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 SCHOOL CITY	)	**No. 15-003-REF**
OF BEECH GROVE	)	

FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED JANUARY 22, 2015

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1. School City of Beech Grove ("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 thirty-five cents ($0.3500) 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 22, 2015, the Department received an e-mail from the Corporation presenting the proposed ballot question for the referendum.

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

> "For the seven calendar years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall School City of Beech Grove impose a property tax rate that does not exceed thirty-five cents ($0.3500) on each one hundred dollars ($100) of assessed valuation and that is in addition to all other property tax levies imposed by the school corporation for the purpose of funding transportation, purchasing buses, student safety, maintenance of buildings and other educational needs of the school district?"

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.

10. The Department notes that the Corporation already has an operating referendum in place that will expire in 2016. The Corporation has represented in its January 13, 2015 Referendum Tax Levy Resolution that should the proposed referendum pass in 2015, the Corporation will allow the 2009 operating referendum to terminate on December 31, 2015 and not levy the 2009 operating referendum in 2016. The 2015 operating referendum would be the only one levied in 2016.

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 23rd day of January, 2015.

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Courtney L. Schaafsma, Commissioner
Department of Local Government Finance

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

I, Michael E. Duffy, General Counsel for the Department of Local Government Finance, hereby certify that the above is an order of the Commissioner of the Department of Local Government Finance made this date in the above-entitled matter and that the Commissioner has personally signed the same under her statutory authority.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL of the Commissioner on this the 23rd day of January, 2015.

Michael E. Duffy, General Counsel
Department of Local Government Finance