

**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. 19-016-REF  
QUESTION REGARDING WASHINGTON )  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS )**

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**FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED  
JULY 8, 2019**

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1. Washington Community Schools (“Corporation”) proposes to issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the 2020 Safety & Security Construction Project which includes the construction of a new middle school building, and safety, security, and efficiency improvements to school facilities throughout the district, which is estimated to cost not more than \$38,000,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by a maximum of \$0.4829 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 July 8, 2019, the Department received the Corporation’s proposed question from the Daviess 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 \$0.4829 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

**Accuracy and Bias**

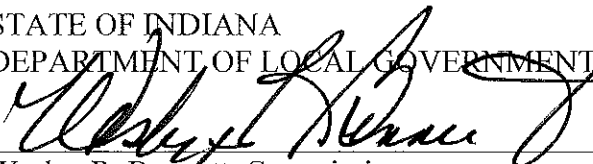
10. The Department must review the language of the public question to evaluate whether the description of the controlled project is accurate and is not biased against either a vote in favor of or a vote against the controlled project. The Department concludes that the description of the controlled project 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 \$0.4829 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

  
Wesley R. Bennett, Commissioner  
Department of Local Government Finance

# Clerk of the Circuit Court

49th Judicial Circuit



Janice M. Williams

Courthouse – 200 E. Walnut Street  
P.O. Box 739  
Washington, IN 47501

July 8, 2019

Mr. Wesley Bennett, Commissioner  
Daniel Shackle, Esq., General Counsel  
David Marusarz, Esq., Deputy General Counsel  
Indiana Department of Local Government Finance  
100 North Senate N 1058B  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204  
[wbennett@dlgf.in.gov](mailto:wbennett@dlgf.in.gov)  
[dshackle@dlgf.in.gov](mailto:dshackle@dlgf.in.gov)  
[dmarusarz@dlgf.in.gov](mailto:dmarusarz@dlgf.in.gov)

Re: DLGF Review of Local Public Question – Washington Community Schools

Dear Commissioner:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.6, I, on behalf of the Daviess County Election Board, request that the following question be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of Local Government Finance in order 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 Washington Community Schools issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the 2020 Safety & Security Construction Project which includes the construction of a new middle school building, and safety, security, and efficiency improvements to school facilities throughout the district, which is estimated to cost not more than \$38,000,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by a maximum of \$0.4829 per \$100 of assessed valuation?”

Please provide any recommendations to the Daviess County Election Board at the address listed below as soon as possible. In order to appear on the November 5, 2019 ballot, the Daviess

Child Support / Traffic  
812-254-8664

Criminal / Small Claims  
812-254-8669

Fax  
812-254-8698

Voter Registration  
812-254-8679

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49th Judicial Circuit



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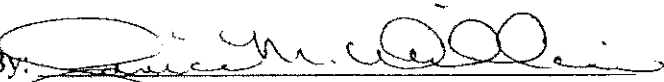
County Auditor must certify the final question to the Daviess County Election Board by July 31, 2019.

Janice M. Williams  
Daviess County Clerk  
Daviess County Election Board  
200 East Walnut Street,  
Washington, Indiana 47501  
[clerk@daviess.org](mailto:clerk@daviess.org)

If you need any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

DAVIESS COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

By: 

Name: Janice M. Williams

Title: Secretary, Daviess County Election Board