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***Willcox***  
*Unified School District #13*

**November 4, 2025 Special Election**

**Maintenance & Operation Budget Override  
Reauthorization**

**FACT SHEET**

***Override reauthorization maintains the funding  
approved by voters in 2007, 2011, 2017 and 2021***

**Maintenance & Operation Budget Override Authorization**

The Governing Board of the District has called a special budget override election to be held on November 4, 2025 seeking voter authorization to re-authorize the current 10% Maintenance and Operation budget increase previously approved by voters.

The budget override shall be funded from a levy of taxes on the taxable property within the District and be in effect for a period of seven years. **The estimated cost of the override** to an owner of a home with a limited property value of \$98,131 (the average value of a home in the District) would be approximately **\$99 per year** or **\$8.25 per month**.

**What is a M&O Budget Override?**

School districts in Arizona are allowed by state law to increase their Maintenance & Operations (M&O) budgets each year by up to 15% of the revenue control limit imposed by the state legislature. About half the school districts in Arizona (representing 70-80% of the students) presently have a budget override in place.

**What is a M&O budget override used for?**

An override supports day to day maintenance and operation expenditures of a school district. M&O funds are used almost exclusively for salaries and benefits for teachers and staff, but also pay for such things as utilities, paper and other supplies, and miscellaneous expenditures not of a capital nature.

**What will the M&O budget override do for our students?**

- ☐ decrease class size for more individual student attention
- ☐ sports, music and academic extra-curricular programs
- ☐ PE, Art, Music
- ☐ attract and retain high quality teachers
- ☐ promote a safe and healthy school environment

**How long do override funds last?**

An override lasts for seven years. If not renewed, the amount decreases by one-third in the sixth year and two-thirds in the seventh year. In year eight, it expires. In order to fully maintain the continuity of an override, an election must be held every five years.

### **Why does a school district ask for voter approval to increase its operating budget?**

An override is a direct way for a local community to help provide funding for local schools. Increasing the operating budget allows a school district to provide a higher quality education, offer programs and services to better meet the needs of students, and adequately prepare children to be successful contributing members of the community.

### **What will happen if the M&O Budget Override is not reauthorized?**

If the override is not approved by the voters on November 4, the Willcox District will experience a \$285,000 reduction to the budget in FY 26-27 resulting in unavoidable increases in class size and the elimination or reduction in the level of classroom and support services it currently provides students in the following areas:

- ☐ School aides
- ☐ Counseling
- ☐ Full day kindergarten
- ☐ Library
- ☐ Athletics
- ☐ Physical education
- ☐ Fine Arts
- ☐ Extra-curricular Activities
- ☐ Remedial, Elective Courses, and Advanced classes.

### **Have voters in Willcox Unified School District passed Budget Overrides in the past?**

Yes. Willcox voters approved the 10% M&O override in 2007 and 2011. It was last renewed in 2017 and 2021 and is up for renewal starting with the 2026-2027 budget.

### **What is the difference between a Budget Override and a Bond election?**

A **budget override** allows school districts to increase their Maintenance and Operations budget if the voters of the district approve by election. An override supports day to day maintenance and operation expenditures such as utilities, paper and other supplies, salary and benefits of employees, and miscellaneous expenditures not of a capital nature. Overrides cannot be used for Bond projects.

**Bonds** are a debt instrument, approved by the voters, which are secured by a school district and paid back over time using tax dollars. Bonds allow school districts to fund capital projects such as school buses, facility construction, renovations and repairs, computers, security systems. Bonds cannot be used for M&O expenses.

### **Where does the funding for budget overrides come from?**

Overrides are entirely funded by the levy of taxes on the secondary assessed value of property located within the District.

### **Will the override cause the tax levy on property located within the District to increase?**

**No.** The renewal of the budget override will continue the existing override last approved in 2021, so no increase in property taxes is expected. The estimated cost of the override to an owner of a home with a limited property value of \$99,131 (the average value of a home in the District) would be approximately \$99 per year, representing an estimated tax rate of \$0.99 per \$100 of net assessed valuation used for secondary property tax purposes.

***WUSD Vision:** Our vision is to be a model rural school district that empowers students to reach their full potential through trust, collaboration, transformative learning, life skills, and work-based experiences, fostering responsible and engaged citizens.*