

KANAWHA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



Tracy White | Ric Cavender | Jim Crawford, Sr. | Becky Jordon | Ryan White

Official Statement Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2 The Property Tax Modernization Amendment

Preamble: During the 2022 General Election, West Virginians will be asked to vote on Amendment 2, which would bring substantial changes to West Virginia's Constitution. It is not the place of the Kanawha County Board of Education (KCBOE) to tell registered voters how to vote on this issue. However, the KCBOE has a duty, pursuant to Article XII, Sections 1-3, and § 18-5-1, of the West Virginia State Code to supervise and control the operation of each county school district and maintain a thorough and efficient system of free schools. Therefore, KCBOE believes it crucial to inform the public of the impact that Amendment 2 could have on the public education system in Kanawha County:

WHEREAS, the passage of Amendment 2 would give the state legislature the ability to exempt the personal property tax for most businesses and an individual's personal property tax on vehicles; and,

WHEREAS, the Kanawha County Board of Education relies greatly on personal property taxes, which provide critical funding for our schools, as well as entities that support the safety of our schools, such as law enforcement, fire protection, emergency medical services, and;

WHEREAS, the Kanawha County Board of Education finds that more than five hundred million dollars in necessary funding for schools in all 55 counties, first responders, and county and city services will be placed at risk and could be stripped away, resulting in fewer teachers and school service personnel, police officers, firefighters, and emergency responders; and,

WHEREAS, the Kanawha County Board of Education finds that according to WV State Tax Department figures, two-thirds of property tax revenue funds K-12 education; and,

WHEREAS, the Kanawha County Board of Education finds that the passage of Amendment 2 could specifically result in the loss of up to \$19 million in funding for the KCBOE that would affect both the KCBOE's general budget along with current and future excess levy revenues, resulting in the removal of educational projects and services; and,

WHEREAS, even with our current funding, the KCBOE, along with every other county in the state of West Virginia is already suffering from a shortage of teachers and service personnel; has some of the lowest paid teachers in the country, second only to Mississippi; and does not have the funding to provide employees with comparable salaries of other surrounding states; and,

WHEREAS, the Kanawha County Board of Education finds there is no public legislative plan for what the legislature intends to do if Amendment 2 is passed, thus, there is no consensus, no agreement, and no stated objectives that voters can read to understand the intended impact of Amendment 2 on the educational system and other essential county and city services before they cast their vote.

NOW, THEREFORE be it resolved the Kanawha County Board of Education, finds that this is not a political issue, but an operation and safety issue that directly affects our ability to provide a safe thorough and efficient system of free schools, thus, the Kanawha County Board of Education cannot offer support for Amendment 2.

Dated this 15th day of Sept.,

Handwritten signature of Tracy White in blue ink, starting with a circled 'K'.

Tracy White, President

Handwritten signature of Ric Cavender in blue ink, starting with a circled 'K'.

Ric Cavender, President Pro Tem

Handwritten signature of Jim Crawford, Sr. in blue ink, starting with a circled 'K'.

Jim Crawford, Sr, Board Member

Handwritten signature of Becky Jordon in blue ink, starting with a circled 'K'.

Becky Jordon, Board Member

Handwritten signature of Ryan White in blue ink, starting with a circled 'K'.

Ryan White, Board Member