

**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 FOR A )  
BALLOT QUESTION REGARDING ) No. 18-002-REF  
SMITH-GREEN COMMUNITY )  
SCHOOL CORPORATION )**

---

**FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED  
JANUARY 23, 2018**

---

1. Smith-Green Community School Corporation (“Corporation”) proposes to place an operating referendum on the ballot for the purpose of establishing a referendum tax levy with a tax rate not to exceed sixty-two and eight tenths cents (\$0.628) per one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed value.
2. Under Indiana law, voters in the area served by the Corporation will vote in a referendum to approve or deny the Corporation’s proposed tax rate.
3. Indiana law governs the format and wording of the ballot question for the referendum.
4. Under Indiana law, the “question to be submitted to the voters in the referendum **must read as follows**”:

“For the \_\_ (insert number) calendar year or years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall the school corporation impose a property tax rate that does not exceed \_\_\_\_\_ (insert amount) cents (\$0. \_\_) (insert amount) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation and that is in addition to all other property taxes imposed by the school corporation for the purpose of funding \_\_\_\_\_ (insert short description of purposes)?”

Indiana Code 20-46-1-10 (emphasis added).

5. The ballot question then must contain three parts:
  - the number of calendar years for which the tax will be in effect;
  - the amount of the tax rate; and
  - the purpose of the funding.
6. The law requires the Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) to review the language for compliance with IC 20-46-1-10. The Department may either approve or reject the language.
7. On January 23, 2018, the Department received a facsimile from the Corporation presenting the proposed ballot question for the referendum.

8. The Corporation requested that the Department review this proposed question:

“For the eight (8) calendar years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall Smith-Green Community Schools impose a property tax rate that does not exceed sixty-two and eight tenths cents (\$0.628) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation and that is in addition to all other property taxes imposed by the school corporation for the purpose of funding and maintaining current educational and operational programs including student safety and transportation and any other educational and operational needs of the school corporation?”

#### **Compliance of Language**

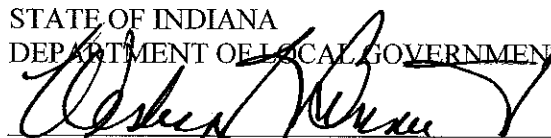
9. The Department must review the proposed language for compliance with IC 20-46-1-10. The Department may either approve or reject the language. The Department concludes that the language is in compliance with IC 20-46-1-10.

#### **Final Determination**

WHEREFORE, based on the above findings and applicable law, the Department finds that the proposed language is in compliance with IC 20-46-1-10 and approves the language as proposed.

Dated this 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018.

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

  
Wesley R. Bennett, Commissioner  
Department of Local Government Finance