



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 18, 2018

SFDR CISD Receives TRE Endorsement from the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce

In a letter addressed to Board President Raymond Meza, the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors voted to support and endorse the Tax Ratification Election proposed by the San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District. The Del Rio Chamber of Commerce Board stated that they “understand that a healthy school system is a critical draw for businesses and families to locate in our Del Rio community, and we wholeheartedly believe that there is a need to invest in SFDR CISD, which is also a sustainable workforce pipeline in our community, and supports a steady stream of the next working generation.” The endorsement came soon after SFDR CISD made a presentation to the organization in September. “The facts show that the District is need of our support”, commented Blanca Larsen, who is the Executive Director.

In presentations with the Del Rio Chamber of Commerce and other groups and organizations across the community, SFDR CISD shared recent news from the Texas Tribune, revealing the Commissioner of Education Mike Morath’s announcement of a projected drop in the state’s general revenue for public education by more than \$3.5 billion dollars. The article explained that the Texas Education Agency expects to put less money into public education next year because of fast-increasing local property values. This announcement brings alarming news to Texas school districts, particularly for San Felipe Del Rio CISD. With the current state formula, state revenue has declined over the past few years. If the state reduces revenue for public education, SFDR CISD could have a drastic reduction in school aid as early as the next school year.



Currently, all property owners are assessed at the \$1.1598 tax rate for every \$100 of taxable value of their home or property. For SFDR CISD, the revenue received by this tax collection is separated into two distinct funds. The primary fund, Maintenance and Operations (M&O), generates \$1.04 of the total assessed tax rate. The second fund, Interest and Sinking (I&S), receives the remaining \$0.1198, is set aside for the payment of the District’s outstanding debt.

The proposition for the Tax Ratification Election (TRE) allows the District to maximize state funding by restructuring the funding formula. Why is this important? Simply stated, the State increases their assistance when the local tax collections efforts on the maintenance and operations side are increased.

If SFDR CISD’s Interest and Sinking fund (which is nearly 12 cents) is combined with the Maintenance and Operations tax rate, the District would have one M&O tax rate at \$1.1598. There is no change or increase to the overall school tax rate, as evident in the most recent release of the 2018 Tax Statement.

If the Tax Ratification Election (TRE) Proposition is approved, SFDR CISD would generate an estimated \$3.5 million in additional state revenue in 2018, and an additional \$1.6 million each year thereafter, at no additional increase to the school tax rate each property owner currently pays. As the District anticipates less revenue from the state with its current funding formula, these additional dollars are only earmarked to sustain the school district’s current expenses.

Proposition

“Approving the ad valorem tax rate of \$1.279600 per \$100 valuation in San Felipe Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District for the current year, a rate that is \$0.125828 higher per \$100 valuation than the school district rollback tax rate, for the purpose of increasing revenue for maintenance and operations at a final tax rate of \$1.1598 **which is no increase to the overall 2017 Tax Rate.**”

If the TRE fails, SFDRCSID stands to cut an estimated \$3.2 million dollars budgeted for safety and security, technology and maintenance repairs and preservation of our schools this school year. Next year, SFDRCSID's state revenue could decrease by another \$970,000 causing the Board of Trustees to reduce funding for cost of living increases to teachers and staff, health insurance contributions, staffing to maintain smaller class sizes, and some student programs.

Early voting is set to begin on Monday, October 22, 2018 at the Val Verde County Courthouse beginning at 8 a.m., and runs through Friday, November 2, 2018. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6, 2018.