



## INFORMATION ABOUT THE TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION FOR THE LAKE DALLAS INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Lake Dallas ISD, like many other Texas School Districts, is faced with increasing costs and revenues that were frozen under a new state funding system.

### **WHY is the district asking for a tax increase?**

During the last legislative session, the Texas Legislature significantly changed the way all schools across the state are funded. Our District's funding was frozen at the amount we received during the 2006 school year. Funding is now based on the number of students who attend class each day. As property values rise, the resulting increase in tax revenue simply decreases the amount of state aid we receive. The total amount received per student does not change. The current funding system does not allow for educational program growth, inflation and annual raises for staff.

### **HOW does Lake Dallas ISD's revenue compare with other Districts?**

The revenue per student is different for each school district. Lake Dallas ISD is frozen at an amount that is almost 5% less than the state average and a staggering 15% less than the average of all Denton County Districts. The District is asking the voters to decide to increase the Maintenance & Operations tax rate to help the District fund current programs and maintain a competitive salary structure.

Like many other districts in the state, without a tax rate increase, LDISD is facing a deficit budget for the 2008-2009 school year. This is based on current state funding formula, unfunded mandates from the state, escalating educational program expenses, the increased costs associated with employee raises, and the rising costs related to operating our campuses.

### **WHAT is the current tax rate and the proposed rate with the 13-cent increase?**

The current tax rate is \$1.52. If the 13-cent increase to the Maintenance & Operations tax is approved by the LDISD voters, the overall tax rate remains lower than it has been in seven out of the past eight years.

#### Tax Rate History

If the tax rate were to increase 13 cents, the average homeowner would see a tax increase of approximately \$15.57 per month. If a person is age 65 or older, the election will not increase the property taxes on the taxpayer's homestead.

Year	Total Tax Rate
2000-2001	\$1.66
2001-2002	\$1.69
2002-2003	\$1.69
2003-2004	\$1.74
2004-2005	\$1.80
2005-2006	\$1.86
2006-2007	\$1.79
2007-2008	\$1.52

### **WHAT is the Districts tax rate history?**

The proposed tax rate of \$1.65 would be 21 cents less than \$1.86 rate that was adopted two years ago.

### **WHEN and WHERE is the election?**

Election Day is Saturday, October 4, 2008. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm at the Administration Building. Early voting is scheduled from September 17 until September 30 and will be held at each LDISD campus and at the Lake Dallas ISD Administration Building.