Since 2004, the Pinellas County Schools Referendum has supported the recruitment and retention of quality teachers; strengthened reading, music and art programs; and provided up-to-date technology.

Pinellas County voters have overwhelmingly supported renewals of the half-mill tax since it was approved in 2004.

An independent committee oversees the distribution of funds to ensure that money is spent as voters intended.
Since the referendum was first approved by the citizens of Pinellas County, ICROC has overseen the expenditure of funds to ensure they are spent as voters intended.

The committee prepares regular reports for the School Board, which are available to the public.

ICROC Webpage and Reports: https://www.pcsb.org/Page/9106

Consists of seven (7) members each appointed representing the following organizations:

- League of Women Voters
- Pinellas County Council of PTAs (PCCPTA)
- Pinellas Education Foundation
- Pinellas Realtor Organization
- Concerned Organizations for Quality Education for Black Students (COQEBS)
- Arts for a Complete Education (ACE)
- Pinellas County Economic Development Council
HISTORICAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT
PASSAGE RATES BY PINELLAS COUNTY CITIZENS

2004 63%
2008 70%
2012 63%
2016 76%
2020 79%
Charters included
Shall the Pinellas County School District ad valorem millage of one-half mill per year be continued beginning July 1, 2021, and ending June 30, 2025, for necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain quality teachers; preserve reading programs and music and art classes; and provide current textbooks and technology, sharing funds with charter schools proportionate to student enrollment as required by law, with expenditure oversight by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?
SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 2140

- Includes approved ballot language
- Outlines the Independent Citizens Referendum Oversight Committee (ICROC)
  - Organizations
  - Membership
  - Quarterly meetings
  - Annual report
- ICROC oversees 80% to salaries and benefits of instructional staff, 20% to programs per Board Policy
- Policy is updated to match ballot language following citizen vote

PCS Policy 2140-ICROC: https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/pcsfl/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=BWDQ7R67E98E
REFERENDUM FUND USAGE

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

$44.4 million teacher salaries; $5,734 per teacher without fringe

$11.1 million reading, arts, technology

$4.6 million charters

Recruits and retains quality classroom teachers. Currently, eighty percent of the referendum revenue supplements teacher salaries. In 2023-24, teachers’ salaries received $6,328 from the referendum.

Supports all students through additional supplies, increased training opportunities for teachers, and updated computers and technology.

Funds supplemental literacy programs that help students read at grade level, instrument rental fees for students in need, and paid admission for field trips to museums and art galleries.

Provides all schools with funding for quality art supplies, equipment and technology that help students produce strong and award-winning works of art.

Supplies music, theater and dance equipment, technology, sound systems, uniforms, materials and field trip experiences that support award-winning performing arts programs.

Charter schools must utilize funding in the same voter-approved categories.
## LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS
### CURRENT DISCRETIONARY TAXES THAT SUPPORT SCHOOLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Operating Millage</th>
<th>Sales Tax (Capital Projects)</th>
<th>Impact Fees (Capital Projects)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hernando</td>
<td>1.0 mill</td>
<td>Yes, ½ cent</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillsborough</td>
<td>1.0 mill failed in 2022; will be on ballot in 2024</td>
<td>Yes, two sales tax, ½ cent and ⅛ cent</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>1.0 mill</td>
<td>Yes, ½ cent</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pasco</td>
<td>1.0 mill</td>
<td>Yes, ⁹⁄₂₀ cent</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pinellas</td>
<td>0.5 mill</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>1.0 mill</td>
<td>Yes, ¼ cent</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PROPOSAL FOR 2024 REFERENDUM

- Continue ICROC oversight of the referendum and remain good stewards of referendum funds
- Ballot language with millage change to 1.0 mill, consistent with surrounding counties
- Continue teacher salaries and programs as currently defined
- Add support staff salaries; defined to be non-teacher employees not on the administrative salary scale
PROPOSAL IMPACT
BASED ON THE 2023-24 TAX ROLL

Teacher Salary

$6,328
Current
$11,081
2025-26

NEW Support Staff Salary

$0
Current
$2,910
2025-26

Funding for Programs

$12.5 m
Current
$18.7 m
2025-26

Funding for Charters

$5 m
Current
$10 m
2025-26

Amounts do not include fringe
PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

Transparency
• Builds upon the 20-year commitment of Pinellas County citizens, wherein the PCS has significantly raised academic excellence and proven to be good stewards of the referendum funds.

Teacher and Support Staff Salaries
• Allows PCS to become one of the top districts for teacher pay in the state.
• Adding support staff to the Referendum will allow for competitive salaries to attract and retain high-quality employees.

Programming
• Expands programs that support and enhance student experience and academic excellence for all.
• Raises programming in STEM, visual/performing arts and early literacy to elevate the district to state and national prominence.
Visual and Performing Arts
• Expansion of current programming including orchestra, dance and visual/performing artists as instructors
• Increase field trips and school-day activities
• After-school and weekend individualized lessons, workshops and performances

Technology
• Enhance STEM programming and events in schools
• Expansion of current engineering options and academic opportunities
• Development of a middle school innovation center

Reading
• Expansion of Pinellas Early Literacy Initiative (PELI) and Read Across Pinellas (RAP) tutoring in early grades
A home with a taxable assessment value of $200,000 would pay $200 annually which equals $16.67 per month or $0.55 a day.

A home with a taxable assessment value of $400,000 would pay $400 annually which equals $33.33 per month or $1.10 a day.

2023 Median Assessed Values by City:

- Clearwater: $173,054
- Palm Harbor: $253,811
- St. Petersburg: $197,721
- Tarpon Springs: $224,215

Source: https://trends.ownwell.com/average-tax-assessment/florida/pinellas-county/
**TIMELINE**

**Proposal Development**
- Feedback and discussion to inform the 2024 referendum proposal
- Finalize proposal for School Board Workshop on May 7, 2024

**January-April 2024**

**Ballot Language**
- School Board vote on a resolution for referendum ballot language at the Board Meeting on May 14, 2024
- Board of County Commissioners vote on June 11, 2024, to place Referendum language on Pinellas County ballots for the November 2024 election

**May-June 2024**

**Referendum Vote**
- Adhere to all regulations regarding communication for referendum as outlined in Board Attorney memo
- Citizens of Pinellas County vote during 2024 general election on November 5, 2024

**July-November 2024**
Shall a Pinellas County School District ad valorem millage of one mill per year be levied beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2029, for necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain quality teachers and support staff; preserve music, art and reading classes; provide current technology, while sharing funds with public charter schools proportionate to student enrollment as required by law, with expenditure oversight by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?