

2023 MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS SPECIAL BUDGET OVERRIDE ELECTION



CASA GRANDE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL DISTRICT #4

On Tuesday, November 7, 2023, the registered voters of the Casa Grande Elementary School District #4 will be asked to vote to approve the continuation of a 10% Maintenance and Operations Budget Override for our school district. This continues the existing 10% Maintenance and Operations Budget Override last approved by voters in 2018. With voter approval to continue the override, it is estimated that the total amount of the override for fiscal year 2024/25 will be \$4,836,755. If the override is not approved, the existing 10% override will phase out by reducing by one-third in 2024/25 and another one-third in fiscal year 2025/26, and terminate thereafter. The estimated secondary tax rate needed to fund the full override is .78 per \$100 of net assessed valuation for secondary tax purposes.

NOT A NEW TAX

RENEWS AN EXISTING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS
BUDGET OVERRIDE FOR THE
CASA GRANDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT
THAT HAS BEEN IN EXISTENCE SINCE 2000

QUALITY EDUCATION

PROVIDES FUNDING SOURCE TO CONTINUE
SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS THAT
PROVIDE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT
STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

MAINTAIN CLASS SIZES

MAINTAIN CLASS SIZES WITHIN DISTRICT-
ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES

HIGHLY EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

OVERRIDE FUNDS CONTRIBUTE TO
COMPETITIVE TEACHER PAY ALLOWING THE
DISTRICT TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN HIGHLY
EFFECTIVE TEACHERS

The CGESD Override maintains support for essential programming within the district. Expenditures of the override are presented to the Governing Board and audited annually. All override funds are distributed across the entire school district budget. Any questions regarding facts about the CGESD Special Budget Override Election can be addressed by contacting Nicole Wheatcroft at Nicole.Wheatcroft@cgesd.org

CAMPAIGNING AND ADVOCACY GUIDELINES

It is imperative that campaigning and advocacy efforts of ballot measures by school board members and school employees stay within the bounds of the law. Arizona Revised Statutes section 15-511 (A.R.S. §15-511) prohibits school districts from using school resources to influence the outcome of an election.

THIS IS WHAT A.R.S. §15-511 PROHIBITS:

- It prohibits school boards (collectively, as a board) from making statements or passing resolutions in favor of, or in opposition to, a ballot measure or candidate.
- It prohibits school employees, when on school time, from activities that would influence the outcome of a ballot measure or candidate.
- It prohibits the use of school property including equipment, paper, copiers, social media, buildings, computers, etc., from being used to influence the outcome of a ballot measure or candidate.
- It prohibits Arizona school districts from expending funds for membership in an organization that attempts to influence the outcome of an election. This includes associations like ASBA, AASBO, ASA and chambers of commerce if these organizations attempt to influence the outcome of elections through endorsements or contributions.
- It prohibits students being given campaign material intended to influence the outcome of an election or outcome of legislation. Because this is an area of the law with special emphasis, and the only area that includes legislation influencing, the best practice is to avoid children taking home any material that might be deemed political.

A.R.S. §15-511 DOES NOT COMPLETELY TIE THE HANDS OF INDIVIDUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS OR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES, HOWEVER, THIS IS WHAT THE LAW DOES NOT PROHIBIT:

- Individual board members or school employees not on school time MAY exercise their free speech rights and get involved in elections campaigns.
- School district employees MAY receive campaign information in school district e-mail accounts and mailboxes from an outside (non-school) sender; however, in the case of school e-mail accounts, such information cannot be passed on to others – including outside recipients.
- Outside groups, including PTOs, MAY organize and use school buildings to have meetings in support of a campaign providing those groups lease the facilities in the manner any other group would be allowed to lease.
- Individuals MAY exercise their free speech rights (politicking, including flyer distribution) at an event in which the public at-large is welcome (not a parent-student only event), providing that all groups are welcome to engage in such activity and it is consistent with district policy for such activity.
- School districts MAY remind their patrons that there is an election coming up and ask them to vote – so long there is no attempt to say HOW to vote.
- Board members and school employees on school time MAY answer questions from a factual perspective on the impact to the school district depending on a ballot measure's outcome. (However, be careful here! If facts can be viewed as being overly speculative, skewed or selectively used to further a particular viewpoint, the law may be triggered.)