

CALL OF SPECIAL ELECTION  
TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY:

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

- Shall the special 1 percent sales and use tax for education currently in effect in Berrien County be continued for a period of time not to exceed 20 calendar quarters and for the raising of not more than \$20,000,000 for the purposes of acquiring, constructing, repairing, improving, renovating, adding to, extending, upgrading, demolishing, furnishing, or equipping school buildings or support or athletic facilities in the Berrien County School District useful or desirable in connection therewith, including acquiring any necessary property therefore, real or personal, or any combination of such purposes, specifically including the following: (1) constructing, equipping, and furnishing a performing arts center; (2) adding to, renovating, repairing, improving, furnishing, and equipping existing school buildings and other buildings and facilities, including painting, paving, landscaping, installation of carpeting, flooring, and energy efficiency upgrades, equipping and furnishing cafeterias, and additional classrooms; (3) adding to, constructing, renovating, furnishing, and equipping athletic facilities; (4) acquiring safety and security equipment; (5) acquiring instructional and administrative technology, equipment, and materials; (6) acquiring vocational, physical education, and fine arts equipment, including band instruments and uniforms; (7) acquiring buses, a cargo van, vehicles, and transportation and maintenance equipment; (8) paying expenses incident to accomplishing the foregoing; or (9) 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 Berrien County School District in the principal amount of up to \$10,000,000, repayable from the proceeds of the aforesaid sales and use tax, for the purpose of funding such portions of the above projects as may be acquired, constructed, and equipped with the proceeds of general obligation debt.

All qualified voters desiring to vote in favor of continuing the special 1% sales and use tax for education (the “**Special 1% Tax**”) shall vote “Yes” and all qualified voters opposed to levying the Special 1% Tax shall vote “No”. If more than one-half of the votes cast are in favor of continuing the Special 1% Tax then the Special 1% Tax shall be continued beginning January 1, 2028, or the first day of the calendar quarter immediately following the quarter in which the Special 1% Tax now in effect is terminated. The maximum period of time for which the Special 1% Tax shall be continued 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 Special 1% Tax proceeds, and the general obligation debt

to be retired in the maximum amount of \$10,000,000, which includes interest, capitalized interest, principal, and costs of issuance, shall be \$20,000,000. To the extent available, the Berrien County School District may combine available funds from any state or federal governmental source to which the Berrien County School District may be entitled to pay the costs of its capital outlay projects, and it may choose which capital outlay projects to undertake or not undertake or to delay until additional funding is available to the extent that the proceeds of the Special 1% Tax 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 Berrien County Board of Education may add to, modify, or delete specific projects.

If the Special 1% Tax is to be continued, the Berrien County School District may issue general obligation debt in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$10,000,000. 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 seven percent (7%) 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>
2029	\$1,800,000
2030	1,900,000
2031	2,000,000
2032	2,100,000
2033	2,200,000

The principal and interest on the Debt shall be secured by the proceeds of the Special 1% 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 Berrien County School District prior to the issuance of the debt.

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

The several places for holding said election shall be at the regular and established voting precincts of the election districts of Berrien County, Georgia, and the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the date fixed for the election.

The last day to register to vote in this election shall be February 18, 2025, through 5:00 p.m.

Those residents of Berrien 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 Berrien County Board of Education and a resolution of the Berrien County Board of Elections and Registration.

/s/ Keith Powell  
Chairman, Berrien County Board of  
Education

/s/ Melanie Ray  
Election Supervisor, Berrien County Board  
of Elections and Registration