



WHEREAS, education plays a vital role in the development of a strong and healthy workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Travis Independent School District (LTISD) are active and engaged partners in education, and historically, have worked collectively to support the programs and activities that have resulted in the development of a vibrant and progressive community, and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce is to promote sound economic growth, assist members in business development and create awareness about the unique characteristics of the South Lake Travis Community and how that mission is directly related to the LTISD having the resources necessary to produce a talented workforce; and

WHEREAS, the LTISD Board of Trustees have set the District's Maintenance and Operations (M&O) tax rate for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 at \$1.06, two cents above last year's rate; and

WHEREAS, under state law, adoption of the tax rate has automatically prompted the LTISD Board of Trustees to call an election on Tuesday, November 3 asking voters for permission to increase the District's M&O tax rate by two cents; and

WHEREAS, if approved by voters, the new M&O tax rate of \$1.06 per \$100 of assessed property valuation would cost the owner of an average-value LTISD home (\$408,853) an additional \$60 annually, or \$5 per month; and

WHEREAS, homeowners who have filed 'Over 65' or 'Disability' exemptions are not subject to any tax increases as per the Texas Tax Code; and

WHEREAS, if approved by voters, the additional two cents of tax revenue would result in additional funding of \$1.2 million this year and each succeeding year and will not be subject to recapture (Robin Hood) under the state's current school finance structure; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, LTISD anticipates sending to the state approximately \$29.7 million—or 50 cents of every tax dollar—in local property revenues through Robin Hood; and

WHEREAS, if the new tax rate is not approved by voters, the M&O tax rate will be 'rolled back' to \$1.04, and the District's funding would remain at current levels; and

WHEREAS, future budget projections for the District indicate that at the current tax rate of \$1.04, the District would deplete 81 percent of its fund balance—or savings account—by Fiscal Year 2012-2013, resulting in a fund balance below an optimal level which is required to maintain the District's current bond rating; and

WHEREAS, LTISD is one of only seven districts in Texas to have earned a 'AA+' underlying bond rating, the highest rating received by any district among more than 1,000 Texas public school districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors endorses the Lake Travis Independent School District's Tax Ratification Election and urges all registered voters within LTISD to cast their vote in favor of the proposed tax increase.

Signed this 14th day of October, 2009

After approval of the Board of Directors of the Lake Travis Chamber of Commerce

Chairman of the Board

October 14, 2009

Date