

FACTS ABOUT THE PVUSD MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS (M&O) BUDGET OVERRIDE

What is a budget override?

School districts in Arizona are allowed by state law to increase their M&O budgets by up to 10% more per year than the revenue control limit imposed by the state legislature. M&O funds are used almost exclusively for salaries for teachers and staff. About half the school districts in the state representing 70-80% of the students are on a budget override.

How long do override funds last?

An override lasts for seven years. The district receives full funding for five years. If not renewed, the amount decreases by one-third in the sixth year and two-thirds in the seventh year. In year eight, it expires.

Have voters in PVUSD passed M&O Budget Overrides in the past?

Yes. The proposed override would restore an M&O Budget Override that has existed in the district since 1988. The override was renewed by the voters in 1990, 1994, 1999 and 2004.

How has the phase down of the override affected the district in the current budget?

The loss of \$5.3 million in override funding combined with significant reductions in state funding has resulted in unprecedented reductions in the 2009-10 budget. Budget reductions made this year: eliminated 219 staff positions including 117 teachers, 15 reading teachers, 10 high school counselors, 27 special education teachers, 6 gifted teachers, 15 social workers, and 29 district level administrative and support positions. All employees received a 2.62% salary cut. Supply and purchased services budgets have been reduced 23%.

What will the M&O Override do for our students?

- Decrease class sizes for more individual student attention
- Provide instruction for technology, physical education, and fine arts (music, art, etc.) to students
- Give additional assistance in reading, writing, and math to students
- Offer competitive salaries to attract and retain highly qualified teachers and staff
- Promote a safe and healthy school environment

What will happen if the budget override is not renewed?

The district will be forced to cut more than \$10.8 million from its operating budget over the next two years. Class sizes will increase, programs to students will be reduced or eliminated and salaries will not be competitive with other area school districts.

How much will the override cost the average taxpayer?

Currently a homeowner with a home assessed full cash value of \$100,000 is paying \$24 a year in property taxes. If the budget override is renewed, a homeowner will pay an additional \$12 a year in property taxes (or \$1 dollar a month). The total tax rate needed to fully fund the PVUSD budget override is 35 cents per \$100 of secondary assessed valuation, or \$35 per year on a home assessed at \$100,000.

When will the M&O Override be on the ballot?

The M&O Override will be on the November 3, 2009, ballot; early voting for the measure will start October 6, 2009.