



For Immediate Release

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SACS Board Votes to Put Referendum Renewal on May Ballot

Referendum renewal would provide funds for the continuation of approximately 52 certified positions.

FORT WAYNE, IND., January 5, 2016 —The Southwest Allen County School board voted Tuesday night to take a \$3.5 million referendum renewal to voters on the May 3 ballot.

The renewal, which is expected to keep the tax levy and anticipated property taxes the same, supports district-wide goals of maintaining class sizes, programs, curricular and elective offerings; guidance counseling; and school safety. Specifically, it would fund 52 existing positions:

23 Elementary School Teachers
11.5 Middle School Teachers
14.29 High School Teachers
2.08 Counselors
1.0 School Safety Resource Officer

51.86 Full-Time Certified Positions

Preparing today's learners for tomorrow's opportunities.

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“At Southwest Allen County Schools, it is our mission to provide each child in our district with an excellent education that prepares them for the opportunities of tomorrow,” Superintendent Dr. Philip G. Downs says. “That excellent education is due in large part to the generosity of the people of Southwest Allen County. We are incredibly grateful for that community support and trust, especially as we look toward this referendum renewal.”

SACS has been operating with the assistance of a taxpayer-support referendum since 1985.

“Historically, state funding for SACS has been one of the lowest in the state,” Dr. Downs says. “This year, our funding is projected to be 358th out of the 363 school districts in Indiana. That puts SACS in the bottom 2 percent of all schools in the state. When the referendum is added in, SACS would be 275th out of 363 school districts, which is still well below the state average.”

The current referendum, approved by taxpayers in 2009, provides the district with \$3.5 million each year. Used to fund approximately 52 certified positions, roughly about 11% of the SACS staff, it runs out in December 2016.

“If the referendum is not renewed, SACS will need to address the loss of nearly \$3.5 million dollars of funding annually,” Dr. Downs says. “That could likely mean sweeping cuts across the district resulting in increased class sizes and reduced programs and support for the students of Southwest Allen County.”

With the renewal being at the same levy as the current referendum, taxpayers in Aboite and Lafayette townships are not expected to see an increase in their property tax bills. The referendum renewal will lower the maximum rate from .17 to .15 cents, but will end up with an actual rate of about .13 cents, which matches the current rate.

About Southwest Allen County Schools

Nationally recognized and locally known for its award-winning programs, high-quality staff, and strong parental and community support, [Southwest Allen County Schools](#) is dedicated to a shared mission of preparing today’s learners for tomorrow’s opportunities.

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