

**ALL MY LIFE,  
I WANT TO BE A**



**Presentation of the Renewal  
of the 2017  
Operational Referendum for 2025**



School City of  
**Hobart**

Building  
College and Career  
Ready Students  
One Brick at a Time!



# Time for the School City of Hobart to RENEW the referendum from 2017!

## Ensuring Safe Schools & Reliable Transportation for Our Community

As a community, we all want the best for our children—a safe learning environment and reliable transportation to and from school. In order to continue providing these critical services, our schools need sustainable funding. Back in 2017, the citizens of Hobart approved a referendum for transportation and safety that lasted for 8 years. It is time to **RENEW** the referendum for 2025 to have these services continue. Taxes will remain the same in this renewal request. There will be a special election on May 6, 2025.

### School Safety: A Priority for Everyone

- School Resource Officers (SROs) play an essential role in maintaining the safety of our students and staff. From preventing incidents to responding quickly in emergencies, SROs help foster a secure environment where children can focus on learning.
- With increased concerns around school safety, having trained professionals on-site ensures that our schools are proactive in protecting students and staff.

### Reliable Transportation: Keeping Students on Track

- School buses are more than a ride—they are a lifeline for many families. Ensuring that our buses are maintained and our routes are efficient helps students arrive on time, ready to learn.
- Proper funding is necessary to avoid disruptions in bus services and to pay for the transportation department. By maintaining safe and dependable transportation, we support our students' ability to succeed academically.

### An Investment in Our Future

- A well-funded school system provides important services that strengthen the community. This operating referendum is designed to provide long-term solutions for the challenges we face today, ensuring every student has access to the safe environment and reliable transportation they deserve.
- There will be a special election on May 6th for this request to **RENEW** the operational referendum.

## Learn More

To understand more about how these funds will be used and how they will support our schools, please visit [www.hobart.k12.in.us/SCOHreferendum](http://www.hobart.k12.in.us/SCOHreferendum) or join us for community information sessions. Let's work together to make our schools the best they can be!

# Presentation Summary



**Introduction and Mission**



**Future of Educational Funding for Lake and Porter County**



**Understanding the Difference in Funds permitted for school districts**



**Operational History**



**Solution**



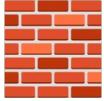
**Financial Considerations**



**Your Support**

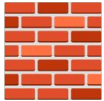


# Introduction and Mission



## **VISION FOR STUDENT LEARNING:**

The School City of Hobart Community will foster intellectual curiosity, natural abilities, critical thinking, and literacy in students while developing respectful and responsible citizens who are excited about the challenges of tomorrow, confident in their ability to chart the future, and dedicated to the pursuit of lifelong learning.



## **MISSION:**




Our Schools Equip Children for Adulthood.

Our Schools Address the Needs of Individual Students.

Our Schools Are Community Schools.

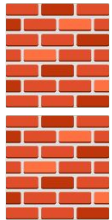
Our Schools Are Committed to Success.

# What happened in 2020 for Lake and St. Joseph Counties?

-  The circuit breaker tax caps became effective in both Lake and St. Joseph Counties in 2020 which is estimated to cause SCOH to lose almost **\$2 million annually** in its funds that pay for transportation, maintenance of facilities and technology.
-  The tax caps limit a homeowner's total property tax bill to **1%** of the home's gross assessed value, a landlord or farmer to **2%**, and businesses to **3%**.
-  This had the effect of reducing taxpayers' bills in 2020.
  - For example, a taxpayer who owns a home with a total assessed value of **\$100,000** and a current tax bill of **\$1,500**, after the tax caps tax take effect, that taxpayer's bill could drop to **\$1,000** which is **1%**.
  - The **\$500** reduction to the taxpayer will be a **\$500** loss to all of the taxing units, such as SCOH, the city and county.

# Operation Funds

## What are they?



**Utilities**

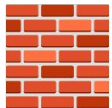
**Transportation — Buses**



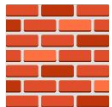
**Technology — Infrastructure and Utility Costs**



**Maintenance of Facilities**



**Property Casualty Insurance**



**School Safety**



# Operational History

 **2009 – The state cut funding to K-12 schools due to the new law where state tuition to schools started coming from sales taxes versus property taxes along with the great recession.**

 **The SCOH lost \$1.2 million annually from their budget when the state made these cuts.**

 **The district worked tirelessly and restructured to make adjustments financially in order to not go to the taxpayers for this cut:**

- Consolidated Grades 1-5 in three schools to utilize staff more efficiently.
- Early retirement incentives, attrition and no (Reduction in Force (RIFs).
- Took advantage of full day K grant to pay for teachers; opened up the ELC
- Did furloughs in custodial ranks.
- We moved to a magnet for high ability program in one school.
- We did not cut programming.
- Reduced Administrators and pay.
- Healthcare adjustments.

 **We have operated fiscally and responsibly.**

 **We did not go to taxpayers asking for more funding when most school districts had to do this to balance the deficits in their budgets.**

# Operational History



**There was nothing more to cut except transportation and programming if we did not recoup the ~\$1.9 million dollar loss that happened in 2020.**

- 2017 We had an Operational Referendum to correct this revenue loss that was tax neutral and the community overwhelmingly supported it.



**The current request is to renew the Operational Referendum that will be tax neutral in 2025.**





# Operational Referendum 2025

Preparation for the Annual Operational  
SCOH will have:

**\$3,750,000** Reduction in Revenue  
Due to Property Tax Caps:

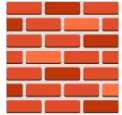
**1%** Homestead

**2%** Rental/Farmland

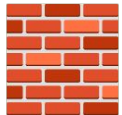
**3%** Business/Commercial



# What does that mean?

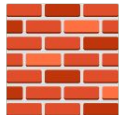


Local property tax bills will go down due to the tax caps.



What does that mean for schools and municipalities?

○ **LOSS OF REVENUE**



School City of Hobart will lose **~\$3.75 Million.**



## A Proactive Solution for 2025

**PROACTIVE SOLUTION:**  
Operational Referendum for  
**\$2.8 Million** fund replacement

This can be done with the result of a neutral tax bill impact by not asking the taxpayer for the total loss of **\$3.75 million** and keep that 1% tax cap decrease from 2017 as a renewal at the same level of .246 increase which would be expressed on the voter ballot.

**SCOH wants to maintain Transportation  
and School Safety of SROs.**

# The Question Explained

## **Preliminary Form of Question:**

“Shall School City of Hobart continue to impose increased property taxes paid to the school corporation by homeowners and businesses for eight (8) years immediately following the holding of the referendum for the purpose of funding and maintaining current educational and operational programs including student safety and transportation and any other educational and operational needs of the school corporation? The property tax increase requested in this referendum was originally approved by the voters in 2017 and if extended will increase the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a residence within the school corporation by 26.84% and if extended will increase the average property tax paid to the school corporation per year on a business property within the school corporation by 24.73%.”

**The Question poses an increase because there could be a decrease with the property tax caps of 1% residential, 2% rental/agriculture, and 3% business. The ballot question is statutorily regulated - meaning we cannot change the wording to just say keep it the same - no new taxes.**

**As in 2017, we requested the community not take the decrease resulting in huge revenue loss to the school district.**

**Keep things the same — neutral tax impact.**

# 3 Houses and the 1% Tax Cap

## Estimated Tax Bill - 2015 Pay 2016

Gross Assessed Value	\$	128,600
Net Assessed Value	\$	51,340
Gross Annual Taxes	\$	1,556
Minus Savings Due to Property Tax Cap	\$	0
Taxes Due to Property Tax Cap Exempt Tax Rates		644
<b>Net Annual Tax Bill Estimated</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,556</b>
<b>Tax Rate Details</b>		
Total Tax Rate:		3.0316%
Property Tax Cap Exempt Tax Rate:		1.2545%
Property Tax Cap:		1%

**Maximum Property Tax Bill:** \$ 1,930

## Example:

Total assessed value of **\$128,000** and a current tax bill of **\$1,556**, after the tax caps take effect, that taxpayer's bill will drop to **\$1,280** which is **1%**. The **\$276** reduction to the taxpayer will be a **\$276** loss to all of the taxing units, such as SCOH, the city and county.

## Estimated Tax Bill - 2015 Pay 2016

Gross Assessed Value	\$	150,000
Net Assessed Value	\$	65,250
Gross Annual Taxes	\$	1,978
Minus Savings Due to Property Tax Cap	\$	0
Taxes Due to Property Tax Cap Exempt Tax Rates		819
<b>Net Annual Tax Bill Estimated</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,978</b>
<b>Tax Rate Details</b>		
Total Tax Rate:		3.0316%
Property Tax Cap Exempt Tax Rate:		1.2545%
Property Tax Cap:		1%

**Maximum Property Tax Bill:** \$ 2,319

## Estimated Tax Bill - 2015 Pay 2016

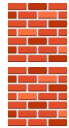
Gross Assessed Value	\$	200,000
Net Assessed Value	\$	97,750
Gross Annual Taxes	\$	2,963
Minus Savings Due to Property Tax Cap	\$	0
Taxes Due to Property Tax Cap Exempt Tax Rates		1,226
<b>Net Annual Tax Bill Estimated</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>2,963</b>
<b>Tax Rate Details</b>		
Total Tax Rate:		3.0316%
Property Tax Cap Exempt Tax Rate:		1.2545%
Property Tax Cap:		1%

**Maximum Property Tax Bill:** \$ 3,226

# Operational Referendum 2025

## SCOH renews an Operational Referendum Spring 2025.

### No different than in 2017. The results are as follows:



The the tax bill goes down with the 1% property tax cap cut.

The ~\$0.246 tax rate increase (voted for in 2017 to neutralize the tax rate drop and loss of revenue).



As the tax rate increase is levied resulting in a neutral tax bill.

### Advantages



Proactive approach to revenue loss.



Tax rate increase ~\$0.246 would be offset by lower tax bill when the tax caps took effect — resulting in neutral tax bill.

### Disadvantages



The possibility of a No vote means the following:

- A No vote will result in program cuts in 2025:
  - Transportation.
  - School Safety — SROs.

# Your Support



Continue Commitment to Children of Hobart.

Fiscally Responsible Protection of Funds and Programs.

Renew the Current Operational Referendum Under the Same Tax Neutral Plan Opportunity.

The **1%** property tax cap cuts would result in a neutral tax bill in an Operational Referendum tax rate increase like in 2017. In other words, some of the **1%** tax cap is just staying the same instead of taking a decrease in taxes. The tax decrease is neutralized by supporting the increase **.246** just like last time.

**KEEP THINGS THE SAME WITH SUPPORTING THE RENEWAL OF THE OPERATIONAL REFERENDUM.**



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One Brick at a Time!



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# We touch the future! We have impact!



We appreciate your commitment in providing Hobart students an enriching environment for enhanced learning, opportunity, and achievement.



Invite others to support this commitment by being informed at a presentation.



## 2025 Referendum Presentations

*with Dr. Peggy Buffington*

Dr. Buffington will be presenting several times through the month of March regarding the referendum on the May ballot. She will be at the school's March PTO meetings:

**Early Learning Center: 3/3/25 at 4:00 pm**

**Liberty Elementary: 3/3/25 at 6:00 pm**

**Veterans Elementary at Mundell: 3/4/25 at 4:00 pm**

**Hobart Middle School: 3/5/25 at 4:30 pm**

**Joan Martin Elementary: 3/11/25 at 4:00 pm**

**She will also present at:**

**The Maria Reiner Center: 3/12/25 at 10:00 am**

**Hobart Kiwanis Meeting at Paragon Restaurant: 3/19/25 at 7:30 am**

**and:**

**Prior to the March 6th Board meeting at HHS at 5:00 pm (enter Door 1)**



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Thank you for your support!  
**Brickie up!**