



During the November elections this year, Baird ISD will have a Chapter 49 Proposition on the ballot. We will hold a public meeting at the BHS auditorium on **October 20, 2022, at 6:00 pm**, to answer any questions the community may have about this proposition. We have also put together this FAQ to provide more information to our community.

**Election Day:** Tuesday, November 8

**Early Voting:** Monday, October 24 – Friday, November 4 (weekdays only)

## What is Chapter 49?

Chapter 49 of the Texas Education Code (TEC) requires certain school districts to share local tax revenues with other school districts. These requirements are known as “recapture” and are often referred to as the “Robin Hood” plan for school finance, because funds are taken from “wealthy” school districts and redistributed by the Texas Education Agency (TEA) through the public school finance system to fund other school districts.

## Why is Baird ISD considered to be a “wealthy” district?

Each year, TEA determines the amount of revenue to which a school district is entitled. This calculation is based primarily on the number of students in the district, with extra funding provided for students with special needs or enrolled in higher cost programs. Any local tax money collected that exceeds this amount is identified as *Local Revenue in Excess of Entitlement* (recapture) and must be sent by the district to TEA. In Baird ISD, property values are increasing faster than enrollment, which has resulted in the state identifying Baird as a “wealthy” school district despite the fact that more than half of our students are considered to be economically disadvantaged. This year, the district anticipates that we will owe the state more than one-quarter of a million dollars (~\$260,000) in recapture payments.

## Why are we having an election?

State law does not permit the Board of Trustees to send local taxes to the state without voters authorizing it, so there will be a proposition on the November 8 ballot that reads:

*Authorizing the board of trustees of Baird Independent School District to purchase attendance credits from the state with local tax revenues.*



In Texas school finance language, “purchasing attendance credits” means sending a check to TEA for the amount of *Local Revenue in Excess of Entitlement* (recapture) that the district is determined by TEA to owe.

### **What will happen if the voters do not approve the proposition?**

A **YES** vote on the proposition will allow the Board to pay the recapture amount to the Texas Education Agency, and there will be no change to our local tax base.

A **NO** vote on the proposition could result in TEA detaching approximately \$175 million from the BISD tax base and reassigning that property to another district, and could result in the borders of Baird ISD changing permanently.

### **How will this affect my taxes?**

A **YES** vote will not affect taxes in any way, but a **NO** vote could result in higher taxes.

Because the **NO** vote could result in the state taking property from Baird ISD and giving it to another district, Baird ISD could be forced to raise taxes in the future to support outstanding bonds or increases in operating expenses due to future enrollment increases. Owners of property detached from Baird ISD by TEA would be subject to the tax rates of the district that annexed the property, which could also result in higher taxes.

### **Why can't BISD just lower the tax rate to collect fewer taxes?**

When TEA determines the amount of funding to which BISD is entitled, one of the factors used in the calculation is *tax effort*. If BISD were to lower our maintenance tax rate, our entitlement would shrink, and even though we collected fewer taxes, we would still have *Local Revenue in Excess of Entitlement* and would have to send that money to TEA, but we would have fewer resources available to educate the students of Baird ISD.

### **What if I have other questions?**

Call the superintendent's office at 325-854-1400 or send an email to Dr. Little at [tlittle@bairdisd.org](mailto:tlittle@bairdisd.org) and we will be sure to answer all of your questions.