

**ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF MERCER  
DIRECTING AN ELECTION TO BE HELD TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUATION OF  
ADDITIONAL TAX LEVIES FOR THE FISCAL YEARS BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025,  
JULY 1, 2026, JULY 1, 2027, JULY 1, 2028, AND JULY 1, 2029**

That at a statutory meeting of the Board of Education of the County of Mercer, State of West Virginia, held on January 8, 2024, as provided by law, the following Order was made and entered for record, to-wit:

BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF MERCER:

The Board of Education of the County of Mercer being of the opinion that the Maximum Levies for current expenses authorized by Article 8, Chapter 11 of the Code of West Virginia, as amended, will not provide sufficient funds for the payment of current expenses of the Board of Education, including expenditures for the purpose or purposes hereinafter set forth, and that an election should be held to increase such levies under the provisions of Section 16, Article 8, Chapter 11 of the Code, as amended, it is hereby ordered:

1. That the purposes for which additional funds are needed, together with the approximate amount for each purpose, are as follows:
  - A. For continuing the upgrading and improving of the instructional program of the Mercer County School District by the employment of additional teachers and professional student support personnel, the retention of qualified professional personnel, the employment of substitutes, and the provision of coaching and employee supplements, thereby keeping the Mercer County School District in a competitive position with other counties in West Virginia.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$3,100,000.
  - B. For continuing to provide for the support of schools through the employment of additional service personnel, and for the maintenance of a fair and adequate salary schedule for all service and auxiliary personnel through the provision of employee salary supplements, and for the employment of substitutes for maintaining adequate services for the Mercer County School District.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$1,400,000.
  - C. For continuing to provide fringe benefits such as the employer contribution for salary supplements, flexible allowances for optical coverage for all employees, and /or their dependents.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$950,000.
  - D. For providing free textbooks (both print and electronic versions), instructional supplies, materials, and equipment including but not limited to workbooks, study materials, computer and electronic devices for student work, software, licenses, and classroom technology for grades PreK through twelve (12) as well as technical support to utilize and maintain such materials and equipment.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$2,000,000.
  - E. For assistance in providing funding for alternative education programs including salaries, supplies, and equipment.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$200,000.
  - F. For continuing support of public libraries, health services for students, employees, and 4-H activities.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$150,000.
  - G. For continuing support of extracurricular activities for students including chorus, instrumental music, clubs, athletics, cheerleading, curricular and extra-curricular classroom field trips; providing stipends/supplements for sponsors/coaches/teachers, purchasing equipment, uniforms, supplies, and other such expenditures that support these activities including athletic field maintenance and improvements.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$1,200,000.

H. For the maintenance and upkeep of existing school facilities, including HVAC repair and renovations, school building repair, fire marshal requirements, payment of equipment through lease purchase agreements. Also, to purchase the tools, equipment, and vehicles needed to provide maintenance and delivery services to schools.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$2,500,000.

I. For assistance in maintaining, and providing a secure environment for students, and employees in the schools including school resource officers and security aides.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$500,000.

J. For supplementing the Permanent Improvement Fund for constructing new facilities, remodeling and major facility improvements to existing facilities.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$836,499.

K. For assisting in meeting utility, and operational costs, including insurance, and custodial supplies in all buildings.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$2,000,000.

L. For assisting in meeting the cost of transporting students to and from school.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$200,000.

2. That the annual total approximate amount necessary to carry out the above purposes, after making due allowances for exonerations, and delinquencies, is approximately: \$15,036,499

3. That the total five (5) year approximate amount necessary to carry out the above purposes, making due allowances for exonerations, and delinquencies, is approximately: \$75,182,495

4. That the separate and aggregate assessed valuation of each class of taxable property within the County of Mercer is as follows:

Class I	0
Class II	1,011,504,700
Class III	855,122,538
Class IV	398,483,839
Aggregate	2,265,111,077

5. That the proposed additional rate of levy in cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuations of each class of property is as follows:

Class I	22.95 cents
Class II	45.9 cents
Class III	91.8 cents
Class IV	91.8 cents

6. That the proposed years to which the additional levy shall apply are the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2025; July 1, 2026; July 1, 2027; July 1, 2028; and July 1, 2029.

7. That the Board of Education of the County of Mercer is hereby authorized, and empowered to expend during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, accruing in excess of the amounts needed for any of the above-stated purposes, plus excess collections, due to increased assessed valuations for the enrichment, supplementation, operation, and improvement of educational services, and/or facilities in the public schools of the County of Mercer.

8. That the Mercer County Board of Education will not issue bonds against this levy.

9. That should any item in the aforementioned purposes be declared unconstitutional or invalid due to judicial or legislative action, affected funds will be distributed among remaining unaffected items.

10. That in the event other funds or additional funds are obtained by grant or allocation from state, federal, local, or any other sources, such funds may be used in place of the funds described above and/or in addition to the amount obtained from this levy.

11. That the Board of Education of the County of Mercer may, if the Board deems it to be in its best interests, reduce these said rates in any given year or years during the term of this levy after

determining the sufficiency of funds for school purposes for the next ensuing taxable year.

- 12. That the question of continuing such additional levy shall be submitted to a vote at the Primary Election, to be held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2024.
- 13. Notice calling such election shall be given by the publication of this order once a week for two successive weeks before said election, within fourteen consecutive days next preceding the election, in the BLUEFIELD DAILY TELEGRAPH, which is the newspaper of general circulation in the County of Mercer.
- 14. That the registration of voters, and use of registration books shall be governed by the permanent registration laws of the State of West Virginia; and the Board of Education of the County of Mercer does hereby adopt the registrations lists of and for said Mercer County, as amended and corrected, according to law, as the official registration lists of said Mercer County School District for such General Election.
- 15. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized, and directed to attend to the publication of this Order as herein set forth, and do any and all things necessary to present the questions proposed by this Order to the voters in the Mercer County School District at said Primary Election.
- 16. That the ballot to be used at such election shall be in form as follows:

**OFFICIAL LEVY BALLOT  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MERCER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA  
LEVY ELECTION  
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

Special election to authorize the continuation of additional levies for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2025, July 1, 2026, July 1, 2027, July 1, 2028, and July 1, 2029, and for the purpose of maintaining and improving the instructional programs and the operation of school services in Mercer County including, but not limited to:

- A. For continuing the upgrading and improving of the instructional program of the Mercer County School District by the employment of additional teachers and professional student support personnel, the retention of qualified professional personnel, the employment of substitutes, and the provision of coaching and employee supplements, thereby keeping the Mercer County School District in a competitive position with other counties in West Virginia.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$3,100,000.
- B. For continuing to provide for the support of schools through the employment of additional service personnel, and for the maintenance of a fair and adequate salary schedule for all service and auxiliary personnel through the provision of employee salary supplements, and for the employment of substitutes for maintaining adequate services for the Mercer County School District.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$1,400,000.
- C. For continuing to provide fringe benefits such as the employer contribution for salary supplements, flexible allowances for optical coverage for all employees, and /or their dependents.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$950,000.
- D. For providing free textbooks (both print and electronic versions), instructional supplies, materials, and equipment including but not limited to workbooks, study materials, computer and electronic devices for student work, software, licenses, and classroom technology for grades PreK through twelve (12) as well as technical support to utilize and maintain such materials and equipment.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$2,000,000.
- E. For assistance in providing funding for alternative education programs including salaries, supplies, and equipment.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$200,000.

- F. For continuing support of public libraries, health services for students, employees, and 4-H activities.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$150,000.
- G. For continuing support of extracurricular activities for students including chorus, instrumental music, clubs, athletics, cheerleading, curricular and extra-curricular classroom field trips; providing stipends/supplements for sponsors/coaches/teachers, purchasing equipment, uniforms, supplies, and other such expenditures that support these activities including athletic field maintenance and improvements.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$1,200,000.
- H. For the maintenance and upkeep of existing school facilities, including HVAC repair and renovations, school building repair, fire marshal requirements, payment of equipment through lease purchase agreements. Also, to purchase the tools, equipment, and vehicles needed to provide maintenance and delivery services to schools.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$2,500,000.
- I. For assistance in maintaining, and providing a secure environment for students, and employees in the schools including school resource officers and security aides.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$500,000.
- J. For supplementing the Permanent Improvement Fund for constructing new facilities, remodeling and major facility improvements to existing facilities.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$836,499.
- K. For assisting in meeting utility, and operational costs, including insurance, and custodial supplies in all buildings.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$2,000,000.
- L. For assisting in meeting the cost of transporting students to and from school.  
APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT OF: \$200,000.

according to the order of the Board of Education of the County of Mercer entered on the 8th day of January, 2024.

TOTAL APPROXIMATE NET ANNUAL AMOUNT NEEDED  
AFTER DUE ALLOWANCES FOR DELINQUENT TAXES,  
DISCOUNTS, AND EXONERATIONS: \$15,036,499

Should any item in the aforementioned purposes be declared unconstitutional or invalid due to judicial or legislative action, affected funds will be distributed among remaining unaffected items.

In the event other funds or additional funds are obtained by grant or allocation from state, federal, local, or any other sources, such funds may be used in place of the funds described above and/or in addition to the amount obtained from this levy.

The Board of Education of the County of Mercer may, if the Board deems it to be in its best interests, reduce these said rates in any given year or years during the term of this levy after determining the sufficiency of funds for school purposes for the next ensuing taxable year.

The continuation approved on May 14, 2024, of an additional levy for each \$100 assessed valuation of property shall be on Class I property 22.95 cents; on Class II property 45.9 cents; on Class III property 91.8 cents; and on Class IV property 91.8 cents.

☐

FOR THE LEVY

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AGAINST THE LEVY

Instructions: Those favoring the renewal of the levy, place (X) in the square before "FOR THE LEVY", those against such levy place (X) in the square before "AGAINST THE LEVY".

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Given under my hand this 8<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
THE COUNTY OF MERCER

By   
Greg Prudich, President

Attest:

  
Edward T. Toman, Secretary