



VATRE

Voter Approval Tax Rate Election

Groveton Independent School District



Town Hall Meeting Format

- **Brief Presentation** – The superintendent will present information pertaining to the proposed VATRE.
- **Question and Answer** – Attendees are asked to raise their hand indicating that they would like to ask a question about the VATRE.
- **Audience Participation** – Attendees are asked to raise their hand to indicate that they would like to voice an opinion about the proposed VATRE.

Voter Approval Tax Rate Election



What is a VATRE?

- A VATRE is a special election that allows school districts to seek voter approval to increase their Maintenance and Operations tax rate above the state-mandated threshold.
- Under Texas law, if a school district wants to set its M&O tax rate above a certain amount, it must obtain approval from the voters in the form of a VATRE.



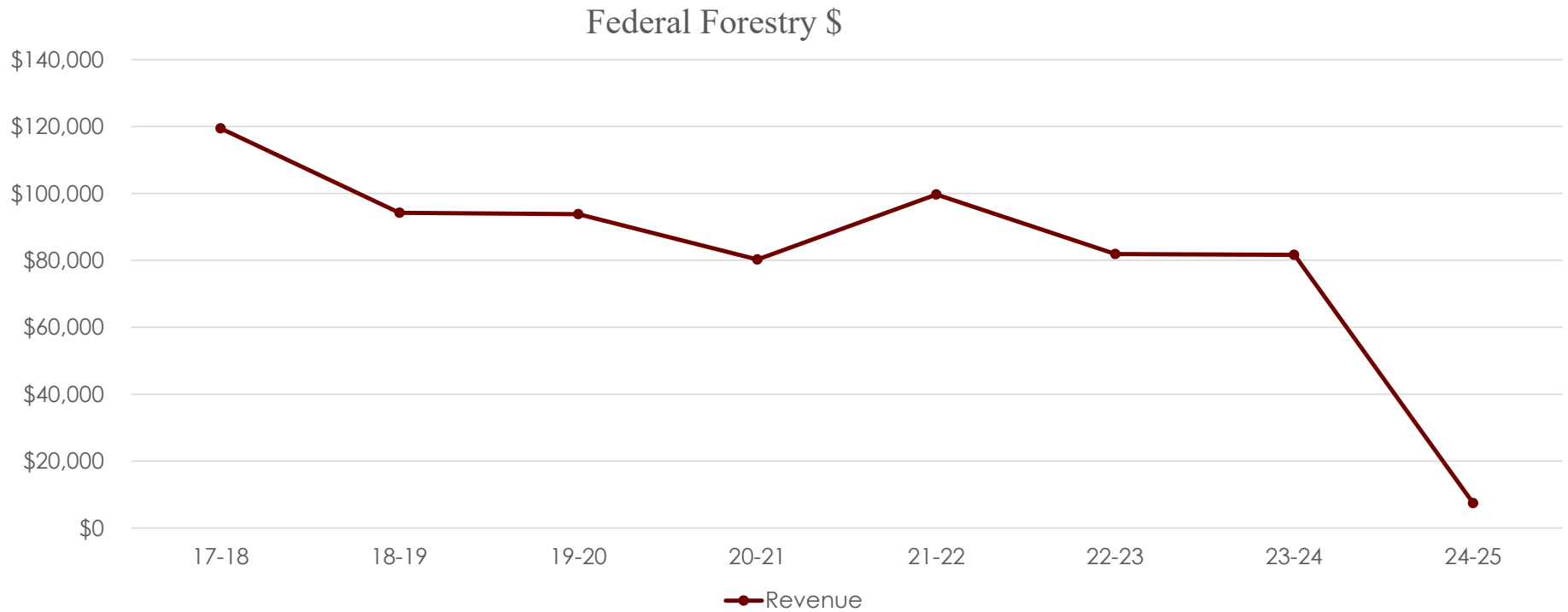
Why Now?



- Decline in State and Federal Revenue
- Decrease in Total Enrollment (ADA)
- Rising Costs / Economic Status
- Access Additional State Funding



Example of a Reduced Revenue Source



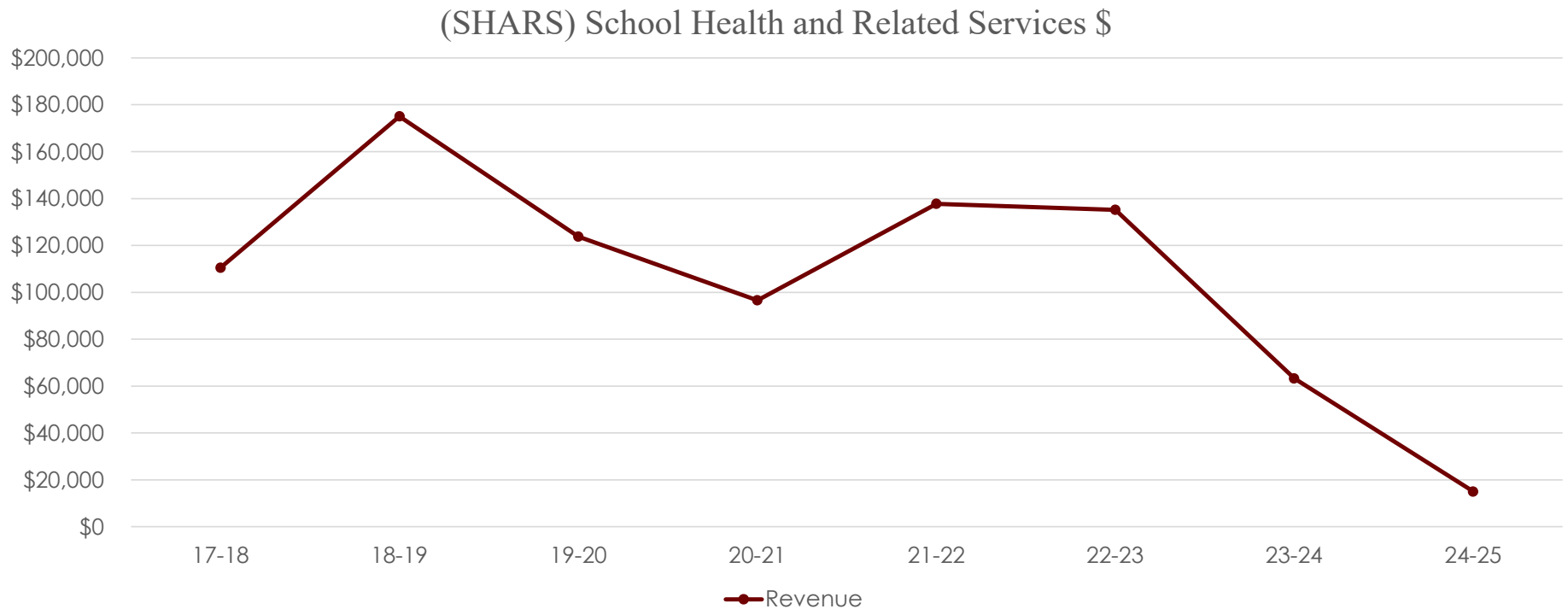


Federal Forestry Funds

“The Secure Rural Schools (SRS) and Community Self-Determination Act is in danger of expiring, leaving thousands of **rural schools with national forest land in their borders at risk of underfunding** at the same time a host of other factors like declining enrollment and declining state revenues chip away at school budgets.”



Example of a Reduced Revenue Source





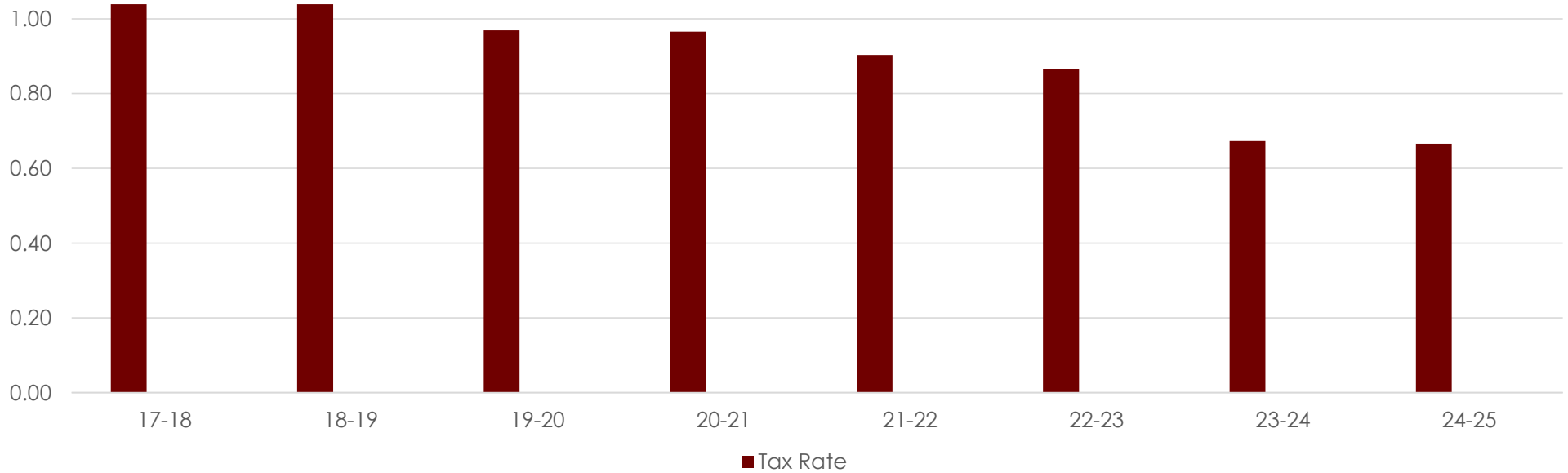
School Health & Related Services Funds

“SHARS funding is significantly declining for Texas schools, with the state having slashed over \$600 million in expected reimbursements due to strict new limitations on billable services imposed by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) following federal audits of billing practices. These cuts are expected to strain school budgets and services, potentially affecting students with disabilities who rely on these funds for therapies, nursing, and counseling.”

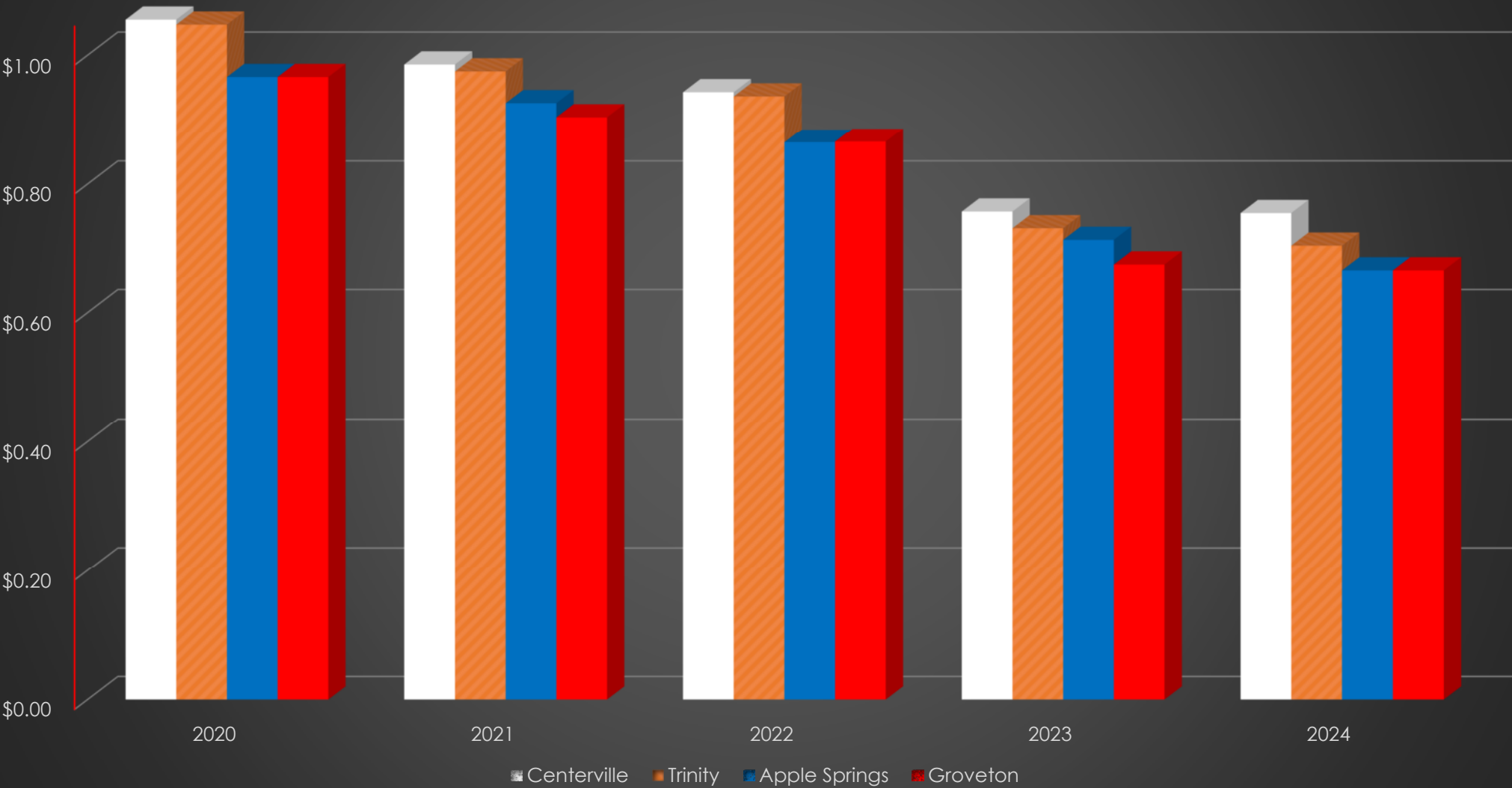


GISD Historical Tax Rate

GISD Adopted Tax Rate



Trinity County School Tax Rate Comparison Chart





	August	September	October	November	December	January	Feburary	March	April	May	Average	Refined ADA
Yearly Enrollment												
2021-2022	763	749	741	743	746	745	754	754	747	740	748	679
2022-2023	773	773	764	762	766	766	764	766	777	781	769	709
2023-2024	780	770	768	769	768	760	762	754	755	756	764	701
2024-2025	759	760	753	758	754	760	764	771	770	769	762	683
2025-2026	738	738									738	?



Economy ?



School Cost of Inflation 2019 to 2024



Fuel 35%



General Insurance Policies 128%



Health Insurance 31%



Food Service 25%



General Construction 26%



Access Additional State Funding

If the voters approve the November VATRE, Local Tax Payers will contribute an additional \$549,026 which will in turn increase additional State Funding totaling **\$415,009**. Combined collections will provide GISD with \$954,035 in annual revenue.





How is this going to affect me ?

- Property Values
- Age (65 or Older?)
- Exemptions
- New Homestead Exemption 100K to 140K



How is this going to affect me ?

Various real estate sources show the average property value in the Groveton ISD area to be \$200,000.

2025-2026 TAXES DUE			
TAXABLE HOME VALUE	WITHOUT VATRE	WITH VATRE	MONTHLY INCREASE
\$150,000	\$993	\$1,173	\$15
\$200,000	\$1,324	\$1,564	\$20
\$250,000	\$1,655	\$1,955	\$25
\$300,000	\$1,986	\$2,346	\$30
\$350,000	\$2,317	\$2,737	\$35
\$400,000	\$2,648	\$3,128	\$40
\$450,000	\$2,979	\$3,519	\$45
\$500,000	\$3,310	\$3,910	\$50

In Texas, a Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) does not increase school district property taxes for homeowners aged 65 and older who have an approved over-65 homestead exemption. Your school district property tax rate is frozen at the amount from the year you qualified for the exemption.



What if I am 65?





New Homestead Exemption ?

STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 13

Proposition 13 is a proposed constitutional amendment that **increases the homestead exemption for Texas homeowners**. The homestead exemption is the portion of your home's value that is not subject to school property taxes. By raising this exemption, **the state is reducing the taxable value of your home, which lowers your school tax bill.**



What is the bottom line?

If the VATRE is approved the tax rate will be set at \$0.7819.

IF the VATRE is not approved the tax rate will be set at \$0.6619.



Voting Times and Locations

ATTENTION: Groveton ISD has voters in Trinity County and Houston County. Before you vote make sure you are going to the appropriate location before you go!



Trinity County Residents

Early Voting Schedule For Trinity County

Early voting begins Monday, October 20, 2025, and ends Friday, October 31, 2025.

Early voting will take place at the Groveton ISD Administration Building at 207 North Main St, Groveton, TX 75845

Monday Oct. 20	-	Friday Oct. 24	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Monday Oct. 27	-	Wednesday Oct. 29	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thursday Oct. 30	-	Friday Oct. 31	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM



Houston County Residents

Early Voting Schedule For Houston County

Early voting begins Monday, October 20, 2025, and ends Friday, October 31, 2025.

Early voting will take place at the Houston County Senior Citizens Center at 716 West Wells, Crockett, TX 75835

Monday Oct. 20	-	Friday Oct. 24	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Monday Oct. 27	-	Wednesday Oct. 29	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thursday Oct. 30	-	Friday Oct. 31	7:00 AM - 7:00 PM



Trinity County Residents

Election Day for each county is November 4, 2025.

The Polling location will be at the Groveton ISD Administration Building at 207 North Main St, Groveton, TX 75845.

The polling location will be open from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

Precinct(s)

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12, & 16

Polling Location

Groveton ISD Administration Building
207 North Main St, Groveton, Texas 75845



Houston County Residents

All polling locations will be open from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

Precinct(s)

Polling Locations

3

Crockett ISD Administration Building-Cafetorium
1400 W. Austin, Crockett, Texas 75835

11

Houston County Senior Citizen Center
716 W. Wells, Crockett, Texas 75835

18

Lovelady Community Center 2
124 E. Cox, Lovelady, Texas 75851

19

First Baptist Church Kennard
300 Carson Street, Kennard, Texas 75847

VATRE Voter Approved Tax Rate Election (Elección de tasa impositiva aprobada por los votantes de VATRE)
Groveton Independent School District (Distrito Escolar Independiente de Groveton)
 November 4, 2025 (4 de noviembre de 2025)
 Official Ballot (Boleta Oficial)

INSTRUCTION NOTE:
 Vote for the statement of your choice by darkening in the oval (●) provided to the left of the statement indicating the way you wish to vote.
(NOTA DE INSTRUCCIÓN:
 (Vote por la declaración de su preferencia llenando completamente el espacio ovalado (●) a la izquierda de la declaración.)

Groveton Independent School District
 (Distrito Escolar Independiente de Groveton)

GROVETON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT - PROPOSITION A

THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE. Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate for maintenance and operations of \$0.7870 per \$100 taxable assessed valuation in Groveton Independent School District for the current year, a rate that will result in an increase of 15.4 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional \$564,035.

(DISTRITO ESCOLAR INDEPENDIENTE DE GROVETON - PROPUESTA A)

(ESTE ES UN AUMENTO DEL IMPUESTO A LA PROPIEDAD. Ratificar la tasa impositiva ad valorem para mantenimiento y operaciones de \$0.7870 por cada \$100 de valoración taxable imponible en el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Groveton para el año en curso, una tasa que resultará en un aumento del 15.4 por ciento en los ingresos por impuestos de mantenimiento y operaciones para el distrito para el año en curso en comparación con el año anterior, que es un adicional de \$564,035.)

☐ FOR (A FAVOR)
☐ AGAINST (EN CONTRA)

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Ballot ?

WHAT CAN I EXPECT TO SEE ON THE BALLOT?



Houston County

STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 10	STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 13	STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 17
"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for a temporary exemption from ad valorem taxation of the appraised value of an improvement to a residence homestead that is completely destroyed by a fire." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 10 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional para autorizar a la legislatura a prever una exención temporal de impuestos ad valorem del valor tasado de una mejora a una residencia familiar que haya sido completamente destruido por un incendio." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)	"The constitutional amendment to increase the amount of the exemption of residence homesteads from ad valorem taxation by a school district from \$100,000 to \$140,000." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 13 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional para aumentar el monto de la exención de impuestos ad valorem de las residencias familiares por un distrito escolar de \$100,000 a \$140,000." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)	"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the amount of the market value of real property located in a county that borders the United Mexican States that arises from the installation or construction on the property of border security infrastructure and related improvements." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 17 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional para autorizar a la legislatura a establecer una exención de impuestos ad valorem del monto del valor de mercado de los bienes inmuebles ubicados en un condado fronterizo con los Estados Unidos Mexicanos que surja de la instalación o construcción en la propiedad de infraestructura de seguridad fronteriza y mejoras relacionadas." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)
STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 11 "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to increase the amount of the exemption from ad valorem taxation by a school district of the market value of the residence homestead of a person who is elderly or disabled." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 11 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional que autoriza a la legislatura a aumentar el monto de la exención de impuestos ad valorem por un distrito escolar del valor de mercado de la residencia familiar de una persona de edad avanzada o discapacitada." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)	STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 14 "The constitutional amendment providing for the establishment of the Dementia Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, establishing the Dementia Prevention and Research Fund to provide money for research on and prevention and treatment of dementia, Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, and related disorders in this state, and transferring to that fund \$3 billion from state general revenue." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 14 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional que prevé la creación del Instituto de Prevención e Investigación de la Demencia de Texas, estableciendo el Fondo de Prevención e Investigación de la Demencia para destinar dinero para la investigación, prevención y tratamiento de la demencia, la enfermedad de Alzheimer, la enfermedad de Parkinson y trastornos relacionados en este estado, y transfiriendo a dicho fondo \$3 mil millones de los ingresos generales del estado." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)	Groveton Independent School District (Distrito Escolar Independiente de Groveton) Proposition A "THIS IS A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE" "Ratifying the ad valorem tax rate for maintenance and operations of \$0.7819 per \$100 taxable assessed valuation in Groveton Independent School District for the current year; a rate that will result in an increase of 15.4 percent in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the district for the current year as compared to the preceding year, which is an additional .0554%." (Propuesta A) "ESTE ES UN AUMENTO DEL IMPUESTO A LA PROPIEDAD" "(Ratificar la tasa impositiva ad valorem para mantenimiento y operaciones de \$0.7819 por cada \$100 de valoración tasada imponible en Distrito Escolar Independiente de Groveton para el año en curso, una tasa que resultará en un aumento del 15.4 por ciento en los ingresos por impuestos de mantenimiento y operaciones para el distrito para el año en curso en comparación con el año anterior, que es un adicional de .0554%.)" ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)
STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 12 "The constitutional amendment regarding the membership of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, the membership of the tribunal to review the commission's recommendations, and the authority of the commission, the tribunal, and the Texas Supreme Court to more effectively sanction judges and justices for judicial misconduct." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 12 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional relativa a la composición de la Comisión Estatal de Conducta Judicial, la composición del tribunal para revisar las recomendaciones de la comisión, y la autoridad de la comisión, el tribunal y la Corte Suprema de Texas para sancionar más eficazmente a los jueces y magistrados por mala conducta judicial." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)	STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 15 "The constitutional amendment affirming that parents are the primary decision makers for their children." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 15 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional que afirma que los padres son los principales responsables de la toma de decisiones para sus hijos." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)	Vote Both Sides (Vote ambos lados)
STATE OF TEXAS PROPOSITION 16 "The constitutional amendment clarifying that a voter must be a United States citizen." (PROPUESTA NÚMERO 16 DEL ESTADO DE TEXAS) "La enmienda constitucional que aclara que un votante debe ser ciudadano de los Estados Unidos." ☐ For (A Favor) ☐ Against (En Contra)		

Houston County

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Additional Information

- Please visit our website and access the VATRE button on the homepage or visit www.grovetonisd.net/vatre (Polling Locations, Dates, & Times)
- Brief explanation of the VATRE and why GISD called for the election
- VATRE Brochure
- Official Order of Election (Polling Locations, Dates, & Times)
- Trinity County Sample Ballot
- Houston County Sample Ballot
- Two informative VATRE videos



Additional Information

Elections Administrators

- Trinity County – Priscilla Rasbeary
(936)-642-3959
priscilla.rasbeary@co.trinity.tx.us
- Houston County – Cindy Lum
(936)-544-3255 ext 243
clum@co.houston.tx.us



Additional Information

Jim Dillard

(936)-642-1473 ext 8001

jim_dillard@grovetonisd.net



Questions ?

- Please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to ask a question.
- Please state your name and question.
- If your question is for a specific individual, please indicate who the question is for.



Audience Participation

- Please raise your hand to indicate that you would like to make a public comment about the VATRE.
- Please keep your comments to 3 minutes or less to provide ample time for others in attendance to do the same.

EARLY VOTING

October 20-31, 2025

ELECTION DAY

November 4, 2025

THANK YOU!