

VOTER GUIDE TO THE 2017 ORLEANS PARISH SCHOOL TAX RENEWALS

The October 14, 2017 election will include the following three public school millage renewal propositions on the ballot:

- Purpose A (1.55 mills): textbooks, instructional equipment and materials, library books and school supplies.
- Purpose B (1.55 mills): programs for improving discipline and decreasing dropouts.
- Purpose C (7.27 mills): salaries, fringe benefits and productivity incentives for employees.

Though the tax renewals will appear as three separate items on the ballot, this report analyzes them together because they have the common purpose of paying for school operations.

A VOTE FOR WOULD

Would renew the property taxes at their current rate and continue the current funding for Orleans Parish Schools.

A VOTE AGAINST WOULD

End the property taxes and end the current funding for Orleans Parish Schools.

Key Background and Facts:

- These three millages were originally approved in 1988 for a 10-year term. All three renewed 1998 and again in 2008.
- The Proposition A tax produces an estimated \$5.7 million annually for textbooks, instructional equipment and materials, library books and school supplies citywide.
- The Proposition B tax produces an estimated \$5.7 million annually for programs to improve discipline practices and prevent students from dropping out.
- The Proposition C tax produces an estimated \$26.6 million each year for teacher salaries and benefits.
- The three millages, if renewed, will generate approximately \$38 million a year in total. The revenue is \$850 per pupil for both charter and direct-run schools – about 8% to 9% of a typical school's general fund operating budget.