



SECURE THE NEXT GENERATION ✓

VOTE August 28, 2018

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is bringing a ½ millage (mill) referendum to voters, which will appear on the August 28, 2018, primary ballot.

The Secure the Next Generation initiative would secure school safety officers (school resource officer), high-quality teachers and staff, as well as essential programs, such as additional guidance counselors, social workers, and behavioral staff in District schools and expanding educational opportunities for our students.

The Secure the Next Generation initiative provides ½ mill that will be used to:

- ✓ Secure school resource officers and security staff for all schools, including individual charter schools with more than 900 students.
- ✓ Secure high-quality teachers and staff by increasing compensation for teachers and school-related staff (non-administrative).
- ✓ Secure essential programs in District schools and expand educational opportunities for our students.

For information about early voting and voting by mail, visit browardsoe.org.

To learn more about the ½ mill referendum, visit browardschools.com/secure.

What is ½ mill and why does our school District need this?

- The state legislature controls most of the K-12 education budget. The state only increased the budget for K-12 education by .47 cents per student in the Base Student Allocation this school year. **Due to inflationary and mandatory increased costs, this puts the District at an almost \$18 million deficit.**
- BCPS received the second lowest increase in funding across the state, while Broward County is still the most cost-burdened place to live in the United States.
- The legislature also now requires every school to have a school resource officer, but did not provide enough funding to cover the cost. This unfunded mandate forces the District to find funding elsewhere.
- The School Board asked taxpayers to fund the SMART bond in 2014, which strictly provides funding for critical maintenance needs and capital improvement to buildings. The SMART Bond funds cannot be used for salaries or operating expenses.
- The mill rate is the amount per \$1,000 of an assessed property value and is used to determine the amount of property tax
- The District's millage rate is still the lowest of all major Florida school districts, with a rate of 6.539. (Palm Beach: 6.769, Dade: 6.994, and Orange: 7.470)

What to expect for fiscal year 2018/19:

- The proposed 1/2 mill increase equates to an estimated \$10 per month for homeowners with an average home value of \$240,000, and an estimated \$5 per month for condo owners with an average condo value of \$130,000 (with a homestead exemption). This will generate \$92 million, which will be made available for the 2019/20 school year. The referendum will expire in four years.

This referendum will allow us to continue our commitment to secure high-quality education and a safe learning environment for our students, teachers and staff.