

CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF ADDITIONAL TAXES AND THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS

Notice is hereby given that a Special Election will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, in the Cape Henlopen School District (“CHSD” or the “District”) in accordance with the provisions of Chapters 19, 20, and 21 of Title 14 of the Delaware Code, in order to permit the voters of the District to **vote either for or against one question** that contains **both an operating tax increase and bond issuances for three capital projects** as described below:

Operating:

To support ongoing District operations, the Cape Henlopen School District is seeking authority to levy and collect an additional \$0.305 per \$100 of assessed value in local school taxes for current operating expenses as set forth below, effective July 1, 2024, and every year thereafter on all assessed taxable real estate in the District to fund operating expenses totaling \$4,575,000.

For a property in the District assessed at \$28,006 (Cape Henlopen School District average assessment), the increased annual current expense cost to the homeowner would be **\$85.42**.

The purpose of this proposed tax increase is to:

- Fund operational and staffing costs associated with our expanding student population.
- Allocate resources to meet the growing demand for quality teachers and support staff, with an emphasis on retention.
- Ensure adequate resources to manage the rising expenses in utilities, personnel, maintenance costs, transportation, instructional materials and supplies, technology, and special education services.
- Continue to support increased safety and security costs to safeguard our schools and ensure a secure environment.
- Enhance technological supplies and infrastructure to support student one-to-one devices and access to instructional materials.
- Invest in professional development programs to empower educators and foster continuous improvement in instructional quality.
- Upgrade to facilities and equipment in order to continue to provide opportunities that enhance educational experiences.

Major Capital Projects:

The Cape Henlopen School District is seeking authority to issue bonds for Major Capital Projects in the amount of \$42,974,605. There will be no increase in tax necessary in the first year. The District will then levy 2.3 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation effective July 1, 2025, with an additional increase in successive year of 6.3 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation, effective July 1, 2026, to be used for the following projects:

Purchase of 102.429 Acres of Land **Local Cost \$15,573,000**
Purchase of land for the construction and relocation of the district office and bus maintenance facility as well as to have necessary space for the addition of a future educational campus at the corner of Mulberry Knoll Road and Cedar Grove Road in Lewes, Delaware.

Relocation of District Office **Local Cost \$21,440,991**
Planning, equipping and construction for the planned relocation of the school district office to a new 30,000 square foot facility in Lewes, DE, to enhance operational efficiency and community accessibility through modernized facilities and centralized operations. This strategic move is necessary to allow for expansion of the high school on the existing property and to accommodate the growing administrative needs but also foster better engagement with the community and long-term sustainability.

Construction of Bus Maintenance Facility **Local Cost \$5,960,614**
Planning, construction, and equipping of a 4,000 square foot bus maintenance facility to improve the efficiency and reliability of transportation services, offering advanced and spacious areas for vehicle upkeep and repairs. This initiative is focused on ensuring safe and dependable transportation for students, while also fostering effective fleet management and long-term operational sustainability to be located on the above purchased land located in Lewes, Delaware.

The projects will be funded 100% locally for a total of \$42,974,605 (Cape Henlopen School District’s local share)

\$ 0 – State’s Share
\$ 42,974,605 – District’s Local Share
\$ 42,974,605 – Total

If the District is authorized to issue bonds for the reasons stated above, the District shall levy and collect additional taxes to provide for the payment of interest and principal on such bonds. The amount of each annual tax increase that would be imposed as a result of the proposed bond issuance, depending upon market conditions, is estimated as follows:

Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuances	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuances	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuances	Year	Fiscal Year	Amount of Annual Tax Increase as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuances	Total Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuances	Projected Increase / Decrease in Annual Tax Rate as a Result of Proposed Bond Issuances
1	2025	0.000	0.691	0.000	13	2037	-	0.508	(0.037)
2	2026	0.023	0.714	0.023	14	2038	-	0.468	(0.040)
3	2027	0.063	0.777	0.086	15	2039	-	0.422	(0.045)
4	2028	**	0.670	(0.107)	16	2040	-	0.363	(0.059)
5	2029	-	0.646	(0.024)	17	2041	-	0.334	(0.030)
6	2030	-	0.632	(0.014)	18	2042	-	0.245	(0.088)
7	2031	-	0.618	(0.014)	19	2043	-	0.206	(0.040)

8	2032	-	0.604	(0.014)	20	2044	-	0.193	(0.013)
9	2033	-	0.590	(0.014)	21	2045	-	0.186	(0.007)
10	2034	-	0.576	(0.014)	22	2046	-	0.066	(0.120)
11	2035	-	0.563	(0.014)	23	2047	-	0.009	(0.056)
12	2036	-	0.544	(0.018)	24	2048	-	0.000	(0.009)

** Amount of annual tax increase as a result of the proposed bond issuance unchanged from amount in Year 3.

Notes regarding the above table: Estimated "Annual Tax Increase" amounts are rounded and are stated in Cents/\$100 of Assessed Value. The "Annual Tax Rate" is based on the District's current debt service rate (\$0.0691 per \$100 of assessed value) and several other factors including market interest rates. Retirement of existing debt will offset annual tax increases in future years. The calculations in the above table were prepared without regard to any future referenda that may be pursued by the District.

VOTER INFORMATION

Voters may only vote one time in this special election even if the voter has more than one child attending school in the Cape Henlopen School District.

The polls for the Special Election will be open on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 7:00 AM and will remain open until 8:00 PM. Voters may vote in any of the following designated polling places, all of which are accessible to voters with disabilities:

Cape Henlopen High School
1250 Kings Hwy, Lewes, DE 19958

Mariner Middle School
16391 Harbeson Rd, Milton, DE 19968

Beacon Middle School
19483 John J. Williams Hwy, Lewes, DE 19958

Rehoboth Elementary School
500 Stockley St, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971

Lewes Public Library
111 Adams Ave, Lewes, DE 19958

QUALIFICATIONS TO VOTE

- Must be a citizen of the United States and Delaware
- Must be a resident of the Cape Henlopen School District
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- You do NOT have to be a registered voter for purposes of a general election

ABSENTEE BALLOT

You may vote by absentee ballot if you cannot vote at a polling place on the day of election for one of the following reasons:

- You are temporarily or permanently disabled;
- You are serving in the public service of the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- You are the spouse or a dependent living with or accompanying a person serving the U.S. or the State of Delaware;
- The nature of your job or occupation does not permit you to go to the polls;
- You are sick;
- The tenets or teachings of your religion prevent you from voting on the days or times set for the election;
- You are incarcerated but otherwise eligible to vote;
- You are away on vacation;
- You are the caregiver to a parent, spouse or that person's child who is living at home and requires constant care due to illness or injury;
- You are temporarily living outside of the U.S.;
- You cannot go to the polls because of illness or injury received while serving in the Armed Forces; or
- You serve in the Armed Forces, Red Cross, U.S.O., or the Merchant Marine; or
- You are authorized pursuant to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) [42 U.S.C. § 1973ff et seq.], or any other federal law, to vote by absentee ballot.

To vote by absentee ballot:

- Download an Absentee Application from <https://de.gov/schabsapp>; request one by email at absenteesc@delaware.gov; or request one by phone at 302-856-5367.
- If you want an absentee ballot mailed to you, send a completed application so that it arrives at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office no later than 4 p.m., Friday, May 17, 2024. You may either email the completed application to absenteesc@delaware.gov, or mail it to the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office, PO Box 457 Georgetown, DE 19947.
- In order to be counted, voted absentee ballots must be received at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office, 119 N. Race St., Georgetown, DE 19947 no later than 8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 21, 2024.
- Vote in person by absentee ballot at the Department of Elections, Sussex County Office, 119 N. Race St., Georgetown, DE 19947, Mon-Fri from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Friday, May 17, 2024, or from 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon on Monday, May 20, 2024.
- NOTE: If you are a voter with a "permanent absentee status," this status does not cover school elections. You will not automatically be mailed an absentee ballot. You must request one. Please follow instructions above to request an absentee ballot.

PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION AND ADDRESS

- Persons appearing to vote must present satisfactory proof of identity and address to the Election Officers at the Polling Place before being permitted to vote. Persons who do not present satisfactory proof of identity and address, may – upon majority vote of the Inspector and the two Judges – be permitted to vote.

Contact Cape Henlopen School District at 302-645-6686 with any questions you may have regarding the referendum.

By Order of the CAPE HENLOPEN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Alison J. Myers., President
Robert Fulton, Executive Secretary and Superintendent

Posted in accordance with Delaware Code, Title 14, Section 1074. Do not remove until May 22, 2024.