

INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held on March 20, 2025, in the Indian River School District ("IRSD" or the "District") pursuant to resolutions duly adopted on January 16, 2025 by the Board of Education of said school district, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 19 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, in order to permit the voters of the District to vote either for or against the following:

Authority to Levy Additional Operating Taxes

To support ongoing district operations, the Indian River School District is seeking authority to levy and collect an additional \$1.2105 per \$100 of assessed value in local school taxes for current operating expenses as set forth below, effective July 1, 2025, and every year thereafter, on all assessed taxable real estate in the District. If approved, the total amount to be raised through this additional tax in FY 2026 shall be \$22,515,776.

For a property in the District assessed at a rate of \$23,893 (Indian River School District average assessment), the annual increased current expense cost to the homeowner would be \$289.23 per year effective July 1, 2025.

The purpose of this proposed tax increase is to:

- Allocate resources for the continued retention and recruitment of talented educators and support staff.
- Ensure adequate resources to manage increased operating costs in utilities, personnel, maintenance costs, transportation, instructional materials and supplies, technology, and special education services.
- Continue to support increased safety and security costs to safeguard our schools and ensure a secure environment.
- Continue to maintain curricular and other instructional programming.
- Continue to maintain extra-curricular programming including, but not limited to, Visual and Performing Arts, Athletics and Clubs.

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 Indian River School District.

The polling places for the Special Election will be open on Thursday, March 20, 2025, at 7:00 AM and will remain open until 8:00 PM. *In the event that the Special Election is postponed by the District due to severe weather, the Special Election will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2025, with polling places open from 7:00 AM until 8:00 PM.*

Voters may vote in any of the following designated polling places, all of which are accessible to voters with disabilities:

East Millsboro Elementary School
29346 Iron Branch Rd., Millsboro, DE 19966

Georgetown Elementary School
301-A West Market St., Georgetown, DE 19947

Indian River High School
29772 Armory Rd., Dagsboro, DE 19939

Long Neck Elementary School
26064 School Lane, Millsboro, DE 19966

Lord Baltimore Elementary School
120 Atlantic Ave., Ocean View, DE 19970

Millville Community Center
32517 Dukes Dr., Millville, DE 19967

Selbyville Middle School
80 Bethany Rd., Selbyville, DE 19975

Sussex Central High School
26026 Patriots Way, Georgetown, DE 19947

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

- Must be a citizen of the United States and Delaware
- Must be a resident of the Indian River 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:

1. You are in the public service of the United States or the State of Delaware, or are a Citizen of the U.S. temporarily residing outside the territorial limits of the U.S. and the District of Columbia, or such person's spouse or dependent when residing with or accompanying such person, or absent from this State because of illness or injury while serving the Armed Forces of the U.S.
2. You are in the Armed Forces of the U.S. or the Merchant Marine of the U.S., or attached to and serving with the Armed Forces of the U.S. in the American Red Cross or United Service Organizations.
3. Due to the nature of your business or occupation. This reason includes:
 - a. the business or occupation of providing care to one's parent, spouse, or child who is living at home and requires constant care due to illness, disability, or injury;
 - b. students; and
 - c. otherwise eligible persons who are incarcerated.
4. You are sick or physically disabled (temporarily or permanently).
5. You are absent from the district while on vacation.
6. You are unable to vote at a certain time or on a certain day due to the tenets or teachings of your religion.
7. You are otherwise authorized pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) to vote by absentee ballot.
8. You are otherwise authorized by 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 absenteesc@delaware.gov; or request one by phone at 302-856-5367.

- If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you, send a completed application so that it arrives at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office no later than 12 p.m., Friday, March 14, 2025. You may either email the completed application to absenteesc@delaware.gov, or mail it to PO Box 457, Georgetown, DE 19947-0457.
- In order to be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office, 119 N. Race Street, Georgetown, DE 19947 no later than 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 20, 2025.
- Vote in person by absentee ballot at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, or from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.
- In the event that the Special Election is postponed by the District due to severe weather, votes cast by absentee ballot as set forth above will be counted. Voters who have voted by absentee ballot will not need to vote again.
- In the event that the Special Election is postponed by the District due to severe weather and you will be unable to vote at a polling place on the rescheduled date of March 27, 2025 due to one of the reasons for voting by absentee ballot listed above, you may vote by absentee ballot.
 - If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you for the rescheduled date, send a completed application so that it arrives at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office no later than 12 p.m., Friday, March 20, 2025. You may either email the completed application to absenteesc@delaware.gov, or mail it to PO Box 457, Georgetown, DE 19947-0457.
 - If you want to vote by absentee ballot on the rescheduled date, send a completed absentee ballot upon the postponement must be received at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office, 119 N. Race Street, Georgetown, DE 19947 no later than 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025.
- NOTE: If you are a voter with a "permanent absentee status", this status does not 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.

Contact Indian River School District at 302-436-1079 with any questions you may have regarding the referendum.

By Order of the INDIAN RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Leolga T. Wright, President

Posted in accordance with Delaware Code, Title 14, Section 1074. Do not remove until March 28, 2025.

Jennifer Troublefield
February 13, 2025
Sussex County, Delaware

JENNIFER TROUBLEFIELD
 NOTARY PUBLIC
 STATE OF DELAWARE
 My Commission Expires Upon Term