

**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. 19-021-REF  
HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL )  
CORPORATION )**

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**FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED JULY  
16, 2019**

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1. Hamilton 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 forty-four cents (\$0.44) 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 District’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 District 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 July 16, 2019, the Department received the resolution from the Corporation presenting the proposed ballot question for the referendum. The resolution is incorporated by reference into this Order.

### Compliance of Language

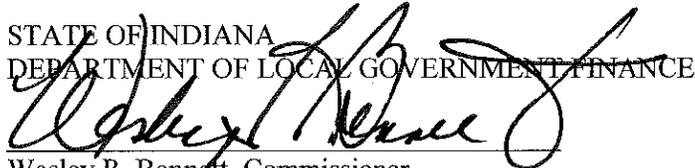
8. The Department must review the proposed language for compliance with IC 20-46-1-10. The Department may either approve or reject the language. The Department concludes that the language is in compliance with IC 20-46-1-10.

### 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 25<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2019.

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

  
Wesley R. Bennett, Commissioner  
Department of Local Government Finance

## HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

903 S. Wayne Street  
Hamilton, IN 46742

Phone: (260) 488-2161

July 16, 2019

*Transmitted via e-mail*

Mr. Wesley Bennett, Commissioner  
Mr. Daniel Shackle  
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)

Re: Hamilton Community Schools  
Certification and Request for Approval of the Local Public Question

Dear Mr. Bennett and Mr. Shackle:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 20-46-1-8, enclosed please find a copy of the certified Resolution of the Board of School Trustees of Hamilton Community Schools (the "School Corporation") which was adopted on July 15, 2019, pursuant to Indiana Code 20-46-1-8 determining: (i) that the School Corporation cannot carry out its public education duty unless it imposes a referendum tax levy; and (ii) to put a public question on the ballot for such referendum tax levy.

The School Corporation requests that the following question be reviewed, approved, and finally certified to the School Corporation as soon as possible, in order for it to be submitted to the County Election Boards and placed on the ballot for the voters at the election held on November 5, 2019, in the following form:

"For the eight (8) calendar years immediately following the holding of the referendum, shall the Hamilton Community Schools impose a property tax rate that does not exceed forty-four cents (\$0.44) 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?"

Mr. Wesley Bennett, Commissioner  
Mr. Daniel Shackle  
July 16, 2019  
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If you need any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Anthony Cassel, Superintendent, at (260) 488-2513.

Sincerely,

HAMILTON COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

  
Secretary, Board of School Trustees

cc: Holly Albright, Dekalb County Clerk  
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