

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SLPS to Place PROP S No Tax Increase Bond Issue on August Ballot

ST. LOUIS, MO – The Board of Education of the City of St. Louis has placed, Proposition S (Prop S), a \$160 million, zero tax rate change bond issue, on the August 2, 2022 election ballot. If passed, bond issue funds will support facilities acquisition, construction, improvements, renovations, and upgrades across all Saint Louis Public (SLPS) schools and facilities.

Gregory F.X. Daly, St. Louis Collector of Revenue and St. Louis City Comptroller and Chief Fiscal Officer **Darlene Green** will co-chair the campaign.

Daly, a long-time public servant said, “I signed on to help in this process so SLPS can make much needed improvements in our city’s schools. This is a solid investment in our community.” He added, “In a District this size, the needs far exceed the \$160 million but, passage of Prop S would go a long way toward improving the overall educational experience for students and teachers.”

Green said, “I am pleased to join this effort as our students and teachers are entitled to learn and work in comfortable, safe, and healthy environments. SLPS leaders have maintained a balanced budget for 12 years and consistently earned favorable audits. This bond issue, which will fund essential improvements to our schools without raising taxes, further demonstrates the type of fiscal responsibility our community expects and deserves.”

According to **Superintendent Kelvin Adams**, in-depth facilities analyses conducted during the District’s recent restructuring (and closing of seven schools), suggest a sense of urgency in pursuing a bond issue. Adams explained, “Nearly half (44%) of District buildings are 100 or more years old with compounding maintenance needs. In addition to the daily wear and tear of hundreds of children on stairwells, restrooms and floors, the pandemic has pushed air quality and other environmental concerns to the forefront.”

“Our last bond issue, also named Prop S (August 2010), passed with 75 percent of voters approving \$155 million to renovate schools,” said Adams. “All those projects were completed within budget. Now, more than a decade later, more repairs are needed. It’s sort of like maintaining your home. Over time, the repairs keep coming.”

The funding will be used for facilities work including, but not limited to air quality, lead removal, security improvements, HVAC, roof repairs, and bathroom upgrades. Every one of the more than 60 schools and buildings in SLPS will be touched in some way by these upgrades, improvements and repairs.

For more information about Prop S, please visit, www.slps.org/PropS