

# HIGGINS ISD

## Voter Information for Local Consolidation Election

### Overview

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Higgins ISD has had multiple public meetings since the start of this school year to inform the community that the District will not have sufficient funds to continue operating after this school year. The Board and the Administration have actively pursued possible solutions for educating our students in the future. After considering input from parents, students, staff and others, the Board resolved to initiate a potential consolidation with Canadian ISD. The Texas Education Code permits school districts to agree on certain terms for a consolidation under a local consolidation agreement. Higgins ISD and Canadian ISD negotiated a local consolidation agreement (the "Agreement"), which each Board approved to be submitted to the registered voters of each District. The District's Board has ordered an election to permit voting for or against consolidation under the Agreement to be held on May 2, 2020 (the "Election"). What follows is basic information to assist the voters of Higgins ISD in making an informed decision concerning the proposed consolidation of Higgins ISD and Canadian ISD into a single school District under the Agreement.

### Public Inspection/Comment on the Agreement

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The Agreement negotiated by the District with Canadian ISD is currently available for inspection and review at the Higgins ISD Central Administration Office from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at 406 N. Main Street, Higgins, TX 79046. The Agreement will remain available for public inspection until the Election on May 2, 2020. The District will have at least one public hearing to allow interested persons to present comments on the Agreement. The District will provide a public notice to announce the date, time and location of the Public Hearing once it is set. Please monitor the newspaper and the District's website for this notice; public comments at this hearing are encouraged.

### Proposition

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Registered voters shall be permitted to vote for or against the following proposition:

**Consolidation of Higgins Independent School District and Canadian Independent School District into a single school district under a local consolidation agreement.**

### Student Opportunities

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Students in Canadian ISO have many options for classes and extracurricular involvement, including clubs, community service, student government, fine arts, robotics, and athletics.

### Transportation

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Hwy 60 from Higgins to Canadian is a 4 lane state highway. Two bus routes will be provided to transport Higgins students to and from Canadian ISO; one route for school activities and another route for instruction.

### Tax Facts

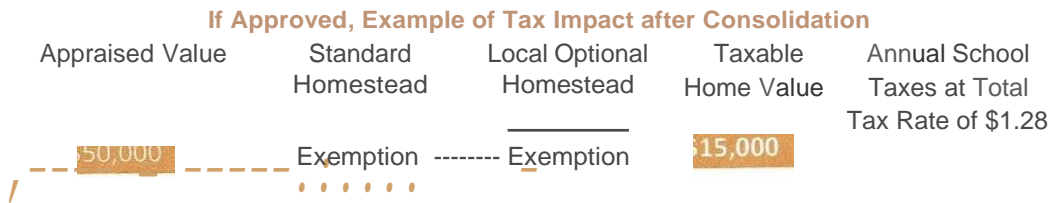
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**Property Appraisal:** If the consolidation is approved, property located in Lipscomb County will continue to be appraised by the Lipscomb County Appraisal District. The Hemphill County Appraisal District will not appraise property in Lipscomb County. Ad valorem property taxes for the consolidated school district will be collected only in that portion of Lipscomb County within the boundaries of Higgins ISO. All other ad valorem taxes on property appraised by the Lipscomb County Appraisal District will be collected for the benefit of the entities within Lipscomb County.

**Current Tax Rates:**

- School district taxes are used for student instruction, staff salaries, facilities, utilities, transportation and supplies (the "M&O" tax), and to pay school district bonded indebtedness (the "I&S" tax)
- Higgins ISO Total Tax Rate (combined M&O and I&S tax rates) for the 2019-2020 school year: \$1.37
- Canadian ISO Total Tax Rate (combined M&O and I&S tax rates) for the 2019-2020 school year: \$1.28
- School taxes are not used to pay for county expenses
  - o Lipscomb County will not lose tax revenue from the proposed consolidation
  - o Hemphill County will not gain tax revenue from the proposed consolidation

**Local Option Homestead Exemption:** All school districts in Texas must provide a standard \$25,000 homestead exemption. Canadian ISO currently provides an additional Local Optional Homestead Exemption at the maximum amount allowed (20% or \$5,000, whichever is greater). The Local Optional Homestead Exemption is in addition to the standard \$25,000 homestead exemption. For example, an owner a \$50,000 homestead in Canadian ISD will only pay taxes on \$15,000. If the consolidation occurs and the Local Optional Homestead Exemption continues, it would also apply to all homesteads within the consolidated district.



**Voting Information**

**Election Day**

Saturday, May 2, 2020

7:00 am - 7:00 pm

**Election Day Voting Location**

Higgins City Hall

201 N. Main St.

Higgins, TX 79046

**Early Voting** (by personal appearance)

April 20 - 28, 2020

8:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Excluding Saturdays, Sundays or legal state holidays*

**Early Voting Location**

HISD Nurse's Office

406 N. Main St. Higgins, TX 79046

**Ballots by Mail**

Applications for early voting by mail shall be sent to Mavonteine Slavin, by mail to: PO Box 281, Higgins, Texas 79046 or by email to [mavonteine.slavin@region16.net](mailto:mavonteine.slavin@region16.net)

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than close of business on April 20, 2020.

**Voter Qualifications**

Must be a registered voter with current address in the district. Must be a resident at least 30 days prior to election. The deadline to register to vote is April 2, 2020.

**Vote  
Saturday May 2, 2020**