

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION FOR TAX RATE RATIFICATION

TO THE RESIDENT, QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE TATUM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a voter-approval tax rate election will be held in such DISTRICT, on November 5, 2024, in accordance with the following order (as modified in accordance with an order of the Board establishing precincts and polling places):

ORDER CALLING VOTER-APPROVAL TAX RATE ELECTION

THE STATE OF TEXAS	§
COUNTIES OF PANOLA AND RUSK	§
TATUM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT	§

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Tatum Independent School District (the “District”) has adopted the District’s tax rate for the current year (the “Adopted Tax Rate”); and

WHEREAS, Section 26.08(a), Texas Tax Code provides that if the Adopted Tax Rate exceeds the District’s voter-approval tax rate (as described in Section 26.08(n), Texas Tax Code), the registered voters of the District must determine whether to approve the Adopted Tax Rate at an election held for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the requirements of Section 26.08, Texas Tax Code, the Board finds that it is necessary and appropriate to call an election to ratify the Adopted Tax Rate (the “Election”); and

WHEREAS, the Board finds that ratification of the Adopted Tax Rate at the Election and the levy thereof would maximize state funding to the District under current funding formulas; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 11.184(b-1), Texas Education Code, an efficiency audit is not required before holding the Election in view of the Governor’s disaster proclamation, dated April 30, 2024, as amended to include Panola and Rusk Counties on May 2, 2024; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TATUM INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Section 1. Call of Election; Date; Eligible Electors; and Hours. The Election shall be held on November 5, 2024 (“Election Day”), which is seventy-eight (78) or more days from the date of the adoption of this order (the “Election Order”), within and throughout the territory of the District at which all resident, qualified electors of the District shall be entitled to vote. The Board hereby finds that holding the Election on such date is in the public interest. The hours during which the polling places are to be open on Election Day shall be from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Section 2. Voting Precincts; Polling Places; and Election Officers. Except as otherwise provided herein, the boundaries and territories of the respective county election precincts that are wholly or partially within the territorial boundaries of the District are hereby designated

Section 5. Voting. Electronic voting machines may be used in holding and conducting the Election on Election Day; provided, however, in the event the use of such electronic voting machines is not practicable, the Election may be conducted on Election Day by the use of paper ballots (except as otherwise provided in this section). Electronic voting machines or paper ballots may be used for early voting by personal appearance (except as otherwise provided in this section). As required by the Election Code, the District shall provide at least one accessible voting system in each polling place used in the Election. Such voting system shall comply with Texas and federal laws establishing the requirement for voting systems that permit voters with physical disabilities to cast a secret ballot. Paper ballots may be used for early voting by mail.

Each voter desiring to vote in favor of the Proposition shall mark the ballot indicating “FOR” such Proposition, and each voter desiring to vote against the Proposition shall mark the ballot indicating “AGAINST” such Proposition. Voting will be conducted in accordance with the Election Code.

Section 6. Early Voting. For the use of those voters who are entitled by law to vote early by mail, the early voting clerk shall provide each voter with a ballot with instructions to mark the ballot indicating his or her vote “FOR” or “AGAINST” the Proposition. Early voting, both by personal appearance and by mail, will be conducted in accordance with the Election Code. Early voting by personal appearance shall be conducted at the locations, on the dates and at the times as shown in Exhibit A. Early voting by personal appearance shall begin on Monday, October 21, 2024, and end on Friday, November 1, 2024.

The Board hereby appoints Kendra Whiteus as the regular early voting clerk for the District (the “Early Voting Clerk”). The Early Voting Clerk’s contact information/delivery addresses for applications for ballots to be voted by mail and other matters related to the Election are as follows:

Name: Kendra Whiteus

Official Mailing Address: 510 Crystal Farms Rd., Tatum, Texas 75691

Physical Address: 510 Crystal Farms Rd., Tatum, Texas 75691

E-mail Address: whiteusk@tatumisd.org

Phone Number: (903) 947-6482

Fax Number: (903) 947-3295

Website Address: <https://www.tatumisd.org/>

The Board hereby appoints Claudia Sullivan as the presiding judge of the early voting ballot board to count and return early voting ballots in accordance with the Election Code. The presiding judge shall appoint two election clerks, and such judge and clerks shall constitute the early voting ballot board and shall perform the duties set forth for such board in the Election Code.

Section 7. Conduct of Election. The Election shall be conducted by election officers, including the precinct judges and alternate judges or clerks appointed by the Board, in accordance with the Election Code and the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

Section 8. Bilingual Election Materials. All notices, instructions, and ballots pertaining to the Election shall be furnished to voters in both English and Spanish and persons

capable of acting as translators in both English and Spanish shall be made available to assist Spanish language speaking voters in understanding and participating in the election process.

Section 9. Delivery of Voted Ballots; Counting; Tabulation; Canvassing of Returns; Declaring Results. The ballots shall be counted by one or more teams of election officers assigned by the presiding judges, each team to consist of two or more election officers. After completion of their responsibilities under the Election Code, including the counting of the voted ballots and the tabulation of the results, the presiding judge shall make a written return of the Election results to the District in accordance with the Election Code. The Board shall canvass the returns and declare the results of the Election.

If a majority of the resident, qualified electors of the District voting at the Election, including those voting early, shall vote in favor of the Proposition, then the tax rate for the current year shall be the rate adopted by the Board. If the Proposition is not approved, then the Board may not adopt a rate that exceeds the District's voter-approval tax rate.

Section 10. Training of Election Officials. Pursuant to the Election Code, a public school of instruction for all election officers and clerks may be held as arranged or contracted by the Superintendent.

Section 11. Notice of Election. Notice of the Election shall be given in the manner required by the Election Code and other applicable law. To the extent required by law, each notice of the Election shall include the District's internet website address, which is <https://www.tatumisd.org/>.

Section 12. Notice of Meeting. The Board officially finds, determines, recites and declares that written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of the meeting at which this Election Order is adopted was posted on a bulletin board located at a place convenient to the public at the District's administrative offices for a least seventy-two (72) hours preceding the scheduled time of the meeting; that a telephonic or telegraphic notice of such meeting was given to all news media who have consented to pay any and all expenses incurred by the District in connection with providing such notice, both as required by the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended; and that such meeting was open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Election Order and the subject matter thereof was discussed, considered and formally acted upon.

Section 13. Authority of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall have the authority to take, or cause to be taken, all reasonable or necessary actions to ensure that the Election is fairly held and returns properly counted and tabulated for canvass by the Board, which actions are hereby ratified and confirmed. Without limiting the generality of the immediately preceding sentence, the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees are hereby authorized to complete and update, as necessary, the exhibits attached hereto with any alterations or changes in or additions to the polling locations and other information, as necessary.

Section 14. Authorization to Execute. The President or Vice President of the Board is authorized to execute and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary of the Board is authorized to attest this Election Order on behalf of the Board; and the President or Vice President of the Board is

authorized to do all other things legal and necessary in connection with the holding and consummation of the Election.

Section 15. Effective Date. This Election Order is effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

(Signature page to follow)

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of August, 2024.

 /s/ Everigester Adams, Jr.
President, Board of Trustees
Tatum Independent School District

ATTEST:

 /s/ Stephen Skinner
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Tatum Independent School District

(DISTRICT SEAL)

Signature Page
Tatum Independent School District
Order Calling Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election

EXHIBIT A¹

**Election Day Polling Locations
(Panola County):**

Mt. Zion Baptist Church
5209 FM 959
Beckville, Texas 75631

**Election Day Polling Locations
(Rusk County):**

Precinct 214:
Stewart Voting Box
13606 FM 782 N.
Henderson, Texas 75652

Precinct 215:
Tatum Sherman R. Smith Community Center
231 N. Hood
Tatum, Texas 75691

Election Day Dates and Times:

November 5, 2024
7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Main Early Voting Location:

Tatum ISD Administration Building
510 Crystal Farms Road
Tatum, Texas 75691

Early Voting Dates and Times:

October 21, 2024 – October 25, 2024, and October
28, 2024 – November 1, 2024
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Presiding Judge:

Brandon Milam

Early Voting Clerk:

Kendra Whiteus

Early Voting Ballot Board Judge: Claudia Sullivan

¹ Polling Locations subject to adjustment.