

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE POSITION REGARDING:  
PINELLAS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S AD VALOREM ONE HALF MILLAGE  
REFERENDUM RENEWAL**

**BACKGROUND:**

In November of 2004, the voters of Pinellas County approved the School District referendum which raised ad valorem millage by one-half mill to provide additional funding for four years. Voters renewed that millage again in 2008 and 2012. Since it was first approved, almost \$360 million dollars has been raised for Pinellas County classrooms.

The referendum requires all moneys to be used for operating expenses in specific areas. The money is to be used for teacher salaries, preserving reading programs and music and art classes, and providing up-to-date textbooks and technology. The half mill equates to \$50 a year per \$100,000 in taxable value with the average single family home in Pinellas paying \$65.57 a year or less than \$5.50 a month. Finally, the revenue is overseen by an independent financial oversight committee which includes representatives from the business community as well as parents and other stakeholders.

**POSITION:**

Upon recommendation from the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee, the Board of Governors of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chamber of Commerce approve support for the renewal of the ad valorem millage for Pinellas County Schools at the November 8, 2016 General Election vote. The support for the renewal is based on the assistance it provides the school district to better prepare our workforce through the recruitment and retention of a qualified teaching staff and expanded learning opportunities. The renewal will continue to develop our area workforce through up-to-date textbooks and technology as well as reading and arts programs. It will also help our economy to attract high paying jobs and recruit businesses for relocation.

**NOTIFICATION:**

Upon approval of this position statement, a copy shall be sent to Citizens for Pinellas Schools, PO Box 15525, Clearwater, FL 33766 or emailed to [CitizensForPinellasSchools@gmail.com](mailto:CitizensForPinellasSchools@gmail.com)

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**BALLOT TITLE:**

APPROVAL OF CONTINUATION OF ONE-HALF MILL AD VALOREM TAX FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT OPERATING EXPENSES

**BALLOT QUESTION:**

Shall the Pinellas County School District ad valorem millage of one-half mill per year be continued beginning July 1, 2017 and ending four fiscal years later on June 30, 2021, for necessary operating expenses including funds to recruit and retain teachers; preserve reading programs and music and art classes; and provide up-to-date textbooks and technology, with oversight of these expenditures by an independent citizens financial oversight committee?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_\_\_ NO