274	20	2040	0.0400	0.1169	-0.2802
10	2030	0.0400	0.2628	-0.1343	21	2041	0.0400	0.0742	-0.3229
11	2031	0.0400	0.2411	-0.1560	22	2042	0.0400	0.0482	-0.3489

Notes regarding the above table: Estimated “Annual Tax Increase Amounts” are rounded and are in stated in Cents/\$100 of Assessed Value. The “Annual Tax Rate” is based on the District’s current debt service rate (\$0.3671 per \$100 of assessed value) and several other factors including market interest rates. Retirement of existing debt will offset annual tax increases in future years. The calculations in the above table were prepared without regard to any future referenda that may be pursued by the District.

For a property in the District assessed at a value of \$92,700 (Appoquinimink School District average assessment), the increased debt service cost to the homeowner for capital improvements in Section 3 would be \$9.27 per year.

The increased debt service cost to the homeowner for both Section 2 (three new schools) and Section 3 (A.G. Waters Middle School Bus Lot) would be a total of \$37.08 per year.

## VOTER INFORMATION

**Voters may only vote one time in this special election even if the voter has more than one child attending school in the Appoquinimink School District.**

The polls for the Special Election will be open on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 AM and will remain open until 8:00 PM. Voters may vote in any of the following designated polling places, all of which are accessible to voters with disabilities:

**Alfred G. Waters Middle School**  
1235 Cedar Lane Rd., Middletown

**Lorewood Grove Elementary School**  
820 Mapleton Ave., Middletown

**Silver Lake Elementary School**  
200 E. Cochran St., Middletown

**Brick Mill Elementary School**  
378 Brick Mill Rd., Middletown

**Olive B. Loss Elementary School**  
200 Brennan Blvd., Bear

**Old State Elementary School**  
580 Tony Marchio Dr., Townsend

**Bunker Hill Elementary School**  
1070 Bunker Hill Rd., Middletown

**Marion E. Proffitt Training Center**  
118 S. Sixth St., Odessa

**Townsend Elementary School**  
126 Main St., Townsend

**Crystal Run Elementary School**  
1470 Aviator Way, Middletown

**Middletown High School**  
120 Silver Lake Rd., Middletown

### **QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE**

- Must be a citizen of the United States and Delaware
- Must be a resident of the Appoquinimink School District
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- You do NOT have to be a registered voter for purposes of a general election

### **ABSENTEE BALLOT**

***You may vote by absentee ballot if you cannot vote at a polling place on the day of election for one of the following reasons:***

- You are temporarily or permanently disabled;
- You are serving in the public service of the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- You are the spouse or a dependent living with or accompanying a person serving the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- The nature of your job or occupation does not permit you to go to the polls;
- You are sick;
- The tenets or teachings of your religion prevent you from voting on the days or times set for the election;
- You are incarcerated but otherwise eligible to vote;
- You are away on vacation;
- You are the caregiver to a parent, spouse or that person's child who is living at home and requires constant care due to illness or injury;
- You are temporarily living outside of the U.S.;
- You cannot go to the polls because of illness or injury received while serving in the Armed Forces; or
- You serve in the Armed Forces, Red Cross, U.S.O., or the Merchant Marine; or
- You are authorized pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) [42 U.S.C § 1973ff et seq.], or any other federal law, to vote by absentee ballot.

### ***To vote by absentee ballot:***

- Download an Absentee Application from <https://de.gov/schabsapp>; request one by email at [absentee@delaware.gov](mailto:absentee@delaware.gov); or request one by phone at 302-577-3464.
- If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you, send a completed application so that it arrives at the Department of Elections, New Castle County Office no later than 12 Noon, Friday, December 8th, 2023. You may either email the completed application to [absentee@delaware.gov](mailto:absentee@delaware.gov), or mail it to 820 N. French St., Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19801-3512.
- In order to be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received at the Department of Elections, New Castle County Office, 820 N French St, Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19801 no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, 2023.
- Vote in person by absentee ballot at the Department of Elections, New Castle County Office, Mon-Fri from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Friday, December 8, 2023, or from 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon on Monday, December 11, 2023.
- NOTE: If you are a voter with a "permanent absentee status", this status does cover school elections. You will not automatically be mailed an absentee ballot. You must request one. Please follow instructions above to request an absentee ballot.

### **PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION AND ADDRESS**

- Persons appearing to vote must present satisfactory proof of identity and address to the Election Officers at the Polling Place before being permitted to vote. Persons who do not present satisfactory proof of identity and address, may – upon majority vote of the Inspector and the two Judges – be permitted to vote.

**By Order of the APPOQUINIMINK SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

**Michelle Wall**, President  
**Matthew Burrows**, Executive Secretary and Superintendent

**Posted in accordance with Delaware Code, Title 14, Section 1074. Do not remove until December 13th, 2023.**