

**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. 20-003-REF  
QUESTION REGARDING METROPOLITAN )  
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON )  
TOWNSHIP, MARION COUNTY )**

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**FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED  
JANUARY 24, 2020**

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1. Metropolitan School District of Washington Township, Marion County (“Corporation”), proposes to issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance the 2020 Safety, Capacity, Efficiency, Technology, Renovation and Construction Project which consists of updating, improving and construction at North Central High School; J. Everett Light Career Center; Eastwood, Northview and Westlane Middle Schools; Hilltop Developmental Preschool; Allisonville, Crooked Creek, Fox Hill, Greenbriar, John Strange, Nora, and Spring Mill Elementary Schools; the Community and Education Center and construction of additional school district facilities, which is estimated to cost not more than \$285,000,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by a maximum of \$0.3172 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 January 24, 2020, the Department received the Corporation’s proposed question from the Marion 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 \$0.3172 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

#### **Accuracy and Bias**

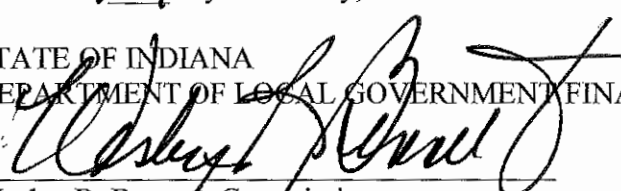
10. The Department must review the language of the public question to evaluate whether the description of the controlled project is accurate and is not biased against either a vote in favor of or a vote against the controlled project. The Department concludes that the description of the controlled project 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 \$0.3172 per \$100 of assessed valuation.

Dated this 27th day of January, 2020.

STATE OF INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

  
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Wesley R. Bennett, Commissioner  
Department of Local Government Finance



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January 23, 2020

Wesley R. Bennett, Commissioner  
Indiana Department of Local Government Finance  
100 North Senate N-1058B  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Re: DLGF Review of Local Public Question – MSD of Washington Township

Commissioner Bennett:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 6-1.1-20-3.6, I, on behalf of the Marion County Election Board, request that the following question be reviewed and evaluated by the Department of Local Government Finance 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 MSD of Washington Township issue bonds or enter into a lease to finance 2020 Safety, Capacity, Efficiency, Technology, Renovation and Construction Project which consists of updating, improving and construction at North Central High School; J. Everett Light Career Center; Eastwood, Northview and Westlane Middle Schools; Hilltop Developmental Preschool; Allisonville, Crooked Creek, Fox Hill, Greenbriar, John Strange, Nora, and Spring Mill Elementary Schools; the Community and Education Center and construction of additional school district facilities, which is estimated to cost not more than \$285,000,000 and is estimated to increase the property tax rate for debt service by \$0.3172 per \$100 of assessed valuation?”

Please provide any recommendations to the Marion County Election Board at the address listed below as soon as possible. In order for this question to appear on the May 5, 2020 ballot, the Marion County Auditor must certify the final question to the Marion County Election Board by February 21, 2020.

Marion County Election Board  
c/o Ms. Myla Eldridge, Marion County Clerk  
200 East Washington Street, Suite W122  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

If you need additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me or the Director of Elections, Brienne Delaney.

Sincerely,

Myla Eldridge  
Circuit Court Clerk  
Marion County Election Board, Secretary