

Prop E: Ensuring high-quality teachers and support staff for Mehlville School District students

The Mehlville School District Board of Education voted unanimously to place a tax levy increase on the April 4, 2023, ballot. Prop E asks Mehlville School District voters for an operating levy increase of 31 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation. The increase would be used to fund competitive salaries to recruit and retain high-quality teachers and support staff (including bus drivers, custodians, cooks, nurses, front office staff and others) for the students of Mehlville School District.



Why is Prop E needed?

Mehlville School District has the lowest blended tax rate of 22 school districts in St. Louis County. The district relies on local taxes for more than 75 percent of its budget. Salaries are the district's top expense. Historic levels of inflation along with a low tax rate make it impossible for Mehlville School District to increase salaries to competitive levels without a tax increase.

The district routinely loses excellent teachers to area districts that offer higher pay. In the 2022-2023 school year, Mehlville School District is paying its starting teachers \$1,938 less than the average starting teacher salary in other county districts. At higher levels of experience, Mehlville's teacher salaries trail the county average by \$7,585. Teacher resignations (not including

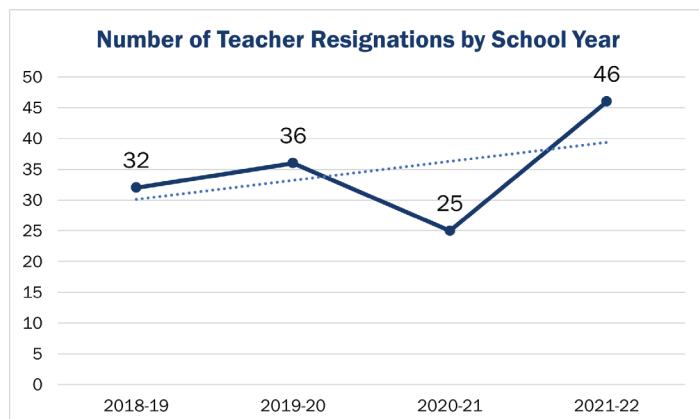
retirements) are up over the past four years.

Fewer qualified candidates are applying for open teaching positions. It's especially difficult to attract certified math, science and English language development teachers.

The district faces workforce shortages among support staff positions. The district has averaged about 80 percent staffing for custodians and bus drivers. The district is also short-staffed in its cafeterias.

Our survey results show strong community support for competitive pay for teachers and support staff. Of those who responded:

- 87 percent favor increasing salaries for bus drivers, custodians, cooks, nurses and other support staff to attract and retain these essential workers.
- 85 percent favor increasing teacher salaries to become competitive in the region and to attract and retain high-quality teachers.



What happens if Prop E passes?

Voter approval of Prop E would enable Mehlville School District to protect and improve the quality of education and staffing in the district. A stable teacher workforce positively affects student achievement. Student safety and wellbeing is improved with fully staffed custodial, transportation and other critical support staff positions.

What happens if Prop E fails?

Without the added revenue generated by Prop E, Mehlville School District would likely face continued workforce shortages that threaten the district's ability to provide essential services. The district would likely see a decline in the quality of education it can provide as competition for quality teachers continues to increase.

How much will Prop E cost homeowners?

Prop E is an operating tax rate increase of 31 cents for each \$100 of assessed home value. Use the chart below to determine how Prop E would impact you based on the appraised value of your home. (Note: The figures in the chart below are rounded to the nearest whole dollar.)

Home Value	Annual	Monthly
\$150,000	\$88	\$7
\$200,000	\$118	\$10
\$250,000	\$147	\$12
\$300,000	\$177	\$15
\$350,000	\$206	\$17
\$400,000	\$236	\$20



When is the election?

The election takes place on Tuesday, April 4, 2023. Please vote!

St. Louis County provides two options for early voting. Absentee voting begins on February 21, 2023, for registered voters with an excuse. Early voting begins on March 21, 2023, for any registered voter. Learn about voting in St. Louis County: stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-government/board-of-elections/

