

# Monroe School District No. 103

## Proposition 1

### Ballot Title

Replacement Educational Technology and Capital Projects Levy

The Board of Directors of Monroe School District #103 adopted Resolution No. 9-2010 concerning a Replacement Educational Technology and Capital Projects Levy. This proposition would authorize the modernization, renovation and improvement of existing facilities and the acquisition of technology and equipment; and authorize the District to levy following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District

Collection Years	Approximate Levy	
	Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2011	\$0.54	\$2,440,000
2012	\$0.54	\$2,500,000
2013	\$0.63	\$2,985,000
2014	\$0.64	\$3,075,000

all as provided in District Resolution No. 9-2010. Should this proposition be approved?

### Explanatory Statement

Monroe School District seeks voter approval of a special levy to fund educational technology and capital projects. The levy would improve student access to technology for academics as well as skills needed in the workplace. In addition to educational tools, students also need adequate spaces to learn. Capital projects funded by this levy would include installing new roofing, replacing deteriorated walkways, flooring and structures, improving safety, and updating heating, ventilation, electrical and plumbing systems. In accordance with Resolution No. 9-2010 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the district's Capital Projects Fund and would allow the levy of \$2,440,000 in property taxes within Monroe School District for collection in 2011, the levy of \$2,500,000 for collection in 2012, the levy of \$2,985,000 for collection in 2013, and the levy of \$3,075,000 for collection in 2014. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2011, \$0.54 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2012, \$0.63 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2013 and \$0.64 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2014.

argument statements for this proposition on the next page

# Monroe School District No. 103

## Proposition 1 (continued)

### Statement For

*Statements by: Laura Bryant,  
Tracy Daugherty, Jim Scott*

Thank you voters for the soon-to-expire 2008 levy that installed new sections of roofing at four schools, replaced failing heaters in our oldest middle schools, and improved access to technology for many Monroe students.

Reduced state funding makes it impossible to maintain schools or provide adequate technology without regularly asking taxpayers for additional support.

Monroe once led the state in educational technology. We now trail comparable districts across the state and in our own backyard. Students see significant academic gains and increased desire to learn in classrooms with multi-media technology and teachers trained to effectively use it. Without your support to close this gap Monroe's next generation will suffer. Please don't let that happen.

Learning environments impact academic success. Even with the best of care, many of our schools are at an age when the basics – roofs, heaters, flooring and more – have exceeded their useful life. Moving children around to avoid leaky roofs or because classroom heaters have failed, negatively affects learning. Your support is vital for all kids to have safe classrooms that support learning.

As they prepare to enter college or start their first careers, our children must have educational opportunities equivalent to those that young people experience in communities that consistently provide this additional support.

Your YES vote can extend this levy for four years at a cost, for the average homeowner, of about 13 cents more per day than the expiring levy. We urge you to vote YES. Monroe's youth cannot afford the alternative.

### Statement Against

*Statements by: Debra Kolrud,  
Sue Magruder, Julie Martinoli*

Taxes for Monroe School District (MSD) have rapidly increased while traditional enrollment, currently at 2001 levels, continues to decrease. If this levy is approved, the total MSD tax rate will nearly double since 2008, increasing from \$2.54 to \$4.89 per thousand of assessed property value. Since property values have decreased, citizens would logically anticipate a drop in taxes. However, at the 2008 rate of \$2.54 the taxes due on a \$300,000 home were \$762.00. Today, the same home assessed at a 17% devaluation to \$249,000, would incur \$1217.61 in taxes at the proposed \$4.89 rate. This represents an increase of \$455.61!!!

Prior to the 2008 election, taxpayers funded the District with \$34.7million. Since then, taxpayers have approved an additional \$18.4 million for Maintenance and Operations (a 52% increase), \$4.7 million capital/technology levy and \$800,000 for buses. This represents "new" funding of \$23.9 million, a 68% increase from \$34.7 to \$58.6 million.

A "NO" vote will lower your taxes, bringing the tax rate to \$4.35. This is still a generous 42% tax increase. How many voters have received a 68% or even a 42% increase in their income since 2008?

Voters soundly rejected this measure in April. The District, with complete disregard for the vote of the people, insisted upon re-running this levy, incurring further election expense in addition to the April election cost of \$42,818.00. A vote "NO" will lower taxes, but just as importantly communicate to the District that they must operate within their means.

PLEASE VOTE NO!

### Rebuttal of Statement Against

Sadly, the Con Committee's analysis would not meet standard on the state's 7th grade math exam. Nothing is more important for the future of our children and our community than ensuring young people have the education needed to succeed. Results of April's election were close. Many requested another try. Now Monroe voters have a second chance to decide if our kids go back to doing without or go forward prepared for their future. Vote YES.

### Rebuttal of Statement For

Reduced state funding?? According to the District's general fund budget, current state funding per student is \$6,015.71. In 2008/09 it was \$5,997.76. INCREASE! Local tax funding per student is \$1,714.41 versus \$1,381.12 in 2008/09. INCREASE! Total state and local increase: \$351.24. What part of this is reduced funding? Students will achieve significant academic gains by the redirection of funds to the classroom. Fiscally responsible leadership is needed, not another tax increase. PLEASE VOTE NO!