

# “Addressing the Growth, April 2, 2013”

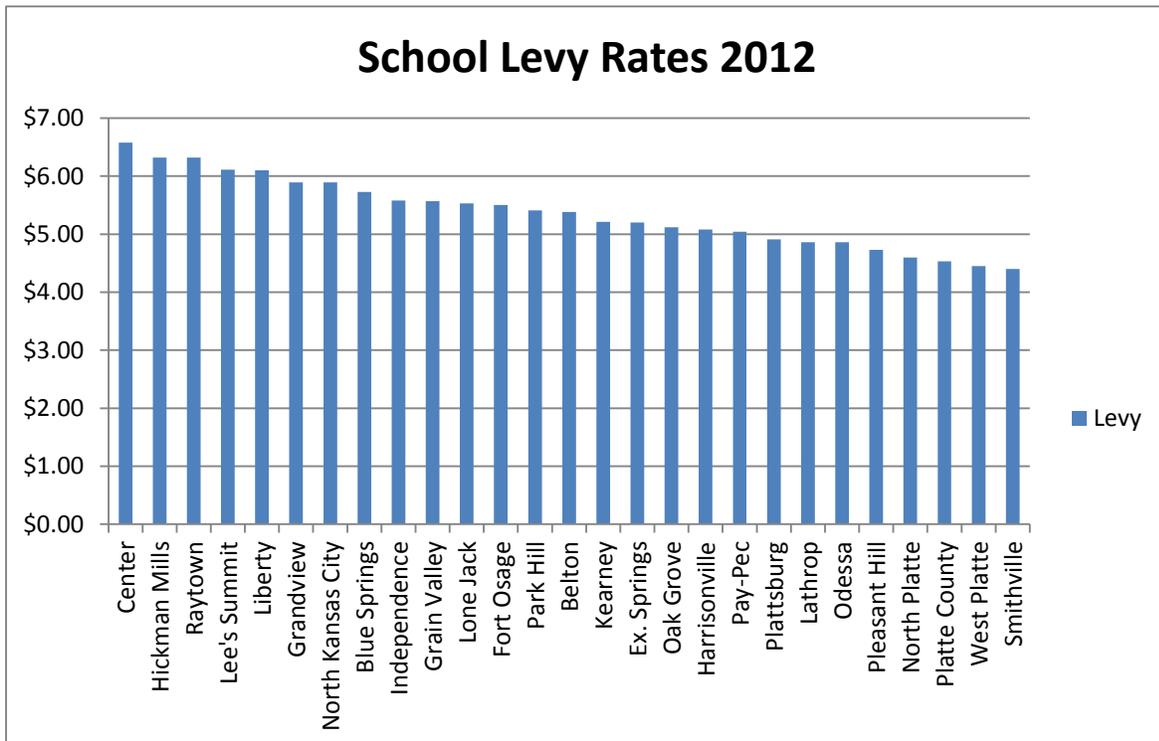
## Phase VI / Smithville R-II School District Master Building Plan Questions and Responses

### The Issue

The Smithville R-II School District will be asking voters to consider a \$0.9175 levy increase on April 2, 2013, to construct an additional elementary school, add classrooms at the high school, expand the high school cafeteria, increase parking at the district stadium, and to create secure building entrances in all the district’s buildings. If approved, the levy increase will “sun-set” (end) in 25 years.

The improvements are needed to accommodate district growth and ensure high academic standards are maintained. Currently all buildings are near and or exceeding recommended occupancies.

Even with the additional \$0.9175 investment, the Smithville R-II School District will continue to have one of the lowest tax rates in the greater Kansas City Area. The Smithville R-II Board of Education has not asked the patrons of the district for a levy increase since 1997.



1. **Why do we need this levy increase?** This levy increase will help the district expand its facilities to address growth in our student population.
2. **How much has the student population grown?** For the past ten years, K-12 enrollment has totaled the following:

2002-03	1790	5.11% increase over previous year
2003-04	1873	4.64% increase
2004-05	1949	4.06% increase
2005-06	2070	6.21% increase
2006-07	2202	6.38% increase
2007-08	2188	0.64% decrease
2008-09	2263	3.43% increase
2009-10	2386	5.44% increase
2010-11	2372	0.59% decrease
2011-12	2408	1.52% increase
2012-13	2448	1.66% increase

During the ten year period, the Smithville R-II School District K-12 enrollment averaged an increase of 3.722% for each year, increasing a total of 658 students.

The district uses a process of considering past enrollment trends to predict future grade level, building level, and district enrollments. This enrollment projection process has been relatively very accurate in predicting future enrollment trends. The following K-12 enrollment totals are projected for the next ten years:

2013-14	2468	0.83% increase
2014-15	2471	0.11% increase
2015-16	2540	2.80% increase
2016-17	2545	0.18% increase
2017-18	2598	2.09% increase
2018-19	2642	1.72% increase
2019-20	2700	2.18% increase
2020-21	2785	3.15% increase
2021-22	2852	2.40% increase
2022-23	2939	3.06% increase

During the future ten year period, the Smithville R-II School District K-12 enrollment is projected to increase an average of 1.852%, increasing a projected total of 471 students.

This relatively rapid enrollment increase experienced during the past ten years has begun to place a strain on all the district's school buildings, with the high school and primary elementary quickly approaching building capacity estimates. Without additional classrooms, both of these buildings will exceed building capacity estimates.

Estimated Building Capacities of Current Facilities

9-12 High School	852	Projected to Exceed Capacity in 2015-16
6-8 Middle School	632	Projected to Exceed Capacity in 2021-22
3-5 Upper Elementary	616	Projected to Exceed Capacity in 2019-20
K-2 Primary Elementary	540	Projected to Exceed Capacity in 2014-15
Pre-K / ECSE	30	Currently Exceeding Capacity in 2012-13

3. **What projects are included in the April 2013 Ballot Issue?** The plan is to construct an additional K-6 elementary, 8 classroom addition on to Smithville High School, expand the High School cafeteria seating area, add additional paved parking at the District Stadium, remodel the office and front entrance to the Primary Elementary to improve building security and efficiency, district roofing projects, and to add secure entrances to the High School, Middle School, Upper Elementary, and Primary Elementary.
4. **How were the projects and amounts for each project determined?** The Board of Education analyzed existing enrollment, studied district demographics (including enrollment projections) engaged stakeholders (parents, community leaders, students, and staff members) in creating a long range Master Building Plan which was approved by the Board of Education in November 2011, to address the needs of today and for years into the future. The cost of each Phase VI project was determined through collaboration of the district architects, engineers, and construction management firm with the assistance of district officials. The preliminary Phase VI budget:

Additional Elementary	\$15,245,637.00
8 Classroom Addition / High School	\$1,619,324.00
Campus Parking Expansion	\$549,910.00
Security Improvement HS	\$46,793.00
Security Improvement MS	\$64,258.00
Security Improvement UES	\$63,024.00
Security Improvement PES / Office	\$300,005.00
HS Classroom/Counselor Remodel	\$237,951.00
HS Cafeteria Expansion	\$710,766.00
<b>Total Construction</b>	<b>\$18,837,668.00</b>

Adjusted Construction Hard-cost	\$18,837,668.00
Construction Contingency (5%)	\$941,883.40
Architect / Engineers	\$1,036,071.74
Civil	\$70,000.00
Survey	\$20,000.00
Soils	\$10,000.00
Testing	\$120,000.00
Printing	\$45,000.00
Advertising	\$6,000.00
F F and E	\$700,000.00

Builder's Risk	\$50,000.00
Owner's Roofing Repair	\$1,225,000.00
Phone System Upgrade	\$225,000.00
Project Total Expenses	<u>\$23,286,623.14</u>

5. **Why does this require a levy increase?** In 1997, patrons of the Smithville R-II School District approved a debt service levy increase that has allowed the district to implement the first five phases of its Master Building Plan without an additional increase in its debt service levy. We no longer have borrowing capacity without increasing the operating revenue to fund construction and operations.

Phase I	1997	6.25 Million (UES and HS Additions)
Phase II	1999	6.8 Million (Classrooms UES, MS, HS, and Renovations at PES)
Phase III	2004	6.8 Million (Classrooms MS/HS and Activity Upgrades)
Phase IV	2007	9.8 Million (Classrooms PES/UES, ECSE and Administration Building, and Activity Upgrades)
Phase V	2010	8.5 Million (District Performing Arts Center, FEMA Gym, Additional Parking, Renovations)

6. **Why \$0.9175?** This is the exact amount calculated to make “lease purchase” payments to fund Phase VI of the Master Building plan and to operate the additional square footage. If the \$0.9175 levy is approved, \$0.68 of the question will fund construction (estimated \$23,500,000) and \$0.2375 (\$475,000 annually) will fund operations (utilities, staff, maintenance, supplies). The approved levy increase will expire after a period of 25 years after the lease purchase payments expire ‘rolling back’ the district’s operating levy.

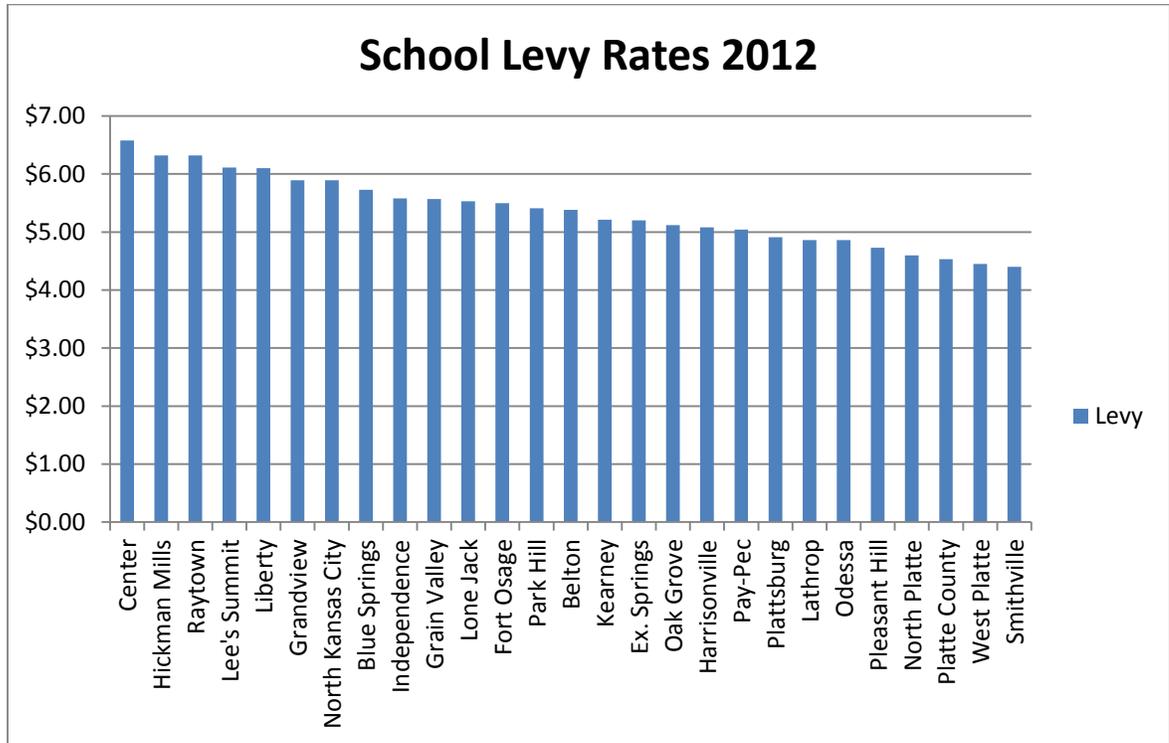
7. **How much will the levy cost the average patron?** The district’s current total levy is \$4.4048 per \$100 of assessed valuation – if you own a \$100,000 home – you currently pay \$836.91 per year in school taxes. If the increase is improved, the new total levy would be \$5.3223 requiring the same \$100,000 homeowner to pay an additional \$174.32 per year or \$14.527 per month in school taxes.

8. **What happens if the levy does not pass?** Simply put, we need additional space to accommodate our increased enrollment. If the levy does not pass, our crowded schools will only become more crowded.

9. **Has the Smithville R-II School District been good stewards of patrons’ tax dollars?** When district patrons approved a debt service levy increase in 1997 to implement Phase I of the district’s Master Building plan, the Board of Education pledged that it would fund the remaining

three phases of the Master Building plan without a tax increase over the next 10 years. Sixteen years later and after implementing five building projects, a levy increase is needed to fund the additional construction and operations.

10. **Where does the Smithville R-II School District current levy rank compared to other districts?**



11. **Where will the additional elementary be built?** The district owns approximately 10 acres located on the northeast corner of 188<sup>th</sup> and F Highway on the district's northern boundary.

12. **Where will the 8 additional classrooms be built on to the High School?** If approved, a two-story eight classroom addition will be added on to the east end of the current high school.

13. **If approved, what will be the building grade configurations and estimated building capacities after Phase VI?**

9-12 High School	Estimated Capacity	1032
7-8 Middle School	Estimated Capacity	632
K-6 Elementary (current PES)	Estimated Capacity	540

K-6 Elementary (current UES)	Estimated Capacity	616
K-6 Elementary (new)	Estimated Capacity	425

14. **How will the students be selected to attend the three K-6 Elementary Buildings?** In the spring of 2006, a committee of parents and educators met to consider current research and the experiences of area school districts in formulating a recommendation regarding the future grade configuration of elementary schools in the Smithville R-II School District. The committee unanimously recommended that with the opening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> elementary, all elementary schools include grades Kindergarten through six and become neighborhood schools. Students will be selected to attend one of the three K-6 elementary schools by developing boundaries that define attendance areas within the Smithville School District. The process of establishing the K-6 boundaries will be stakeholder driven, transparent to the community, and approved by the Board of Education. The process of developing boundary lines will be assisted by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party demographer to consider logistical issues associated with the defining attendance areas such as enrollment balance, socio-economic balance, transportation distances and safety, maintaining neighborhoods and subdivisions, and future growth considerations.
15. **What is the timeline for construction?** If approved, the security and entrance improvements will be completed at the HS, MS, UES, and PES during the summer of 2013. The roofing improvements at the PES will also be completed during the summer of 2013. The additions at the high school will be complete for the fall of 2014 and the additional elementary will open in the fall of 2015.
16. **What will be included in the entrance and security improvements?** Each buildings main entrance will be remodeled to require visitors to “buzz in” to gain access to the building once the school day begins and remain in effect throughout the school day. In addition, all visitors will be required to enter through the building’s office prior to accessing instructional areas.
17. **In addition to classroom spaces, what else will be funded with the ballot question?** If approved, an upgraded phone system will be installed throughout the district. The current system is outdated technology and parts to support the system are obsolete. The current phone system is unreliable creating a “life safety” concern. Also, if approved, new roofing sections will be replaced at the Primary Elementary, High School, and Middle School.
18. **Will patrons have future projects to consider?** Based on continued growth, the District’s Master Building plan calls for future bond issues in 2017 and 2020.

2017    Additional Education wing on to K-6 Elementary (188<sup>th</sup> and F Highway)  
High School Weight room and Wrestling Room  
High School Existing Stage Renovation

2020 4<sup>th</sup> K-6 Elementary  
High School Classroom Addition  
Campus Parking Expansion

**19. How will this proposal appear on the ballot?**

To provide funds for constructing, improving, expanding, equipping, operating and maintaining school facilities, including a third elementary school, additional classrooms at the high school, and security and entrance improvements at all District buildings, shall the Board of Education of the Smithville R-II School District be authorized to increase the District's operating tax levy ceiling by \$0.9175 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for a period of 25 years?

If this question is approved, the operating tax levy ceiling of the District is estimated to increase from \$3.4448 to \$4.3623 per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

**20. When is the election?** Tuesday, April 2, 2013

**21. What percentage of voters must approve the levy issue proposal?** 50% plus 1 positive vote

**22. How do I register to vote?** Any individual 18 years of age or older on April 2, 2013 who is a resident of the Smithville R-II School District and is registered to vote may vote in this election. Individuals may register to vote at the Mid-Continent Public Library in Smithville or at Smithville City Hall. Additionally individuals may register to vote in the Smithville R-II School District offices located at 655 South Commercial Ave. Patrons may also register to vote by visiting [www.sos.mo.gov/elections/register2vote](http://www.sos.mo.gov/elections/register2vote)

**23. When is the last day to register to vote?** The deadline to register is March 6, 2013 and the election date is April 2, 2013.

**24. Who may I contact for additional information?** For additional information ,please contact Dr. George Curry, Superintendent of Schools,([curryg@smithville.k12.mo.us](mailto:curryg@smithville.k12.mo.us)) Mr. Wayne Krueger, Assistant Superintendent for Support Services,([kruegerw@smithville.k12.mo.us](mailto:kruegerw@smithville.k12.mo.us) ) or Dr. Todd Schuetz,([schuetzt@smithville.k12.mo.us](mailto:schuetzt@smithville.k12.mo.us) ) Assistant Superintendent for Academic Services or by calling the Smithville R-II School District office at (816) 532-0406.

Please Vote on April 2<sup>nd</sup>