



Madeira City Schools

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September 21, 2021

Dear Madeira Residents,

Madeira Schools have an excellent reputation for preparing our students for success, due in large part to the support and partnership with the community. Through this support and partnership, our schools are recognized among the best in the state, including being routinely ranked as one of the top ten best school districts in Ohio. Whether you are a long-time resident or new to Madeira, we are sure you will agree that a high-quality education is critical for our children and their future, as well as for our community.

The success of our school district has continued to make our community a desirable place to move to and raise a family. As a district we have continued to monitor our growing enrollment trends since 2015 and have made adjustments along the way including adding additional teachers and classroom aides, moving the Madeira Preschool offsite to Madeira Silverwood Presbyterian Church, and adding modular classrooms at Madeira Elementary School (MES) for this current 2021-2022 school year. Based on our enrollment projections, without adding additional classrooms, we will be out of classroom space in 2023-2024 school year.

Along with planning for our enrollment, we are continually monitoring the district's financial health. The school district has reached a point in which additional operating revenue is required in order for the district to maintain the level of programs and services we expect in Madeira. **Therefore, the Madeira Board of Education voted unanimously to place a 6.2 mill combined bond (1.0 mill) and operating (5.2 mill) levy on the November 2, 2021 ballot.** The bond funds from this levy will meet our enrollment needs through a permanent addition at MES and reorganizing our district to be a K-5 elementary school and a Grades 6-8 middle school. The operating funds will meet our needs for at least the next three years and will be used to operate the district – paying for everything from utilities, to curriculum materials, to transportation, to technology, to our personnel costs. Historically, our operating levies have lasted five years and that is our forecasted goal. This levy will cost homeowners approximately \$217 annually per \$100,000 of property valuation and \$163 for eligible homeowners age 65 and older. Our last levy, approved back in 2016, was projected to meet our needs for three years, but through conscientious fiscal management we were able to stretch it to five years.

Our district has a long history of fiscal responsibility. We have many sound practices in place and will continue to take measures to control our expenses. For example, we have:

- *Held our typical district expenses to an average of 3.1 % over the last five years*
- *Been a 30 year founding member of a health insurance consortium resulting in health premiums that have averaged 3.4% increase over the last five years*
- *Reduced our energy consumption through installation of a very efficient geothermal system and LED lighting saving the district a 25% reduction in energy use*
- *Privatized both our custodial and transportation services over 30 years ago*
- *Partnered with another school district to provide our food services the past 15 years*
- *Been members of purchasing cooperatives for everything from paper supplies to gas and electricity*

All of these cost saving measures and more have allowed the district to operate without going back to our taxpayers since 2016. However, the nature of school funding in Ohio makes it necessary for us to request additional funding when our expenses are projected to surpass district revenues.

You may also learn more by clicking the QR Code on the back for an FAQ or visiting our website www.madeiracityschools.org. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Superintendent Kenji Matsudo or Treasurer / CFO Emily Hauser at 985-6070.

Mr. Richard Palmer, President

Mr. Steve Bernicke, Vice-President

Mrs. Paula Andruss

Mr. David Eberly

Mr. Ryan Lex

"A school community where learning is personalized and success is ensured"



2021 Madeira City Schools Levy Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What does the levy provide?

- Enrollment / Facility Needs Solution – 1.0 Mill Bond
- Construction of a permanent addition for additional classroom space.
- Provides long-term facility flexibility to meet growing enrollment.
- Operating Needs Solution – 5.2 Mill Operating
- District revenue will be above expenditures for at least 2 years beyond levy passage.
- Millage rate is lower based on future known resources.
- Levy millage will last at least 3 to 5 years.

How much will the combined 6.2 mill bond and operating levy cost?

- **\$217** per \$100,000 Hamilton County Auditor (HCA) property market value
- For homeowners eligible for the homestead exemption: **\$163** per \$100,000 HCA market value.

Is it one vote or two votes?

This is a single vote on a combined bond and operating issue. This single vote addressed both facility and operating needs, which is a first for Madeira. Both of these needs have arrived simultaneously, resulting in this unique levy.

How does this levy millage rate compare to past levies?

This combined 6.2 levy represents the lowest rate in over 40 years
Previous recent levy amounts:

- 2016 = Operating Levy 6.9 Mills
- 2011 = Operating Levy 6.9 Mills
- 2006 = Operating Levy 9.4 Mills
- 2004 = Construction Bond 7.5 Mills
- 2000 = Operating Levy 8.9 Mills

Levy Community Meetings

Saturday, Oct. 2nd at 9:00-10:00am
@ Connections Church

Thursday, Oct. 7th at 7:30-8:30pm
@ Madeira-Silverwood Presbyterian Church

Thursday, Oct. 21st at 7:00-8:00pm
@ Madeira City Hall

Why do we need more classrooms?

Enrollment has been a discussion at Madeira Board of Education meetings for the past several years. In order to meet the growing class sizes, the district has already added additional classroom teachers, instructional aides and an assistant principal. The district has also relocated the Madeira Preschool to Madeira Silverwood Presbyterian Church and added modular classrooms at Madeira Elementary to create additional classroom space. Enrollment is continuing to climb - **including an incoming Kindergarten class of over 160 students** that represents a sharp increase compared to recent graduating classes of around 100 students.

Why was it decided for construction to occur at Madeira Elementary?

As a part of the planning process, the district completed a facility feasibility study to evaluate current and future classroom needs. The study confirmed that the district will be out of classroom space in two years at the middle school level. The study also indicated that while there was no available space at the Middle School to add classrooms, the Elementary School footprint had enough available space to add classrooms and parking. **Due to these findings, the district will be moving to a grades K-5 Madeira Elementary School and a grades 6-8 Madeira Middle School beginning in the 2023-2024 school year.**

What happens if this levy does not pass?

An unsuccessful levy in November will result in the need to add trailers at Madeira Elementary to accommodate our growing student population. The district will also need to come to voters the following year to address operating needs, likely at a higher millage rate.

Scan the QR Code for More Information

