

NTC explains questions on upcoming millage ballot

Staff reports news@delcojournal.com | Posted: Tuesday, October 13, 2015 1:02 pm

PRYOR, Okla. - Northeast Technology Center is preparing for an upcoming millage increase election in November. The request is aimed specifically at increasing the NTC building fund for the immediate purpose of updating 11 programs currently operating in 42-year-old buildings.



The district is seeking the funding needed to transform these decades-old buildings into state-of-the-art training facilities with modern equipment. Absentee ballots are now available, but the lengthy wording on the questions has already generated some questions among voters.

“We’ve had a few callers who have received their absentee ballots, and after looking over them, they had some questions about the wording,” said Tara Thompson, NTC’s Director of Communications. “We want our patrons to be well-informed when casting their votes in the election, so we welcome their questions.”

There will be two propositions on the Nov. 10, 2015, ballot. The first proposition seeks voter approval of a funding increase. NTC currently receives one mill and is asking for two more for a total of three mills. If approved, the increase would bring NTC closer to the 3.24 mill state average funding level for CareerTech Centers in Oklahoma.

Monies collected from the millage go into NTC’s Building Fund, which used to pay for expenses such as adding new buildings, updating existing facilities, expanding current and adding new programs and purchasing advanced technology for classrooms.

“A yes vote on this question means the voter is approving the two mill increase and understands their next tax bill will reflect a three mill total collection that goes into the NTC Building Fund,” Thompson said. “A no vote on this question means that the voter is rejecting the increase with the understanding that one mill will continue to be collected into NTC’s Building Fund.”

The second proposition is in regard to the duration of the funding source. It asks for the two mill increase to be collected each year from this point forward, as opposed to a simple one-time levy. This will enable NTC to consistently make facility improvements in years to come, and it will shorten the timeframe in which aging facilities can be improved.

“At current funding levels, it will take us about eight years to renovate the 11 programs that are operating in the original 1970’s buildings,” said Thompson. “If NTC’s Building Fund were increased

to three mills, that construction timeline would be significantly reduced.”

A yes vote on the second ballot question means the voter is approving this to be a permanent tax and understands that NTC will not have to seek voter approval every year. This question does offer voters the opportunity to bring the measure back for a vote should they want to cancel the permanency of the tax. A no vote on this question means the voter would only support the tax for a one-year time period and understands the district would need to bring the question back the following year for the funding to continue.

“More than 40 years ago, the citizens of northeast Oklahoma voted to support the creation of a CareerTech Center in this part of the state,” Thompson said. “NTC exists today because voters chose to invest in their community and provide an educational resource for people of all ages and backgrounds. We are hopeful today’s voters will recognize a similar opportunity to invest in NTC so that we can continue our mission of preparing individuals for successful careers.”

Anyone with additional questions regarding the two millage increase proposals is encouraged to contact NTC at (918) 825-7040 or their local election board.

About Northeast Technology Center

Northeast Technology Center’s campuses are located in Afton, Kansas, Pryor and Claremore. Through its full-time daytime classes, short-term evening classes, and its business and industry services and training, NTC serves well over 18,000 patrons per year. For more information on any of the classes or training programs available, visit NTC’s website at www.netech.edu or call (918) 825-7040.