



Tax Ratification Election

Election Day

Monday

**June 25, 2018
7 AM—7 PM**

**RISD School Building
9477 Panther Drive
Richards, TX**

This bulletin has been prepared by Richards ISD. It is factual and is intended to inform the RISD voters about the upcoming election. All registered voters are encouraged to become informed and exercise their right to vote in this important election.

Early Voting

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at the

Richards ISD School
9477 Panther Drive
Richards, Texas 77873

Beginning on June 11, 2018
and ending June 21, 2018.

Early voting times:

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
June 11 – June 14

8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Monday through Thursday
June 18 – June 21

Facts to Consider

- **Richards ISD voters can generate an additional \$58,000 by approving a Tax Ratification Election (TRE).**
- **If a majority votes for the \$1.06 tax rate adopted by the Board of Trustees, the tax rate will be \$1.06, and Richards ISD would receive a total of \$58,000; additional \$29,000 state and \$29,000 local this year and every succeeding year.**
- **If a majority votes against the \$1.06 tax rate, the tax rate will be \$1.04 for the 2018-19 school year only, and the district will not have access to \$58,000 in additional funds this year and every year thereafter. Further budget reductions will negatively impact educational opportunities for Richards ISD students.**
- **\$58,000 will help fund current staff payroll and the current operation of facilities.**
- **Richards ISD cannot raise the M&O portion of the tax rate above \$1.04 without a change in state law.**

See following page for more facts.

What is a Tax Ratification Election (TRE)?

A tax ratification election (TRE) is a special election, called by the Board of Trustees, asking the voters to approve a tax rate that is above the \$1.04 tax rate allowed by state law. \$1.04 is our current rollback rate.

Why are we having a TRE?

The Richards ISD Board of Trustees approved a Maintenance & Operations (M & O) tax rate of \$1.06, which is \$0.02 cents higher than last year. The Board has called a tax ratification election to take advantage of state incentives to school districts that invest additional local dollars in the education of our children.

How did we get here?

The current school finance system was crafted in 2006. If a school district needs more M & O money than it received in 2005-06, then it must call a TRE. To continue to fund payroll and current operations has required us to look at ways to increase revenue. If the TRE passes, Richards ISD will receive an estimated \$58,000 in additional revenue for the district.

What will a TRE do for Richards ISD?

- Fund current payroll and the current operations of the facility.
- Implement additional safety and security measures .
- Provide funding for facilities to meet the needs of our growing student population.
- Enhance technology and necessary infrastructure.

How will the proposition be worded on the ballot?

APPROVING THE AD VALOREM TAX RATE OF \$1.06 PER \$100 VALUATION IN RICHARDS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR THE CURRENT YEAR, A RATE THAT IS \$0.02 HIGHER PER \$100 VALUATION THAN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT ROLLBACK TAX RATE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

FOR

AGAINST

I'm over 65. Will my taxes increase?

Tax bills on Over-65 or Disabled homesteads are frozen and will not go up. They will never go up unless the homeowner makes significant improvements to the home.

2017-2018 Tax Rate Breakdown

M & O: \$1.04

I & S: \$0.00

Total Tax Rate: \$1.04

2018-2019 Proposed Tax Rate

M & O: \$1.06

I & S: \$0.00

Total Tax Rate: \$1.06

Further budget reductions will negatively impact educational opportunities for Richards ISD students.