

CITY COUNCIL RESEARCH DIVISION

LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY



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Bill Type and Number: 2022-213

Introducer/Sponsor(s): Council President at the request of the School Board of Duval County, Florida

Date of Introduction: March 22, 2022

Committee(s) of Reference: R

Date of Analysis: March 23, 2022

Type of Action: Authorization of voter referendum

Bill Summary: This bill, at the request of the School Board, calls for a referendum of the qualified electors residing in Duval County to approve or deny an ad valorem tax millage increase for a period of four years. On March 1, 2022, the Duval County School Board enacted a resolution calling for a referendum regarding an ad valorem tax millage increase. Section 9, Article VII of the Florida Constitution authorizes Florida district school boards to levy ad valorem taxes of up to ten mills for all school purposes. Section 1011.71(9), Florida Statutes, authorizes the school boards to levy additional millage for school operational purposes. Section 1011.73(2), *Florida Statutes*, directs City Council to call an election at which the electors within the school district may approve an ad valorem tax millage. The referendum will be placed on the ballot for the primary election to be held on August 23, 2022.

Background Information: The 1-mill increase in ad valorem taxes is primarily designed to retain experienced teachers, compensate other staff (such as security personnel and maintenance workers) and meet other operational needs. There is currently a national teacher shortage and an increase in retirements and resignations, creating a large vacancy rate in Duval Public Schools. DCSB determined that increased compensation will aid in teacher retention and recruiting, and provide needed funds to enhance art, music and athletic programs. The funds raised through the 1 mill increase will be shared proportionally with Duval Charter Schools, and none of the funds will go towards compensation for school board members, the Superintendent or District executives. Voter approval from a majority of the votes cast in the referendum is needed to increase funding.

Policy Impact Area: DCPS School Board- ad valorem taxes 1 mill increase

Fiscal Impact: No direct cost to the City and undetermined revenue for DCPS operations

Analyst: Hampsey