




East Baton Rouge Federation of Teachers & School Employees

FEDERATION NEWS

March 2023

From the Desk of the President Support Our Students

We are sending out the SOS  urgent appeal for help all throughout March. By now, you have been seeing flyers, yard signs, social media posts, and other ads about the upcoming election. Our messaging may seem a bit dramatic, but this is a VERY important election and we need all hands on deck to make this happen.

This election is so important because it is for the renewal of four separate propositions. Each proposition is a millage (property tax) that helps to support public schools in Baton Rouge.

- **Proposition 1** (6.50 mills renewal) provides \$28,248,877 annually for the purpose of giving additional support for the current operations of the public elementary and secondary schools in the District. Operational costs include things like utilities, maintenance, supplies (books, paper, etc.), technology (Chromebooks, Promethean boards, etc), furniture, and all of the things that are necessary for day-to-day school operations. Can your students learn without these things? Can you do your job effectively without them?
- **Proposition 2** (7.19 mills renewal) provides \$31,247,604 annually for the purpose of giving additional support to the public elementary and secondary schools in the District by providing funds for maintaining and improving salaries and benefits for public school employees. This money goes into EBR's general fund and provides at least 10% of all employees' total salary. Can your family survive if your salary decreases by such a significant amount?
- **Proposition 3** (2.18 mills renewal) provides \$12,081,828 annually for the purpose of maintaining the reduced pupil-teacher ratio through the employment of additional teachers. This funds approximately 185 teaching positions. Imagine if your school site lost at least two teachers. How many students will end up in each classroom? Will your students be able to focus in a larger class setting? Is

there enough room in your classroom for additional students? Do you have time during the school day to handle grades for additional students?

- **Proposition 4** (1.86 mills renewal) provides \$8,083,525 annually for the purpose of maintaining and improving employee salaries and benefits. The purpose of this proposition mirrors Prop 2. Since it funds a percentage of EBR employees' salaries and benefits, can you afford to lose your benefits?

The answer is "NO," we can't afford to lose this tax revenue. The loss of this revenue would be catastrophic for the students and educators of our district. The only way to ensure that this doesn't happen is if we make a huge statement with this election.

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Upcoming Dates

Saturday, March 11th- Saturday, March 18
Early Voting for Tax Renewal
(excluding Sunday, March 12th)

Saturday, March 25th
Tax Renewal Election Day



Friday, March 31st
GCU Kickoff Event 4:00-6:00

Tuesday, April 4th
Membership Meeting 4:30-5:30
(Main Library on Goodwood)



Friday, April 7th- Friday, April 14th
Spring Break

Monday, April 10th
Start of Legislative Session



Early Voting

For the Saturday, March 25th election, early voting is available from **Saturday, March 11th through Saturday, March 18th** (except closed on Sunday, March 12th). Please vote early and encourage others to do the same.

Early Voting Locations

Motor Vehicle Bldg
225 Main St
Baker, LA 70714

Fire Station Bldg
11010 Coursey Bldg
Baton Rouge, LA 70816

Louisiana State Archives Bldg
3851 Essen Lane
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

Baton Rouge City Hall
222 St. Louis Street, Room 607
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

...S.O.S. Continued

This requires all hands on deck. Please do YOUR part! Talk to the people in your circle. Your friends, family, neighbors, church members, etc. need to hear directly from you about the importance of this election. Personalize your message; let them know that YOUR salary is on the line. Tell them how budget cuts will affect YOUR school. Help them to see how their action (or inaction) in the voting booth has a direct impact on your livelihood and the lives of your students.

Between now and election day, I am challenging all EBRFT members to make a commitment to talk to at least five people about the importance of renewing these tax propositions. Using a sports analogy, these people are your "Starting 5 Lineup." They should be your strongest players who can set the tone of the game. Your Starting 5 should be registered voters that live within the EBR school district, are willing to go vote (preferably early), and help to spread the word to others.

In summary, here are a few things you can do to ensure that this election is favorable to the students and educators of EBR:

- **Vote Early.** The easiest thing that you can do is to participate in Early Voting. This is considered to be a "smaller election" since there isn't a major national or local seat up for election, so there isn't as much publicity about it. It is so easy to plan to vote on Election Day, then mistakenly forget. Don't take that chance, vote early during the week of March 11th through March 18th.
- **Talk to your "Starting 5 Lineup".** Take a moment to write down the names of your Starting 5 Lineup. We have packets of info cards available that you can use to help you have the conversations, and leave with them as reminders to vote. To get a packet, simply email Ms. Barbara (barbara.ebrft@gmail.com) and we will send a packet to you the next day.
- **Share your Support.** One excellent way to show your support is to put a yard sign in front of your home. We have a very limited number of signs available on a first-come, first-served basis. To get on the list for signs, contact Ms. Barbara at the email address above. But if you don't have a sign, take a minute to post on social media, urging your followers to go vote.

District Awards Gala



Congratulations to all the winners and nominees that were honored at the 2022-2023 EBR Annual Awards Gala. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to the students of Baton Rouge. We will have a special recognition ceremony at our End of the Year Event in May for our EBRFT members that won in each of the categories. More details will be in an upcoming newsletter.

GCU Kickoff Event

Friday, March 31st from 4:00- 6:00 pm



RSVP to
barbara.ebrft@gmail.com

Space Limited; First-Come, First-Served

**Working together, we can make this happen.
Do your part to Support Our Students!**