

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE BLECKLEY COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on March 18, 2025, an election will be held at the regular polling places in all the election districts of Bleckley County, at which time there will be submitted to the qualified voters of Bleckley County for their determination the following question:

- Shall the special 1 percent sales and use tax for education currently in effect in Bleckley County be continued for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters and for the raising of not more than \$16,600,000 for the purposes of acquiring, constructing, repairing, improving, renovating, adding to, extending, upgrading, furnishing, or equipping school buildings, support facilities, or infrastructure in the Bleckley County School District useful or desirable in connection therewith, including acquiring any necessary property or demolition thereof, both real and personal, including, but not limited to the following: (1) paying all or a portion of the costs of acquiring, constructing, equipping, or furnishing school buildings, or educational, support, maintenance, storage, physical education, or athletic facilities; (2) adding to, renovating, repairing, improving, or equipping existing schools or facilities including, but not limited to, vocational or agricultural facilities, gymnasiums, physical education or athletic facilities, or HVAC repairs, improvements, or additions; (3) acquiring new equipment, fixtures, or furnishings for the School District, including, but not limited to textbooks, band instruments, computer technology equipment or software, interactive boards, safety or security technology, food service equipment, tables, desks or chairs, school buses, or other vehicles; (4) acquiring any capital property necessary or desirable for the School District, both real or personal; (5) paying costs of issuing the below described Bonds, paying debt service on the Bonds, debt service on the School District's previously incurred Series 2020 general obligation bonds; (6) paying expenses incident to any of the foregoing purposes; or (7) any combination of the foregoing purposes?
- ( ) YES
- ( ) NO

If continuation of the tax is approved by the voters, such vote shall also constitute approval of the issuance of general obligation debt of the Bleckley County School District in the principal amount of up to \$3,000,000, repayable from the proceeds of the aforesaid sales and use tax, for the purposes of (a) funding such portions of the above projects as may be acquired, constructed, or equipped with the proceeds of general obligation debt; (b) paying expenses associated with issuing the bonds; (c) paying capitalized interest on the bonds; or (d) any combination of the foregoing purposes.

All qualified voters desiring to vote in favor of continuing the one percent (1%) sales and use tax for education currently in effect (the "**Sales Tax for Education**") shall vote "Yes" and all qualified voters opposed to continuing the Sales Tax for Education shall vote "No". If more than one-half of the votes cast are in favor of continuing the Sales Tax for Education then the Sales Tax for Education shall be continued beginning July 1, 2027, or the first day of the calendar quarter

immediately following the quarter in which the Sales Tax for Education now in effect is terminated. The maximum period of time for which the Sales Tax for Education shall be reimposed shall be twenty consecutive calendar quarters.

The maximum cost of the capital outlay projects for educational purposes described in the above ballot question to be funded with Sales Tax for Education proceeds, including interest, capitalized interest, principal, and costs of issuance on general obligation debt (including previously incurred debt) to be paid, shall be \$16,600,000. To the extent available, the Bleckley County School District may combine available funds from any state or federal governmental source to which the Bleckley County School District may be entitled to pay the costs of its capital outlay projects, and it may choose what capital outlay projects to undertake or not undertake or to delay until additional funding is available to the extent that the proceeds of the Sales Tax for Education and general obligation debt are insufficient to complete any of the capital outlay projects.

Plans and specifications for the capital outlay projects described in the above ballot question have not been initiated and bids have not been received. Depending upon acquisition and construction costs and available funds, the Bleckley County Board of Education may add to, modify, or delete specific projects.

If the Sales Tax for Education is to be reimposed, the Bleckley County School District may issue general obligation debt in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$3,000,000. The proceeds from such general obligation debt, if issued, shall be used to fund all or a portion of the above-described capital outlay projects. The maximum rate or rates of interest on such debt shall not exceed six percent (6.00%) per annum and the maximum amount of principal to be paid in each year during the life of the debt shall be as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Principal Amount</u>
2028	\$565,000
2029	585,000
2030	600,000
2031	615,000
2032	635,000

The School District may issue general obligation debt in an aggregate amount that is less than \$3,000,000 and reduce the principal amounts maturing that are shown above. The debt shall be repayable from the proceeds of the Sales Tax for Education. The debt may be issued in one or more series, and on one or more dates of issuance as the School District may approve; provided, however, that the aggregate principal amount of such debt shall not exceed \$3,000,000. The debt may be made subject to redemption prior to maturity, to the extent permitted by law, upon terms and conditions to be determined by the School District.

The principal and interest on the Debt shall be secured by the proceeds of the sales and use tax and shall be payable in lawful money of the United States of America at a paying agent bank that will be designated by the Bleckley County School District prior to the issuance of the debt.

Any brochures, listings, or other advertisements issued by the Bleckley County School District or by any other person, firm, corporation, or association with the knowledge and consent of the Bleckley County School District shall be deemed to be a statement of intention of the Bleckley County School District concerning the use of the proceeds of the Bonds.

All persons who are not registered to vote and who desire to register to vote in the special election may register to vote through the close of business on February 18, 2025.

Advance In Person Voting will be held February 24, 2025 – March 14, 2025. Mandatory Saturday Early Voting will be held on March 1, 2025, and March 8, 2025. Polls will be open during Advance In Person Voting from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Mandatory Saturday Early Voting will occur between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Election Day, March 18, 2025. Those residents of Bleckley County qualified to vote at such election shall be determined in all respects in accordance with the election laws of the State of Georgia.

This notice is given pursuant to a resolution of the Board of Education of Bleckley County and the consent of the Bleckley County Board of Elections and Registration as Election Superintendent.

/s/ Shanna Evans

Chairman, Board of Education  
of Bleckley County, Georgia

/s/ Cheryl Ates

Election Supervisor on behalf of the Bleckley  
County Board of Elections and Registration  
as Election Superintendent