

**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. 25-010-REF-A
AVON COMMUNITY SCHOOL)	
CORPORATION, HENDRICKS COUNTY)	

**FINDINGS AND FINAL DETERMINATION ON PROPOSED QUESTION SUBMITTED
JULY 14, 2025**

1. On July 9, 2025, the Department of Local Government Finance (“Department”) rejected a proposed ballot question of Avon Community School Corporation (“Corporation”) for the purpose of continuing a referendum tax levy. Subsequently, the Corporation submitted a revised ballot question. The Corporation explained that the resolution submitted to the Department on July 1 was an earlier draft of the resolution that was erroneously submitted. The Corporation submitted the resolution that contained the question that is purported to be actually adopted by the Corporation. This Order amends the July 9, 2025 order.
2. Avon Community School Corporation (“Corporation”) proposes to place an operating referendum on the ballot for the purpose of continuing 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. Pursuant to IC 20-46-1-8.5, a resolution to extend a referendum levy must be adopted by the governing body of a school corporation and approved in a referendum before December 31 of the final calendar year in which the school corporation’s previously approved referendum levy is imposed.
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 the school corporation continue to impose increased property taxes paid to the school corporation by homeowners and businesses for ____ (insert number of years) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of funding ____ (insert short description of purposes)? The property tax increase requested in this referendum was originally approved by the voters in ____ (insert the year in which the referendum tax levy was approved) and if extended will increase the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a

residence within the school corporation by _____% (insert the estimated average percentage of property tax increase on a residence within the school corporation) and if extended will increase the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a business property within the school corporation by _____% (insert the estimated average percentage of property tax increase on a business within the school corporation)."

Indiana Code 20-46-1-10.1 (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 five parts:

- The number of calendar years for which the tax will be in effect.
- The purpose of the funding.
- The name of the school corporation.
- The year in which the initial referendum was originally approved.
- The estimated average percent increase of taxes paid to the school corporation on residential and business property if the taxes are approved in the referendum, as certified by the county auditor under IC 20-46-1-10.1(d).

7. The law requires the Department of Local Government Finance ("Department") to review the language for compliance with IC 20-46-1-10.1. The Department may either approve or reject the language.

8. On July 14, 2025, the Department received a resolution from the Corporation presenting the proposed ballot question for the referendum to be held in November 2025. The resolution states that the resolution was adopted on June 23, 2025. The proposed ballot question contained in the resolution is as follows:

"Shall Avon Community School Corporation continue to impose increased property taxes paid to the school corporation by homeowners and businesses for eight (8) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of providing funding to maintain reduced class sizes, maintain competitive compensation to attract and retain teaching staff, and maintain instructional supports and opportunities for students, while changing the previously approved maximum rate from \$0.35 to \$0.33? The property tax increase requested in this referendum was originally approved by the voters in 2018 and if extended will increase the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a residence within the school corporation by 29.84% and if extended will increase the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a business property within the school corporation by 23.95%."

9. The resolution represents that the referendum tax rate proposed by the Corporation is not to exceed \$0.33 per \$100 assessed valuation.

10. The Corporation previously held a referendum in 2018, which passed.
11. On July 14, 2025, the Department received from the Corporation, pursuant to IC 20-46-1-10.1(f), the estimated average percent increase to homesteads and business property, respectively, of the property taxes that would be imposed by the Corporation if the referendum passes, as certified by the Hendricks County Auditor. This is the same certification provided to the Department on July 1, 2025.

Estimate of Average Percent Increase in Taxes

12. The estimated average percent increase in taxes, as certified by the Hendricks County Auditor under IC 20-46-1-10.1(f), is **29.84%** for homesteads and **23.95%** for business property.

Compliance of Language

13. The Department must review the proposed language for compliance with IC 20-46-1-10.1. The Department may either approve or reject the language. The Department finds that the proposed language complies with IC 20-46-1-10.1.¹

Final Determination

WHEREFORE, based on the above findings and applicable law, the Department finds that the proposed language is in compliance with IC 20-46-1-10.1 and approves the language as proposed.

Dated this 23rd day of July, 2025.

STATE OF INDIANA
DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE



Jason Cockerill, Commissioner
Department of Local Government Finance

¹ Although the ballot question template prescribed by IC 20-46-1-10.1 was amended by Senate Enrolled Act 1-2025 (“SEA 1”), effective July 1, 2025, IC 20-46-1-23 provides that a ballot question proposed in a resolution adopted on or before June 30, 2025 may be placed on the ballot in an election held in the fall of calendar year 2025. However, IC 20-46-1-23 does not specify whether to use the ballot question template as in effect as of the date of the resolution or the template as modified by SEA 1. Therefore, the Department does not find that using the ballot question template provided in IC 20-46-1-10.1 as it read prior to the effective date of the change made by SEA 1 to be grounds for rejecting the language proposed by the Corporation.