



General VATRE Questions

➤ What is a VATRE?

A VATRE is a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election that allows school districts in Texas to generate additional local and state funding by adjusting the Maintenance & Operations tax rate – with voter approval.

Understanding Wall ISD Funding: Local & State Contributions

Wall ISD receives funding from **two main sources** – **local tax dollars** and **state funding**. Both of these ultimately come from taxpayers, but how much the district receives – especially from the state – depends on local decisions like the passage of a **VATRE**.

➤ Impact of the VATRE on Wall ISD Funding

With the passage of the VATRE, Wall ISD will receive:

- 💵 Over \$800,000 in additional revenue from local taxpayers
- 💵 Over \$600,000 in additional funding from the state

This significant increase happens because of how the state's school finance system is structured.

➤ “Golden” and “Copper” Pennies Explained

When voters approve a VATRE, the district gains access to what are called “golden” and “copper” pennies. These are special funding mechanisms that **maximize the amount of money a district receives per penny of tax effort**.

- **Golden pennies** yield the **highest level of state matching funds**.
 - **Copper pennies** still generate additional revenue, but at a lower match rate.
 - By approving the VATRE, Wall ISD can **leverage these pennies to unlock more state money** — maximizing the return on every local tax dollar collected.
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➤ Why the VATRE Matters

Without the VATRE:

- Wall ISD **misses out** on additional state funding.
- Local taxpayers’ money continues to flow to the state, where it can be redistributed to other districts or programs.
- Essentially, some of **your tax dollars stay in Austin**, rather than coming back home to benefit Wall ISD students.

With the VATRE, **your local investment stays local**, and the district can provide better programs, staffing, and facilities — all while **capturing additional state dollars** that would otherwise go elsewhere.

➤ **How the VATRE Strengthens Wall ISD – And Our Community's Future**

At Wall ISD, we believe every child deserves the very best education – one that prepares them not just for graduation, but for life. The VATRE is a powerful opportunity to **invest in our students, support our teachers, and secure a bright future** for our community. Here's how it will make a difference:

- **Expanding Opportunities for Every Student**

- The VATRE will provide **increased annual funding**, allowing Wall ISD to **expand and enhance educational programs** that meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's workforce. With these funds, we can expand **Career and Technology Education (CTE)** programs – including **Agricultural Science, Family and Consumer Sciences, and skilled trade pathways** – that give students real-world skills and prepare them for college, careers, and beyond.
- These programs don't just build knowledge – they build confidence, independence, and opportunity. Every student, no matter their path, will have more doors open to them.

- **Attracting and Keeping the Best Teachers**

- Behind every great school are **great teachers and staff**. The VATRE enables Wall ISD to offer **competitive salaries and enhanced compensation plans**, helping us recruit and retain **the best and brightest educators**.
- When we invest in our teachers, we invest in our children. Exceptional educators inspire curiosity, nurture potential, and shape the leaders of tomorrow – and this funding ensures they continue doing that work right here in Wall ISD.

- **Continuing a Tradition of Excellence**

- For generations, Wall ISD has been known for **academic achievement, competitive athletics, and outstanding extracurricular programs**. The VATRE helps us **build on that tradition**, ensuring our students continue to excel in classrooms, on playing fields, and in life.
- This isn't just about keeping up — it's about continuing to **lead the way** among Texas schools and continuing to set the standard for educational excellence.

➤ **Keeping Local Tax Dollars Working for Us**

Most importantly, the VATRE ensures that **Wall ISD taxpayers' dollars stay in our community**, directly benefiting our students and schools instead of being redistributed elsewhere. It's a chance to **reinvest in our own children**, strengthen our local economy, and support the next generation of leaders, innovators, and neighbors.

➤ **What Happens to the Tax Rate?**

- While the ballot will indicate that Proposition A is a "tax rate increase", the details will tell a slightly different story: The overall school tax rate will **DECREASE** by 4 cents per \$100 of taxable property valuation from the previous year.
 - The I&S (Interest and Sinking) rate will decrease by 12 cents. I&S funds can only be used to pay debt on existing bonds.
 - The M&O (Maintenance & Operation) rate will increase by 8 cents. The M&O fund is what the district relies on to pay for everything else: salaries, utilities, transportation, extra-curricular, etc.
 - Net result: Overall, the combined tax rate will decrease by 4 cents.
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➤ **This is what the ballot will look like:**

WALL INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A TAX INCREASE

Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate of \$0.7703 per \$100 valuation in Wall Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 12 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the District for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$848,421.

☐ FOR

☐ AGAINST

Don't be fooled by the ballot wording – Passing Proposition A will still result in a net decrease in your tax rate as compared to last year.

➤ *In short, although part of the rate increases, the overall property tax rate for taxpayers will actually go down.*

➤ **A Vote for the VATRE Is a Vote for Our Future**

This election is about more than school funding – it's about **opportunity, excellence, and community pride**. It's about ensuring every Wall ISD student has the tools, teachers, and support they need to thrive.

By approving the VATRE, we can **keep our schools strong, our community united, and our future bright**.
