

**DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE
100 NORTH SENATE AVENUE
IGC-N, ROOM N1058
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REVIEW OF)
PROPOSED LANGUAGE AND ESTIMATED)
RATE CERTIFICATION FOR A BALLOT) No. 20-005-REF
QUESTION REGARDING BEECH GROVE)
CITY SCHOOL CORPORATION)**

**FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED
JANUARY 24, 2020**

1. Beech Grove School Corporation (“Corporation”), proposes to issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the 2020 Early Childhood, Safety, Security & Efficiency Project, which includes the renovation of and improvements to community facilities, including Beech Grove High School, Beech Grove Middle School, South Grove Intermediate School, Central Elementary School, and Hornet Park Elementary School, including site improvements, and the construction of the Hornet Park Early Childhood Learning Center located at Hornet Park Elementary, which is estimated to cost not more than \$17,500,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by a maximum of \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation.
2. Under Indiana law, the voters in the area served by the Corporation will vote in a referendum to approve or deny borrowing for the project and raise property taxes to support it.
3. Indiana law governs the format and wording of the ballot question for the referendum. Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.6(c).
4. Under Indiana law, “the **following question shall** be submitted to the eligible voters at the election”:

“Shall _____ (insert the name of the political subdivision) issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance _____ (insert a brief description of the controlled project), which is estimated to cost not more than _____ (insert the total cost of the project) and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by _____ (insert increase in tax rate as determined by the department of local government finance)?”

Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.6(c) (emphasis added).

5. The ballot question then must contain three parts:

- a brief description of the project;
 - the estimated total project cost; and
 - the estimated tax rate increase for the project.
6. The law requires the Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) to determine the estimate of the tax rate increase.
 7. The law also requires the Department to either approve the ballot language or recommend that it be modified to ensure that the description of the controlled project is accurate and not biased.
 8. On January 24, 2020, the Department received the Corporation’s proposed question from the Marion County Election Board. The document containing the proposed question is incorporated by reference into this Order.

Determination of Tax Rate Increase

9. The Department estimates the tax rate increase in reliance on the Corporation’s proposed debt from the project, assessed valuation of the property in the area served by the Corporation, an amortization schedule submitted by the Corporation, and estimated miscellaneous revenues. Based on this information, the Department certifies a rate of \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Accuracy and Bias

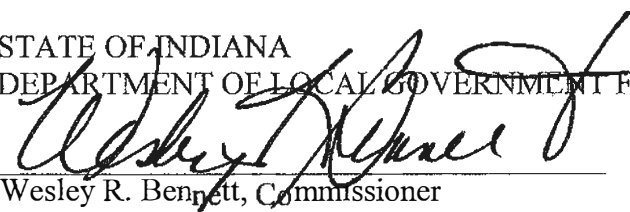
10. The Department must review the language of the public question to evaluate whether the description of the controlled project is accurate and is not biased against either a vote in favor of or a vote against the controlled project. The Department concludes that the description of the controlled project is not biased against either a vote in favor of or a vote against the controlled project.

Final Determination

WHEREFORE, based on the above findings and applicable law, the Department finds that the proposed language is in compliance with 6-1.1-20-3.6(c) and approves the language as proposed. The Department certifies a rate of \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2020.

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



Wesley R. Bennett, Commissioner
Department of Local Government Finance



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January 23, 2020

Wesley R. Bennett, Commissioner
Indiana Department of Local Government Finance
100 North Senate N-1058B
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Re: DLGF Review of Local Public Question – Beech Grove City Schools

Commissioner Bennett:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.6, I, on behalf of the Marion County Election Board, request that the following question be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of Local Government Finance to determine whether the description of the controlled project is accurate and is not biased against either a vote in favor of the controlled project or a vote against the controlled project:

"Shall Beech Grove City Schools issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the 2020 Early Childhood, Safety, Security & Efficiency Project, which includes the renovation of and improvements to community facilities, including Beech Grove High School, Beech Grove Middle School, South Grove Intermediate School, Central Elementary School, and Hornet Park Elementary School, including site improvements, and the construction of the Hornet Park Early Childhood Learning Center located at Hornet Park Elementary, which is estimated to cost not more than \$17,500,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by a maximum of twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per \$100 of assessed valuation?"

Please provide any recommendations to the Marion County Election Board at the address listed below as soon as possible. In order for this question to appear on the May 5, 2020 ballot, the Marion County Auditor must certify the final question to the Marion County Election Board by February 21, 2020.

Marion County Election Board
c/o Ms. Myla Eldridge, Marion County Clerk
200 East Washington Street, Suite W122
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Director of Elections, Brienne Delaney.

Sincerely,

Myla Eldridge
Circuit Court Clerk
Marion County Election Board, Secretary