

# COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

## TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held on February 29, 2024, in the Colonial School District (“CSD” or the “District”) in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 19 and 21 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, in order to permit the voters of the District to vote either for or against each of the following two items:

**Section 1:**

**To support ongoing District operations, the Colonial School District is seeking authority to levy and collect an additional \$0.25 per \$100 of assessed value in local school taxes for current operating expenses as set forth below estimated at \$7,969,386, effective July 1, 2024, with an additional \$0.10 per \$100 in local school taxes for current operating expenses as set forth below estimated at \$3,231,427 effective July 1, 2025, followed with an additional \$0.05 per \$100 in local school taxes for current operating expenses as set forth below estimated at \$1,637,849 effective July 1, 2026, for a total of \$0.40 every year thereafter on all assessed taxable real estate in the District to fund operating expenses as set for below estimated at \$12,838,662.**

The purpose of this proposed tax increase is to provide funding for daily operations and programs such as, but not limited to:

- Maintaining 1:1 student Chromebooks and additional technology investments.
- Recruiting and retaining top-notch educators and support staff.
- Continuing extended learning opportunities and summer programs to strengthen student engagement and accelerate student achievement.
- Maintaining constables, School Resource Officers, and enhanced security initiatives.

For a property in the District assessed at a rate of \$62,547 (Colonial School District average assessment), the increased current expense cost to the homeowner would be:

As of July 1, 2024, a total of \$156.37  
As of July 1, 2025, a total of \$218.91  
As of July 1, 2026, a total of \$250.19

**Section 2:**

**The Colonial School District is seeking authority to issue bonds for Major Capital Projects in the amount of \$48,779,223 to be used for districtwide renovations to existing buildings and grounds, including the following:**

- Constructing secured vestibule entrances at six schools to complete the district wide effort.
- Installing security enhancements at twelve schools.
- Replacing aging roofs at four schools.
- Athletic field improvements at all three middle schools.
- Construction of a new multi-sport athletic and event complex at the high school.
- New playground surfaces and equipment at all eight elementary schools.
- Parking, roadway & pedestrian improvements at twelve schools.
- Site drainage & grading improvements at eight schools.

The bonds represent \$48,779,223 or 40% (Colonial School District’s local share) of the total cost of \$121,959,082 for the eight projects listed above.

\$ 73,179,859 – State’s Share  
\$ 48,779,223 – District’s Local Share  
\$121,959,082 – Total

If the District is authorized to issue bonds for the reasons stated above, the District shall levy and collect additional taxes to provide for the payment of interest and principal on such bonds. The amount of each annual tax increase that would be imposed as a result of the proposed bond issuance, depending upon market conditions, is estimated as follows:

Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond to Renovate Schools	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuance to Renovate Schools	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuance to Renovate Schools	Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond to Renovate Schools	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuance to Renovate Schools	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuance to Renovate Schools
1	2025	0.008	0.081	0.008	13	2037	0.084	0.084	0.084
2	2026	0.094	0.162	0.094	14	2038	0.080	0.080	0.080
3	2027	0.105	0.169	0.105	15	2039	0.076	0.076	0.076
4	2028	0.118	0.149	0.118	16	2040	0.073	0.073	0.073
5	2029	0.122	0.137	0.122	17	2041	0.069	0.069	0.069
6	2030	0.117	0.126	0.117	18	2042	0.065	0.065	0.065
7	2031	0.112	0.114	0.112	19	2043	0.062	0.062	0.062
8	2032	0.107	0.107	0.107	20	2044	0.059	0.059	0.059
9	2033	0.102	0.102	0.102	21	2045	0.052	0.052	0.052
10	2034	0.097	0.097	0.097	22	2046	0.017	0.017	0.017
11	2035	0.093	0.093	0.093	23	2047	0.011	0.011	0.011
12	2036	0.089	0.089	0.089	24	2048	0.004	0.004	0.004

					25	2049	0.000	0.000	0.000
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Notes regarding the above table: Estimated “Annual Tax Increase” amounts are rounded and are stated in Cents/\$100 of Assessed Value. The “Annual Tax Rate” is based on the District’s current debt service rate (\$0.07 per \$100 of assessed value) and several other factors including market interest rates. Retirement of existing debt will offset annual tax increases in future years. The calculations in the above table were prepared without regard to any future referenda that may be pursued by the District.

### VOTER INFORMATION

**Voters may only vote one time in this special election even if the voter has more than one child attending school in the Colonial School District.**

The polls for the Special Election will be open on Thursday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 7:00 AM and will remain open until 8:00 PM. Voters may vote in any of the following designated polling places, all of which are accessible to voters with disabilities:

**Castle Hills Elementary School**  
502 Moores Lane, New Castle

**New Castle Senior Center**  
400 South Street, New Castle

**Victory Christian Fellowship**  
100 Wilton Blvd, New Castle

**Howard Weston Senior Center**  
1 Bassett Avenue, New Castle

**Pleasantville Elementary School**  
16 Pleasant Street, New Castle

**Wilbur Elementary School**  
4050 Wrangle Hill Rd, Bear

**Kingswood Community Center**  
2300 Bowers Street, Wilmington

**Route 9 Library & Innovation Center**  
3022 New Castle Avenue, New Castle

**William Penn High School**  
713 E. Basin Road, New Castle

**McCullough Middle School**  
20 Chase Avenue, New Castle

**Southern Elementary School**  
795 Cox Neck Road, New Castle

#### QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

- Must be a citizen of the United States and Delaware
- Must be a resident of the Colonial School District
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- You do NOT have to be a registered voter for purposes of a general election

#### ABSENTEE BALLOT

**You may vote by absentee ballot if you cannot vote at a polling place on the day of election for one of the following reasons:**

- You are temporarily or permanently disabled;
- You are serving in the public service of the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- You are the spouse or a dependent living with or accompanying a person serving the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- The nature of your job or occupation does not permit you to go to the polls;
- You are sick;
- The tenets or teachings of your religion prevent you from voting on the days or times set for the election;
- You are incarcerated but otherwise eligible to vote;
- You are away on vacation;
- You are the caregiver to a parent, spouse or that person’s child who is living at home and requires constant care due to illness or injury;
- You are temporarily living outside of the U.S.;
- You cannot go to the polls because of illness or injury received while serving in the Armed Forces; or
- You serve in the Armed Forces, Red Cross, U.S.O., or the Merchant Marine; or
- You are authorized pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) [42 U.S.C § 1973ff et seq.], or any other federal law, to vote by absentee ballot.

#### **To vote by absentee ballot:**

- Download an Absentee Application from <https://de.gov/schabsapp> , request one by email at [absentee@delaware.gov](mailto:absentee@delaware.gov); or request one by phone at 302-577-3464.
- If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you, send a completed application so that it arrives at the Department of Elections, New Castle County Office no later than 4 p.m., Friday, February 23, 2024. You may either email the completed application to [absentee@delaware.gov](mailto:absentee@delaware.gov), or mail it to 820 N. French St., Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19801-3512.
- In order to be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received at the Department of Elections, New Castle County Office, 820 N French St, Suite 400, Wilmington, DE 19801 no later than 8 p.m. on Thursday, February 29, 2024.
- Vote in person by absentee ballot at the Department of Elections, New Castle County Office, Mon-Fri from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Tuesday, February 27, 2024, or from 8:30 a.m. to 12 (Noon) on Wednesday, February 28, 2024.
- NOTE: If you are a voter with a “permanent absentee status”, this status does not cover school elections. You will not automatically be mailed an absentee ballot. You must request one. Please follow instructions above to request an absentee ballot.

#### PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION AND ADDRESS

- Persons appearing to vote must present satisfactory proof of identity and address to the Election Officers at the Polling Place before being permitted to vote. Persons who do not present satisfactory proof of identity and address may – upon majority vote of the Inspector and the two Judges – be permitted to vote.

By Order of the COLONIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

**Christopher Picuch, Sr.**, President  
**Jeffery D. Menzer**, Executive Secretary and Superintendent

**Posted in accordance with Delaware Code, Title 14, Section 1074. Do not remove until March 1, 2024.**