

Maintenance Referendum

22 March 2005

Special Maintenance Fund

- This ballot item will seek to continue (for five more years) an existing arrangement that provides \$5+ million a year for both building maintenance and instructional equipment. (Total: \$26.2M)
- Up to \$1 million of this fund could be used each year toward instructional equipment.
- As the District retires old debt the funds used to the debt is transferred to the maintenance fund.
- This funding arrangement was originally voted into existence in 1999 for 5 years (ends June 30, 2005)

Cost

- An average homeowner (\$205,400 home) already pays \$83 a year for the maintenance fund.
- This will not raise taxes. A yes vote would keep the current arrangement.
- This is not a new tax; this is the continuation of an existing tax.

Critical Maintenance Needs

- The District budgets \$8 million a year for building maintenance. About \$5 million of that comes from this special maintenance fund and \$3 million comes from the operating budget.
- A blue-ribbon commission evaluated the District in 1995 and recommended that it spend \$11 million annually, in order to keep up with national maintenance standards.
- Thus, the District is already below the standard. If this does not pass more money will have to be taken from the operating budget to maintain buildings, and that would further reduce funds available for instruction.
- The District maintains 4.4 million square feet of buildings (same as the Sears Tower), but with far more grounds (?? acres) and roof (3 million square feet).
- Just to maintain roofs on a 25 year cycle costs at least \$1 million a year.

Critical Instructional Equipment Needs

- Up to \$1 M a year could be used to replace old computers, musical instruments and science equipment.
- The state TEACH fund, for purchasing computers, was eliminated in the 2003-05 state budget.
- The district does not have alternative funds to maintain/replace musical instruments or science equipment.

Why vote Yes?

- Many aging buildings need extra care.
- Protect funds for classroom instruction from being raided to fix buildings.
- Instructional equipment need to brought up-to-date.
- Minimal cost for maximum return.