

Rye School Board unanimously (5-0) recommends voters vote NO on November Ballot Question 2

On November 3, 2026, Rye voters will be asked to decide whether to adopt a school district tax cap proposed on Ballot Question 2. This question will appear on the ballot as a result of legislation enacted by the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor. It was not placed on the ballot by the Rye School Board or through a local petition process.

After careful review, the Rye School Board has voted to oppose adoption of a tax cap and recommends that voters vote **NO on Ballot Question 2**.

If adopted, the local school tax levy could not grow beyond the prior year's amount adjusted for inflation and new construction, regardless of the actual costs required to operate the school district. While inflation is one factor that affects school budgets, many of the district's most significant expenses, including special education services, employee health insurance, transportation, utilities, safety and security requirements, and contractual obligations, often increase at rates that don't align with general inflation. The cap would not change those obligations; it would only reduce the revenue available to meet them.

The ballot language claims that the caps would not affect classroom instruction or school-based services, but this is misleading. If costs rise faster than the allowable increase in revenue, the district could be forced to make cuts elsewhere, potentially affecting teaching staff, class sizes, extra-curricular activities, and/or academic offerings.

The Rye School Board believes that budget decisions are best made through the existing local process, which provides transparency, public discussion, and direct voter participation. A formula established by the state does not accurately reflect local circumstances or actual school budget needs.

The Rye School Board respects the financial pressures facing residents and remains committed to managing school spending responsibly. Our most recent budget reflects that commitment, with an increase of just 2.1% over the previous year. Despite this modest increase, had the proposed tax cap been in place, we would have been forced to reduce that budget by over \$700,000. We will continue to develop budgets that are thoughtful, transparent, and accountable to Rye voters while maintaining the high-quality education our community values.

With these considerations in mind, the **Rye School Board recommends a NO vote on Question 2** on the November ballot.

Matthew Curtin - Rye School Board Chairperson

Katherine Errecart - Rye School Board Vice Chairperson

Claire Spollen - Rye School Board Secretary

Michelle Wheeler - Rye School Board Member

Laura Belden - Rye School Board Member