Millard Public Schools Levy Override

Actual Wording	Background and Explanation
Shall the Millard Public Schools (School District No. 17, Douglas County, Nebraska) be allowed to levy a property tax not to exceed nine (9) cents per one hundred dollars of taxable valuation in excess of the limits prescribed by law for fiscal years 2018-2019 through 2022-2023 for purposes of general operations and building construction, remodeling, and site acquisition; and, shall the Millard Public Schools (School District No. 17, Douglas County, Nebraska) be allowed to increase its general fund budget of expenditures for the ensuing school year (2018-2019) by an amount not to exceed nine (9) million dollars above the authority prescribed in Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1023? ❍ YES ❍ NO	In the 1998-99 fiscal year, in an attempt to limit property taxes, the Legislature limited School Districts in two ways. 1) A revenue limit - they set the levy limit at $1.05 per $100 taxable value.[1] 2) A spending limit – based on the levy amount times the households' values. For anything more than the $1.05, the people have to approve of it by a vote – to override the levy. The current request submitted by the Board of Education asks for a 9-cent increase which then requires no more than $9 million dollars be spent from general fund for the next school year (2018-2019), That law also states how the request to the people must be worded, as noted to the left. So, even though the current Board of Education has no intention of using the requested increase for buildings, that language must still be included here. The $1.05 levy means $1050 taxes, for a house valued at $100,000. Adding the (9) cents makes the levy $1.14, so tax becomes $1140, a $90 increase for the next 4 years. However, the existing indebtedness for bond issues goes above the "levy" amount, since the bond issue passed in 2013 (and others before) will require payment for many years. So total taxes will be more than the $1140. Those who **favor** this increase point out the need to maintain the reputation of quality of education Millard, as the 3rd largest district in the state, has experienced. They don't want to cut class sizes or have to cut programs. For details from the superintendent's point of view, see https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_5cVJbA4l4eXzFhTU1Td0ZEdFE/view Some who **oppose** this increase suggest cuts related to academics or extracurricular activities don't necessarily need to be made if instead non-academic expenditures, such as the yearly Gallup assessment, could be eliminated. Others would prefer hiring more teachers to keep the class size reasonable by decreasing the number and/or salaries of various administrative personnel. For details from State Senator Linehan, Legislative District 39, see http://news.legislature.ne.gov/dist39/2017/09/05/sen-linehan-on-millards-levy-override. Senator Linehan's information refers to TEEOSA which stands for Tax Equity and Educational Opportunities Support Act [2] A **YES** vote will allow the Board of Education to increase the levy by 9 cents, with the limitation of spending $9 million the next school year. A **NO** vote will force decisions on what needs to be changed to live with the $1.05 levy. Further considerations: Essentially school districts have two kinds of funds - the "general fund" and a "building fund." General fund money can be used for anything – though typically in Millard, 80% goes to people – paying salaries and benefits. For the 24,000 student population, there are 87 administrative staff. The salaries for these personnel tend to range from $80,000 to $150,000 in annual income. To see a full list of the other personnel positions, see pages 16-25 of the 2017 report at http://hr.mpsomaha.org/documents/personnel-reports The numbers indicate full-time equivalents in the following categories of employees: teaching staff (1690), Pro-tech (social workers, therapists, etc.) positions (2441), Para positions (315), Custodial/Maintenance (193), Food Service (142), staffing substitutes (687). Along with the administrators, all these personnel share in a self-funded health benefits program managed by Eatna. The other 20% of the general fund pays for utilities, textbooks, computers, desks, printers, office supplies, etc. Savings from using more efficient lighting, heating, and air has created some extra funds that have decreased the cost of bonding requests.

[1] http://www.nebraskalegislature.gov/app_rev/source/proptax_trendsshift.htm,
[2] http://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=79-1003