East China School District Tax Increase Facts

Voters voted down a .3992 mill request in May of 2022 after supporting an over **\$112,000,000** increase in taxes and spending in March of 2020, to in the words of the superintendent: "comprehensively update facilities, infrastructure, security and technology."

Placing it on the May ballot resulted in nearly \$70,000 in special election fees!

The East China School District is in the best financial position that it has been in decades. Even with less staff and students they brought in more revenue from \$44,000,000 to \$50,000,000 in one year and have consistently been bringing in more revenue.

According to the latest school district audit report, there is still \$2,600,000 sitting in the sinking fund balance.

The passage of the 2020 bond tax allowed the district to free up money to spend on future maintenance, building repairs, technology etc.

After the tax failed on the May ballot, the school district is going for 6x the amount they originally requested in 2022. **At 2.75 mills, this is the largest proposed tax increase in the school district's history.** Depending on the zip code the average increase per taxpayer could be \$290-\$490 per year!

Most school districts in the state of Michigan do not have a sinking fund, especially if they just voted for a bond tax for the purpose of updating the buildings. The school board needs to live within its means and put money aside for building maintenance and repairs.

The East China School District has the largest taxable value in St Clair County by far due to DTE. More than Algonac, Capac, Marysville, Memphis and Yale combined. Even more than the Port Huron Area School District as they have double the staff and students that we have and a much higher population. This means the tax rate may be lower than some, but we have more in tax revenue than most districts in the area.

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