



# Lockport School District 91

## Milne Grove & Kelvin Grove

### Maintain, Repair, and Update D91 Schools - Limiting Rate Increase Ballot Question

#### Overview

Lockport SD 91 Board of Education approved the placement of a limiting rate increase question on the November 8, 2022 ballot. If approved, the limiting rate increase proceeds will be used to maintain, repair, and update both Milne Grove and Kelvin Grove schools over time.

The Board's approval was based on the following facts:

- Research shows good schools positively impact the value of homes in that community.
- D91 wishes to continue providing quality educational services in a fiscally responsible manner.
- The district enrollment has leveled and will continue to be stable.
- There will be no need to construct a new school due to limited vacant land for new development in the district boundaries.
- The purpose of the limiting rate increase is to provide funds for the district to maintain, repair, and update the two existing schools.
- The bonds sold to build the junior high addition at Kelvin Grove (\$0.22) will be paid off in 2023. This portion of D91's tax rate (\$0.22) currently generates approximately \$400,000 annually.
- If the voters approve this limiting rate increase, this rate (\$0.22) will be applied to maintain, repair, and update both Milne Grove & Kelvin Grove schools. This "increase" will maintain the current tax rate with the bond.

#### Financial Information

D91 has done its best to provide quality educational services while remaining fiscally responsible to the community.

- D91 is not the highest tax rate in the Lockport community (see chart below on the left).
- D91's 2021 operating expense per student (\$14,325) was the lowest of all the Lockport community schools (see chart below on the right).
- D91's operating expense per student tends to be one of the lowest of the Lockport community schools.
- The Board is considering implementing a new *Limiting Rate Increase Proceeds Expenditure Limitation Policy*. If approved, this policy will establish how the proceeds from the limiting rate increase can be spent as well as annual reporting requirements and tight parameters for future Boards to make changes.
- If voters approve the limiting rate increase to maintain current taxes collected by D91 AND your home maintains its current value, your taxes will NOT increase due to the limiting rate increase.

Area School District Tax Rates				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Fairmont SD 89	4.867	4.667	4.638	4.439
Homer SD 33C	4.066	4.037	3.996	3.961
<b>Lockport SD 91</b>	<b>3.840</b>	<b>3.733</b>	<b>3.636</b>	<b>3.567</b>
Chaney-Monge SD 88	3.466	3.332	3.211	3.159
Richland SD 88A	3.302	3.345	3.204	3.157
Taft SD 90	3.473	3.302	3.229	3.102
Will County SD 92	3.149	3.140	3.071	3.068

Average Operating Expense Per Student					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fairmont SD 89	\$16,925	\$20,554	\$16,455	\$19,268	\$20,955
Will County SD 92	\$19,856	\$17,629	\$17,622	\$17,135	\$19,911
Chaney-Monge SD 88	\$11,074	\$13,430	\$15,950	\$16,699	\$16,410
Homer SD 33C	\$12,248	\$12,484	\$13,798	\$15,357	\$15,427
Richland SD 88A	\$12,422	\$13,283	\$13,396	\$14,851	\$14,961
Taft SD 90	\$10,775	\$10,850	\$12,104	\$14,107	\$14,930
<b>Lockport SD 91</b>	<b>\$11,558</b>	<b>\$11,559</b>	<b>\$12,690</b>	<b>\$12,906</b>	<b>\$14,325</b>

## **Facility Needs**

Much like maintaining a home, D91 must maintain its roofs, parking lots, plumbing, and HVAC systems. In addition, the District has a need to update security systems.

- The original structure of Kelvin Grove was built in 1951, with additions in 1958, 1965, and 2000. The newest addition in the district, junior high wing at Kelvin Grove, is just over twenty-two years old. It is imperative that the District begin planning repairs in that addition and the remainder of the school buildings. The district recently had to spend \$105,000 from local funds and \$50,000 from the school maintenance grant through ISBE for an emergency replacement of the boilers at Kelvin Grove this past winter to keep our buildings warm for our students and staff during the colder months.
- At Milne Grove (built in 1969), we need to remodel our main office to have a safe and secure entrance from the exterior of the building. In addition, at both buildings, we need to increase our security by installing key fobs & electric security on all exterior doors and upgrade/replace all analog camera systems with digital cameras.
- There are two sections at Kelvin Grove that need roof replacements within the next five years.
- In both schools, we need to refresh the finishes to modernize the visual appeal of the schools. This could include upgrading the flooring, ceiling, wall colors, casework, bathroom fixtures, stalls, locker rooms, etc.

A summary of the key findings of a recent facilities condition assessment and life safety report can be found at <http://www.d91.net/ballot-question.html>. D91 selected DLA Architects to assist in the process of providing more details related to the necessary projects and the development of a comprehensive Facilities Master Plan.

## **Funding Options**

The Board considered multiple options before determining that a limiting rate increase best meets the needs of the community. This solution means that all proceeds go directly to identified projects (rather than a substantial portion of the proceeds being spent on interest payments if the District were to sell bonds).

## **Community Forums**

The District will be hosting some forums to share information with the community. Meeting dates and times will be posted on our website at <http://www.d91.net/ballot-question.html>. Additional meetings can be scheduled for any community group (small or large) by contacting the Superintendent's office at 815-838-0737 or via email at [superintendent@d91.net](mailto:superintendent@d91.net).

Questions can be submitted to [superintendent@d91.net](mailto:superintendent@d91.net) or by phone at 815-838-0737.

OFFICIAL BALLOT November 8, 2022		
PROPOSITION TO INCREASE LIMITING RATE OF LOCKPORT SCHOOL DISTRICT 91, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, ILLINOIS		
Shall the limiting rate under the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law for Lockport School District 91, Will County, Illinois be increased by an additional amount equal to 0.2232% above the limiting rate for school purposes for levy year 2021 and be equal to 3.4276% of the equalized assessed value of the taxable property therein for levy year 2022?	YES	
	NO	
<p>(1) The approximate amount of taxes extendable at the most recently extended limiting rate is <u>\$5,777,646.96</u> and the approximate amount of taxes extendable if the proposition is approved is <u>\$6,180,084.55</u>.</p> <p>(2) For the 2022 levy year the approximate amount of the additional tax extendable against property containing a single-family residence and having a fair market value at the time of the referendum of \$100,000 is estimated to be <u>\$74.40</u>.</p> <p>(3) If the proposition is approved, the aggregate extension for levy year 2022 will be determined by the limiting rate set forth in the proposition, rather than the otherwise applicable limiting rate calculated under the provisions of the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (commonly known as the Property Tax Cap Law).</p>		