

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



BOARD AGENDA MEMORANDUM

DATE OF MEETING: September 27, 2022

To: Village President and Board of Trustees

From: Napoleon Haney, Village Manager

Topic: Homewood School District 153 - Referendum Question

PURPOSE

The Village Board desires to encourage residents to become familiar with the factual information provided related to the referendum question explained on the District's website at <https://www.hsd153.org>.

PROCESS

According to Homewood School District 153, if the November 8, 2022 tax referendum is successful, the school board will be able to accomplish three important goals: (1) permanently eliminate their structural debt, (2) build cash reserves (also known as "fund balance"), and (3) address a number of facility needs.

According to the District, approving the referendum would allow for an increase in the limiting rate that was last increased in 1992. Until recently, state law prohibited the district from raising the rate, so the district turned to borrowing. The proposal calls for the current tax rate of \$4.40 per \$100 of assessed value of property to increase to \$5.60 per \$100 of assessed value of property.

OUTCOME

Limits on Taking a Position on Referenda:

Three laws significantly limit the scope of referendum-related activity in which public bodies may engage: the Election Code's interference prohibition (10 ILCS 5/9-25.1), the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (Ethics Act)(5 ILCS 430/), and the Local Governmental Employee Political Rights Act (Political Rights Act)(50 ILCS 135/).2.

The Election Code's interference language bars the expenditure of public funds to advocate votes for or against a referendum, but permits use of public funds to disseminate factual data.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Budgeted Amount: N/A

LEGAL REVIEW

Completed

VILLAGE OF HOMEWOOD



RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Pass a resolution encouraging citizens to become familiar with the factual information provided about the referendum on the District's website at <https://www.hsd153.org>, and to vote on the referendum question at the November 8, 2020 election.

ATTACHMENT(S)

Resolution