Fact Booklet

2021 PXU Maintenance & Operations and District Additional Assistance Override Renewals

No Expected Tax Increase

November 2, 2021
The Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board called for the Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Override election because budget override authorization expires after seven years and must be brought back to and approved by the voters in order to continue.

There will be no expected tax increase with voter approval of the override. The estimated tax rate associated with the Maintenance and Operations Override renewal is $.47 per $100 of homeowner assessed value. This equates to an annual amount of $66.50 for an average home in the District.
The override will request voter authorization to continue to exceed the Revenue Control Limit by 15 percent for fiscal year 2022-2023 and six subsequent years, a continuation of the existing override approved by the voters in 2017.

The override amount for the first year of the proposed override is estimated to be $28,551,254.

The override funds will continue to fund the following areas: maintain smaller class sizes; enhance course offerings for more rigorous academic course work including remote learning; strengthen alternative education programs; electives such as band and theater; attract and retain the highest qualified educators; fund small specialty schools; fund student services and counseling as well as safety and security; extended learning time for academic interventions; and student competitive athletic programs.
The Phoenix Union High School District has had to adjust the way we deliver education due to recent world events. This means that we invest in software, technology, and safety equipment that has allowed our students and staff to remain connected through the COVID pandemic. Your previous support made this possible, and we will continue to provide innovative solutions like these when the need arises with your future support.
The Phoenix Union High School District Governing Board called for the District Additional Assistance Override election because budget override authorization expires after seven years and must be brought back to and approved by the voters in order to continue.

This renewal is a continuation of the previous District Additional Assistance Override in the amount of $15,300,600 and will require no expected tax increase. The estimated tax rate associated with the District Additional Assistance Override renewal is $0.25 per $100 of homeowner assessed value. This equates to an annual amount of $35.64 for an average home in the District.
With this renewed funding, we will continue to purchase online resources and subscriptions databases, electronic versions of textbooks, online software protection against ransomware to protect students from malicious activities, and access for parents to our Parent Portal.

Phoenix Union will maintain the 1:1 (One Laptop for Every Student) environment we have created for our students while also increasing access to hot spots and Wi-Fi. We will provide access to high quality devices for all students through the replacement of existing inventory.
This opportunity will allow us to update our classrooms to provide innovative and safe learning environments for students. Upgrades will include on-site charging to support 1:1 learning environments.

We will provide portable handwashing stations, temperature-scanning devices, and other related technology to manage the flow of walking traffic on and off-campus.

We will outfit our classrooms, common areas, and District vehicles used to transport students with temporary portable plexiglass barriers.

We will continue making all classrooms safe and collaborative spaces by continuing to provide fully flexible furniture to support student learning styles, teacher designed instructional experiences, and physical distancing as appropriate in response to current conditions.

We will continue to upgrade infrastructure to support the delivery of high quality digital learning experiences through support for learning in all content areas.
District Profile

Year Founded: 1895
Student Enrollment: 27,761
Attendance Rate: 93.8%
4-year Graduation Rate: 82%
Annual Dropout Rate: 3.1%
District Size: 220 Square Miles

Grades: 9-12

Employees: 3,207

Staff
Certified Teachers: 1,461
Certified Non-Teachers: 257
Support Staff: 1,364 (including 183 Part-Time workers)
Administrators: 125
Teacher Education
77% have Masters or above
Teacher Experience
75% 10 year or more
19% 4-9 years
6% 0-3 years
Beginning Teacher Salary: $46,551

13 Elementary Partner Districts
Alhambra, Balsz, Cartwright, Creighton, Isaac, Laveen, Madison, Murphy, Osborn, Phoenix Elementary, Riverside, Roosevelt, and Wilson

23 Schools Total
11 Comprehensive
4 Small Specialty Schools
3 Support Schools
3 Micro Schools
1 Digital Academy
PXU City - Coming soon

Magnet Programs
Aviation / Aerospace Education
Computer Studies
Global Studies
International Baccalaureate
Law-Related Studies
Marine Science
Medical and Health Studies
Metro Tech High School
Multimedia Communications
Performing Arts
Visual Arts
FAQs

1. What is an M & O Override election?

An override allows school districts to increase their M & O budget if the voters of the district approve by election. An override supports day to day maintenance and operation expenditures such as utilities, instructional supplies, paper and other supplies, teacher salaries and benefits, and miscellaneous expenditures not of a capital nature. M&O overrides cannot be used for bond projects.

2. Why does a school district ask 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 of education, and offer programs and services to better help students succeed in college, career and life.

3. What happens if the 15% M & O Override renewal does not pass?

- The District must reduce approximately $9,517,084 million per year for three consecutive years starting in 2023-2024 until the entire $28,551,254 has been cut from the M & O budget.
- Reduction of over 466 full-time instructional and support staff
- Significant loss of programs and services that directly impact students
- Significant negative impact to the quantity and quality of course offerings for students
- Reduction to specialty and elective course offerings such as Band, Drama, Chorus, and Dance
- Inability to continue our 1:1 program for all of our students
- Reduction of Career & Technical Education (CTE) courses such as Automotive Technology, Culinary Arts, Nursing, Cosmetology, and Early Childhood Development
- Reduction to Athletic Programs, Counselors, Psychologists, and Security district-wide
- Reduction to extended learning opportunities for academic intervention such as evening and summer school

4. How do I know the money will be spent as indicated?

The Phoenix Union High School District is committed to responsible stewardship of override funds. Arizona law requires the district to clearly identify how the override will be spent in the voter information pamphlet. Additionally, school districts must hold public hearings annually to inform the public on the progress of
how the override proceeds are spent. Communication on the override usage will be shared with stakeholders on a consistent basis on the PXU website located at www.PXU.org.

5. When will the override be on the ballot?

The Override election will be on the Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The election will be a mailed ballot-only election with ballots mailed to qualified electors residing within the District.

For more information on the override election, please contact: Sherry Celaya, Chief Financial Officer, at 602-764-1410.