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. 26-024-REF-A**
METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT	**)**	
OF SHAKAMAK, CLAY COUNTY	**)**	

FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED JUNE 26, 2026

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1. On June 26, 2026, the Department of Local Government Finance ("Department) approved a proposed ballot question from the Metropolitan School District of Shakamak ("Corporation") for the purpose of imposing a referendum tax levy. Subsequently, the Corporation noted that the June 26, 2026, order referenced a certification received from the Clay County Auditor but did not reference a certification received by the Greene County Auditor. This Order amends the Department's June 26, 2026, order.

2. Metropolitan School District of Shakamak ("Corporation") proposes to place an operating referendum on the ballot for the purpose of imposing a referendum tax levy.

3. 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.

4. Indiana law governs the format and wording of the ballot question for the referendum.

5. Under Indiana law, the "question to be submitted to the voters in the referendum **must read as follows**":

> "Shall _____ (insert the name of the school corporation) increase property taxes paid to the school corporation for no more than _____ (insert the number of years immediately following the holding of the referendum) years for the purpose of funding _____ (insert a brief description of the purposes) by imposing a property tax rate that does not exceed _____ (insert property tax rate) and results in a maximum annual amount that does not exceed _____ (insert maximum amount of annual levy). If this operating referendum public question is approved by the voters, for a median residence of _____ (insert the school corporation's median household assessed value, rounded up to the next fifty thousand dollars ($50,000)), the property's annual property tax bill would increase by _____ (insert dollar amount, rounded up to the next whole dollar) per year. (If, in the previous five (5) years, the

school corporation has conducted an operating referendum public question, the following shall also be included in the ballot language.) The most recent operating referendum public question proposed by the school corporation was held in _____ (insert year) and _____ (insert whether the measure passed or failed)."

Indiana Code 20-46-1-10 (emphasis added). The number of years for which a referendum tax levy may be extended if the public question under this section is approved may not exceed eight (8) years.

6. The ballot question then must contain up to nine parts:

    - The name of the school corporation.
    - The number of calendar years for which the tax will be in effect.
    - The purpose of the funding.
    - The maximum property tax rate.
    - The maximum amount of annual levy.
    - The median household assessed value for the school corporation.
    - The estimated increase to the property tax bill of a median residence if the referendum is approved by the voters.
    - The year in which the most recent operating referendum was held (if one was held in the previous five years).
    - Whether the most recent operating referendum passed or failed (if one was held in the previous five years).

7. 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.

8. On June 26, 2026, the Department received a resolution from the Corporation presenting the proposed ballot question for the referendum to be held in November 2026. The proposed ballot question is as follows:

    "Shall the Metropolitan School District of Shakamak increase property taxes paid to the school corporation for no more than eight (8) years for the purpose of funding and maintaining daily educational operations, including recruiting and retaining teachers and staff, supporting essential safety initiatives, maintaining class sizes, and funding academic programs and opportunities to meet the learning needs of all students, in response to reductions in property tax revenue, by imposing a property tax rate that does not exceed $0.25 and results in a maximum annual amount that does not exceed $499,000. If this operating referendum public question is approved by the voters, for a median residence of $100,000, the property's annual property tax bill would increase by $81 per year."

9. The resolution represents that the referendum tax rate proposed by the Corporation is not to exceed $0.25 per $100 assessed valuation.

10. On June 26, 2026, the Department received from the Corporation, pursuant to IC 20-46-1-10.3, a certification by the Clay County Auditor and by the Greene County Auditor of the median household assessed value in the school corporation and the property tax increase on the median household should the referendum pass.

Median Household Assessed Value and Property Tax Increase

11. As certified by the Clay County Auditor and the Greene County Auditor under IC 20-46-1-10.3, the median household assessed value is determined to be $100,000, and the property tax increase on the median household, should the referendum pass, is $81.

Compliance of Language

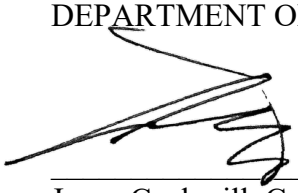
12. The Department must review the proposed language for compliance with IC 20-46-1-10. The Department may either approve or reject the language. The Department finds that the proposed language complies with IC 20-46-1-10.

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 29th day of June, 2026.

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



Jason Cockerill, Commissioner
Department of Local Government Finance