



# Indianola Community School District Public Vote

## March 3, 2020

### **Public Educational and Recreational Levy (PERL)**

The state of Iowa allows districts to levy \$0.135 per \$1,000 of taxable valuation for a Public Educational and Recreational Levy (PERL). Funds from this levy may be used to establish and maintain public playgrounds, public recreation purposes and community education purposes.

Over the past 5 years, the district has spent an estimated \$500,000 per elementary playground. Adding this levy allows the district to be more proactive in funding for future and ongoing playground needs and consider the expansion of community education services.

Although the vote is asking for an added levy rate, the district anticipates that the overall levy rate for the district will not increase, due to increased valuations and the district levying fewer cash reserve dollars. Preliminary budget calculations show that the school levy rate will drop by approximately \$0.50 per thousand dollars taxable valuation, from \$18.50 down to \$17.99.

### **Renewal of Sales Tax Revenue Purpose Statement:**

On 3/3/2020, voters will be asked to renew the Indianola Schools' Sales Tax Revenue Purpose Statement. The 2019 Iowa legislature renewed the 1-cent Sales Tax for Schools for another 20 years (2029 through 2051). This law change did not increase the percentage of sales tax being paid to Iowa schools. However, the new law requires all local school districts to renew their Revenue Purpose Statement to provide voter approval for the use of the funds. Indianola is requesting approval for all eligible purposes provided under the law. The law requires a simple majority vote to pass.

The State of Iowa collects a 1% Sales Tax and distributes this money to all Iowa schools on a per student basis to fund school construction, building and site improvements, technology and large equipment purchases. The State began collection sales tax for schools in 2005. This funding was renewed in 2008 for 20 years years guaranteeing the funding until 2030. In the spring of 2019 the Iowa legislature renewed it again for another 20 years, stretching the funding out until 2050. With the 2019 renewal, the Iowa legislature required all local districts to renew their local Revenue Purpose Staemtent so local voters would be aware and involved in how the school district are using the funds. Once approved the local school board will use the Revenue Purposes Statement as a guide to determine building projects and other uses. Indianola has placed the renewal of the Revenue Purposes Statement on the 3/3/2020 ballot. The full ballot question is posted on the Schools website.

Below are examples of how the district has used the Sales Tax funds:

Athletic field improvements	School Furniture
Auditorium Renovation and HVAC Upgrades	High School Music Expansion and Equipment
Baseball Field Updates and Lighting	Middle School Renovation and Expansion
Blake Fieldhouse	Tennis Courts
Computers for students, other computer equipment	District Administration Office
Debt Reduction	Window Replacements at Whittier, Emerson

**Please vote on 3/3/2020.**

