

**AN ORDER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE
COUNTY OF RITCHIE DIRECTING THE SUBMISSION TO
THE VOTERS OF RITCHIE COUNTY AT THE PRIMARY
ELECTION TO BE HELD ON MAY 14, 2024 ALL
QUESTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE RENEWAL OF
EXCESS LEVIES TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO
PAY THE GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSES OF SAID
BOARD.**

After full consideration thereof, The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie (the "Board"), a West Virginia Corporation, being of the opinion that the maximum levies for current expenses authorized by Chapter 11, Article 8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, will not provide sufficient funds for the payment of current expenses of Board, including purposes herein- after set forth, during the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2025; July 1, 2026; July 1, 2027; July 1, 2028; and July 1, 2029, and having ascertained that the amounts hereinafter shown in excess of the amounts raised by regular levies will be needed by the Board of Education, during each of said five (5) fiscal years, and that an election should be held to renew additional levies which were previously renewed by the voters of Ritchie County School District on November 2, 2019, under the provisions of Chapter 11, Article 8, Section 16 of the Code of West Virginia, as amended, it is therefore ordered:

1. The additional funds are needed for the following purposes and in approximate average annual amounts shown below for each purpose (subject to variation from year to year as provided herein) during the next five fiscal years in order to maintain and improve the instructional programs and school services in the Ritchie County School District:

PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE
Free Textbooks, Workbooks and Technology (including digital and electronic equivalents) to all students in preschool through and including twelfth grade, and to provide for the purchase of academic software, hardware, and technology devices.	\$ 415,000
Instructional Supplies, Materials and Equipment for the classroom teacher including without limitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs for musical instruments, drama, the arts, physical education/ wellness; • costs for technology equipment; • costs for playground equipment; • costs copiers and paper; and/or • costs for furniture 	\$ 205,000
Curricular and Extracurricular Activities and Transportation , including without limitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs for transportation for athletic and band events, Career Technical Education, after school and summer learning programs; and • costs for educational activities including field trips. 	\$ 115,000

Athletic and Band Supports including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> costs for uniforms; costs for equipment; and/or costs to improve and maintain athletic facilities and programs. 	\$ 200,000
Career Technical Education (CTE) & Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local share for the Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute (MOVTI); and/or Costs for supplies and equipment for CTE & STEAM 	\$ 175,000
Ritchie County Extension Services (4-H) Support of Educational Activities	\$ 30,000
Maintenance , including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cost for maintenance of buildings and grounds; cost for transportation and maintenance equipment, vehicles, buses, supplies, parts and services; costs for custodial supplies and equipment; and costs for utilities. 	\$ 1,810,000
Capital Improvements to buildings for the purpose of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> costs for renovations, remodeling, construction and/or equipment replacement including but not limited to new construction, bathroom upgrades, interior/exterior lighting, HVAC, flooring, bleachers, gymnasiums, kitchen equipment; and/or costs for repair of buildings, grounds, roofs, painting, sidewalks / parking lots. 	\$ 1,250,000
Employee Salaries and Benefits annually, including and limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> professional personnel; service personnel; and extra-duty contracts for band and athletics. 	\$ 2,685,590
Dental and Vision Insurance and Health Cost Reimbursement Plan for qualifying Ritchie County School employees for the duration of this excess levy only.	\$ 350,000
School Safety Measures including and limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cost for the Prevention Resource Officer(s) serving Ritchie County Schools; cost for maintaining and improving security systems and equipment for all school facilities, school buses and access / egress in all school facilities; cost for staff development and services for district expanded mental health, behavioral support, and crisis / safety management; and/or cost for identifiable clothing and safety equipment for service personnel. 	\$ 205,000
After School and Summer Learning Programs and At-Risk Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cost for personnel; and/or cost for supplies 	\$ 200,000
TOTAL	\$ 7,640,590

If for any reason all of the funds herein above allocated for any one of the above enumerated purposes is not used for such purpose in any of such five (5) fiscal years, the unused portion of

such funds may be allocated by the Board, in its discretion and expended for any one or more of the remaining purposes or carried over to future fiscal years and expended for the above enumerated purposes. The actual amounts budgeted, as well as the amounts spent, for each purpose and in aggregate, likely will vary from one fiscal year to the next depending on the realized tax collections and the needs of the Ritchie County School District, as determined by the Board with respect to each fiscal year.

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

3. That the approximate average amount for said purposes, after making due allowance for delinquencies and exonerations is approximately \$7,640,590 annually and the total approximate amount to be expended during the term of this levy is \$38,202,950.

4. That the separate and aggregate assessed valuation of each class of taxable property within the County of Ritchie for assessment year 2024 is as follows:

<u>CLASS OF TAXABLE PROPERTY</u>	<u>ASSESSED VALUATION</u>
Class I	\$-
Class II	\$290,292,333
Class III	\$1,212,769,374
Class IV	\$78,279,129
AGGREGATE ASSESSED VALUATION	\$1,581,340,836

5. That the proposed renewal of such rate of levy in cents per \$100 of assessed values on each class of property is as follows:

Class I	14.92¢
Class II	29.84¢
Class III	59.68¢
Class IV	59.68¢

6. That the proposed years to which the renewal of such 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. The Board, in its sole discretion, is hereby authorized and empowered to expend, during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, occurring in excess of the amounts needed for any of the above state purposes, plus excess collections due to increased assessed valuations for the enrichment, supplementation and improvement of education services and/or facilities in the public schools in the County of Ritchie. In the event that the amount collected is less than the amounts

noted for the above purposes for any one or more fiscal years, the Board is hereby authorized and empowered to determine, in its discretion, which one or more of the enumerated purposes set forth above shall be reduced for each such fiscal year, and the amount of each such reduction for such fiscal year, provided that the total of all such reductions shall not exceed the amount of such collection shortfall for such fiscal year.

8. That the question of renewal of such levy shall be submitted to a vote at the primary election, to be held on the 14th day of May 2024.

9. That the notice calling such election shall be given by publication of this Order at least once a week for two successive weeks before said election, in the Ritchie Gazette and the Pennsboro News, both being newspapers of general circulation in the Ritchie County School District.

10. If a majority of the voters at such election to be held on May 14, 2024, approve the proposed additional levies, the Board will not issue bonds upon the approval of such levies, as provided by Section 16, Article 8, Chapter 11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.

11. That in the event additional money shall be obtained by grant or otherwise from the State or Federal Government, or any state or government agencies, for use in school buildings in the Ritchie County School District, or for matching funds for current school purposes, such additional money may be used either in substitution for or in addition to the proceeds derived from the said levies as may be fixed by the Board and the granting agency. If additional buildings are constructed from funds so obtained, the proceeds from said levies may be used in connection with any such state or federal grant for use in such additional work.

12. The Ballot to be used at such election shall be in the form as follows:

**OFFICIAL LEVY BALLOT
SPECIAL LEVY ELECTION
BOARD OF EDUCATION OF RITCHIE COUNTY
May 14, 2024**

Special election to authorize renewal of additional levies for the fiscal years beginning July 1, 2025; July 1, 2026; July 1, 2027; July 1, 2028; and July 1, 2029, in the approximate average amount of \$7,640,590 annually and that the purposes for which funds are needed in order to maintain and improve the instructional programs and the operation of school services in the Ritchie County School District, are as follows:

PURPOSE FOR WHICH ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE NEEDED	APPROXIMATE ANNUAL AMOUNT FOR EACH PURPOSE
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Free Textbooks, Workbooks and Technology (including digital and electronic equivalents) to all students in preschool through and including twelfth grade, and to provide for the purchase of academic software, hardware, and technology devices.	\$ 415,000
Instructional Supplies, Materials and Equipment for the classroom teacher including without limitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs for musical instruments, drama, the arts, physical education/ wellness; • costs for technology equipment; • costs for playground equipment; • costs copiers and paper; and/or • costs for furniture 	\$ 205,000
Curricular and Extracurricular Activities and Transportation , including without limitation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs for transportation for athletic and band events, Career Technical Education, after school and summer learning programs; and • costs for educational activities including field trips. 	\$ 115,000
Athletic and Band Supports including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs for uniforms; • costs for equipment; and/or • costs to improve and maintain athletic facilities and programs. 	\$ 200,000
Career Technical Education (CTE) & Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local share for the Mid-Ohio Valley Technical Institute (MOVTI); and/or • Costs for supplies and equipment for CTE & STEAM 	\$ 175,000
Ritchie County Extension Services (4-H) Support of Educational Activities	\$ 30,000
Maintenance , including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost for maintenance of buildings and grounds; • cost for transportation and maintenance equipment, vehicles, buses, supplies, parts and services; • costs for custodial supplies and equipment; and • costs for utilities. 	\$ 1,810,000
Capital Improvements to buildings for the purpose of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • costs for renovations, remodeling, construction and/or equipment replacement including but not limited to new construction, bathroom upgrades, interior/exterior lighting, HVAC, flooring, bleachers, gymnasiums, kitchen equipment; and/or • costs for repair of buildings, grounds, roofs, painting, sidewalks / parking lots. 	\$ 1,250,000
Employee Salaries and Benefits annually, including and limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • professional personnel; • service personnel; and • extra-duty contracts for band and athletics. 	\$ 2,685,590

Dental and Vision Insurance and Health Cost Reimbursement Plan for qualifying Ritchie County School employees for the duration of this excess levy only.	\$ 350,000
School Safety Measures including and limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost for the Prevention Resource Officer(s) serving Ritchie County Schools; • cost for maintaining and improving security systems and equipment for all school facilities, school buses and access / egress in all school facilities; • cost for staff development and services for district expanded mental health, behavioral support, and crisis / safety management; and/or • cost for identifiable clothing and safety equipment for service personnel. 	\$ 205,000
After School and Summer Learning Programs and At-Risk Students <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cost for personnel; and/or • cost for supplies 	\$ 200,000
TOTAL	\$ 7,640,590

If for any reason all of the funds herein above allocated for any one of the above enumerated purposes is not used for such purpose in any of such five (5) fiscal years, the unused portion of such funds may be allocated by The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie, in its discretion and expended for any one or more of the remaining purposes in its discretion and expended for any one or more of the remaining purposes or carried over to future fiscal years and expended for the above enumerated purposes.

The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie, in its sole discretion, is hereby authorized and empowered to expend, during the term of this levy, the surplus, if any, occurring in excess of the amounts needed for any of the above state purposes, plus excess collections due to increased assessed valuations for the enrichment, supplementation and improvement of education services and/or facilities in the public schools in the County of Ritchie. The actual amounts budgeted, as well as the amounts spent, for each purpose and in aggregate, likely will vary from one fiscal year to the next depending on the realized tax collections and the needs of the Ritchie County School District, as determined by The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie with respect to each fiscal year. If the amounts budgeted by The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie for a specific purpose or purposes for a fiscal year are not able to be spent entirely in such fiscal year, then the unspent amounts may be carried over and spent on such specific purpose or purposes in subsequent fiscal years.

In the event that the amount collected is less than the amounts noted for the above purposes for any one or more fiscal years, The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie is hereby authorized and empowered to determine, in its discretion, which one or more of the enumerated purposes set forth above shall be reduced for each such fiscal year, and the amount of each such reduction for such fiscal year, provided that the total of all such reductions shall not exceed the amount of such collection shortfall for such fiscal year.

That should additional money be obtained by grant or otherwise from the state or federal government or any other source such additional money may be used either in substitution for or in addition to the amount obtained from this levy.

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

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

That the total average approximate amount for said purpose or purposes, during the term of the five-year levy, after making due allowances for exonerations, discounts, and delinquent taxes is \$7,640,590 annually or a total approximate amount for the next five (5) year period of \$38,202,950, all pursuant to the Order of The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie entered on the 8th day of January, 2024. The additional levies shall be as follows: Class I property, 14.92 cents; Class II property, 29.84 cents; Class III property (if any), 59.68 cents; Class IV property (if any), 59.68 cents.

That the separate and aggregate assessed valuation of each class of taxable property within the County of Ritchie for assessment year 2024 is as follows: Class II \$290,292,333; Class III \$1,212,769,374; Class IV \$78,279,129; Aggregate \$1,581,340,836.

If a majority of the voters approve the proposed additional levies, The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie will not issue bonds upon the approval of such levies, as provided by Section 16, Article 8, Chapter 11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.

All according to the order of The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie, entered into on the 8th day of January, 2024.

☐ **FOR THE LEVIES**

☐ **AGAINST THE LEVIES**

Instructions: Those favoring the renewal of the Levy, place (X) in the square before FOR THE LEVIES; those against such Levy, place (X) in the square before AGAINST THE LEVIES.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE COUNTY OF RITCHIE

END OF FORM OF OFFICIAL BALLOT

13. The Secretary of the Board with the assistance of the Clerk of the County Commission of the County of Ritchie, which said Clerk is hereby designated and appointed as an agent of this Board for this election, are hereby authorized and directed to procure and furnish to the election commissioners at each voting precinct, insofar as practicable, the ballots, poll books, tally sheets and other things necessary for conducting the election, as provided by Section 11, Article 1, Chapter 13 of the Code, and perform all duties imposed by law upon clerks of the County Commission in relation to elections, and assist the County Commission, sitting as the board of canvassers, with canvassing the results of the election in accordance with Section 13, Article 1,

Chapter 13 of the Code. The commissioners and clerks appointed and certified for the purpose of the election shall be the same commissioners and clerks designated, appointed and certified by the County Commission.

14. Absentee ballots shall be applied for, obtained from and returned to the Clerk of the County Commission of the County of Ritchie, and said Clerk is hereby appointed the agent for the Board to perform all duties relating to absentee ballots in election.

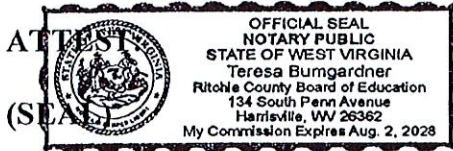
15. The registration of voters and the use of the registration booths shall be governed by the permanent registration law of the State of West Virginia and the Board hereby adopts the registration list of Ritchie County as the official registration list of the school district for this election.

[Signature page follows this page.]

In witness whereof, the above Order was duly adopted by The Board of Education of the County of Ritchie on the 8th day of January, 2024.

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF THE COUNTY OF RITCHIE**

By: *Terrie Jackson*
President



Teresa Bumgardner

Aprile Haight
Secretary