



Mariemont City Schools FAQ Document *Updated 8-28-18*

The Mariemont City Schools Board of Education took action to place an initiative on the November 6, 2018 ballot. Here are a few facts about the issue to address some of our most frequently asked questions.

Q. What is on the ballot request?

A. Mariemont City Schools is asking voters for a combined 2.5-mill operating and 5.75-mill permanent improvement issue. The operating request is the lowest millage amount in the district's history and is expected to meet the day-to-day operating needs in the district for the next four years.

Q. What are operating funds and why are they needed?

A. Operating dollars are what is used to cover the day-to-day expenses to operate the district. These funds pay for things such as teachers, utilities and supplies. The district promised to make the 2014 operating dollars last for three years. However thanks to strong fiscal management, the district stretched these funds an additional year. Additional operating dollars are needed in order to maintain the current level of staffing and programming in all schools.

Q. What will the permanent improvement dollars do for our schools?

A. The permanent improvement funds will not only address the needed repairs and renovations at the high school, but will also provide security enhancements and ongoing maintenance support at all schools across the district.

Q. Was the community involved in these decisions?

A. YES! The district engaged in a two-year community process to determine the type, size and scope of the project to address the facility needs at the high school. In addition, a Community Finance Committee has reviewed the district's overall financial picture as well as the facility plans to make sure they meet the local expectations of residents. The district conducted a statistically valid third-party survey of residents and hosted multiple listening sessions and workshops to get as much input as possible from community members.

Q. Why are there two issues and only one ballot question?

A. The district can't move forward without addressing both the day-to-day operating needs and the ongoing maintenance needs at the high school. The district is currently estimating that it will cost at least \$1 million per year in operating dollars if the facility needs at the high school are not addressed. In addition, the district has already stretched the previous operating levy an extra year despite significant losses in state funding. Both issues are needed in order to maintain the current level of excellence that exists in the schools.

Q. What happens if voters approve the issue?

A. Then the district will have the necessary funds to maintain the current level of programs and staffing in all schools across the district for the next four years. In addition, the district will complete necessary mechanical and infrastructure repairs to the high school and renovate the school to provide a better academic experience for students. Also, all schools will receive security enhancements and benefit from ongoing maintenance repairs to protect the useful life of the buildings.



Q. What happens if voters do not approve the issue?

A. Then nearly \$2 million in cuts to staffing and programs will be made over the next two fiscal years. These reductions will be felt across the district and impact all students and staff. The district wants to maintain the current level of excellence and avoid all of these budget reductions. However, Ohio law requires districts to have a balanced budget. So if new funds are not identified, the district will be forced to bring the level of staffing and programs it offers in line with available revenue. You can find a complete list of the budget reductions plan online at www.mariemontschools.org/

Q. Why is this important now?

A. Mariemont City Schools has been looking at the facility needs of our high school, ongoing maintenance issues at all schools across the district and the district's overall financial picture for two years. The district has involved community members and industry experts to look at these challenges from every angle possible. The reality is that there will never be a better time to accomplish the goals identified by the community committee at a lower price. The community committee and the district both agree that band-aid fixes instead of long-term decisions that will extend the life of our schools are not a good use of taxpayer resources. Action must be taken by voters now to ensure a stable revenue stream for both the day-to-day operations as well as the type of facilities our students need to be competitive in education today and maintain the excellence that is Mariemont City Schools.

Q. How can I vote in the November election?

A. The first step is to make sure you are registered to vote. Some people think they are registered and are surprised to find out they are not. Others may have changed their address or name and simply need to update their registration records. You may verify and update your voter registration records online at <https://olvr.sos.state.oh.us/>.