

FACTS



MARICOPA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT M&O OVERRIDE CONTINUATION

Not a New Tax Increase

The continuation of the override is **not a new tax, nor is it a tax increase** - it is a continuation of the local funding that was originally voter-approved in 2016. Currently, Maricopa Unified School District's budget is set by a formula from the State of Arizona and the District can exceed that amount for seven years with permission from voters. Without the continuation, the District would reduce funding over three years and would ultimately cut an estimated \$5M from its annual operating budget.

What Will It Cost Homeowners?

The 10% budget override is a continuation of the existing override so it is **not a new tax increase**.
The cost per household for 2021 is approximately **\$.38 cents per day** on a home with an assessed value of **\$100K**.



\$ 100K
Assessed Value



38 Cents/Day

*Using fiscal 2021 assessed
valuation data

The estimated secondary M&O tax rate needed to fund the full override in fiscal year 2022/2023 is \$1.40 per \$100 of assessed valuation for secondary tax purposes.

How Does MUSD Use Override Funding?

The continuation of the override maintains local control of tax dollars by investing in our local schools. In MUSD, the override is used to invest in technology, keep class sizes small, and maintain the RAM Academy - a credit recovery and intervention program for at-risk students.



Invest in Technology



Maintain Board-Approved
Low Class Size Targets



Maintain RAM Academy
Alternative High School Graduation Program

Fiscally Responsible

MUSD operates within all approved budget limits each fiscal year. The District has funded school repair and renewal without raising taxes and has won over 20 awards for fiscal responsibility including the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

Did You Know?

According to the Arizona Auditor General, MUSD has one of the lowest administration costs among neighboring districts.

What Happens if the M&O Override Is Not Approved?

If the override is not approved, the current 10% M&O override would continue fully funded through the 2021/2022 school year. Starting in the 2022/2023 school year the override would reduce by 1/3 or approximately \$1.7 million per year until it is completely eliminated at the end of the 2023/2024 school year. Ultimately the loss of override funding would result in:

- A **reduced capacity to invest in student and instructional technology**
- A **reduction of teachers and staff** hired to maintain current class size targets
- The **elimination of RAM Academy**, the alternative high school graduation program

Neighboring Districts With M&O Overrides

Like most districts in the state, Maricopa Unified School District has a maintenance and operations override in place. The following neighboring districts currently have voter approved maintenance and operation overrides:

Kyrene Elementary - 15% **Chandler Unified** - 15% **Tempe Elementary** - 15% **Tempe Union** - 15%
Casa Grande Elementary - 10% **Casa Grande Union High School** - 10%

All-Mail Election:

Ballots should be mailed by October 26 to arrive by November 2, 2021



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS M&O OVERRIDE CONTINUATION

Is the continuation of the MUSD M&O Override a new tax?

The continuation of the override is **not a new tax, nor is it a tax increase** – it is a continuation of the local funding that was originally voter-approved in 2016. Currently, Maricopa Unified School District's budget is set by a formula from the State of Arizona and the District can exceed that amount for seven years with permission from voters. Without the continuation, the District would reduce funding over three years and would ultimately cut an estimated \$5M from its annual operating budget.

What does the MUSD M&O Override Continuation fund?

The continuation of the override maintains local control of tax dollars by investing in our local schools. In MUSD, the override is used to **invest in technology, keep class sizes small, and maintain the RAM Academy** – credit recovery and intervention for at-risk students.

How does MUSD promote fiscal responsibility?

MUSD operates within all approved budget limits each fiscal year. The District has funded school repair and renewal without raising taxes and has won over 20 awards for fiscal responsibility including the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting.

How does MUSD's budget and M&O Override compare to other school districts?

According to the Arizona Auditor General, MUSD has one of the lowest administration costs among neighboring districts. Like most districts in the state, Maricopa Unified School District has a maintenance and operations override in place. The following neighboring districts currently have voter-approved maintenance and operation overrides: **Kyrene Elementary – 15%, Chandler Unified – 15%, Tempe Elementary – 15%, Tempe Union – 15%, Casa Grande Elementary – 10%, Casa Grande Union – 10%.**

How does the continuation of the MUSD M&O Override impact class size?

The MUSD M&O Override is critical to keeping class sizes small. Small class sizes impact student success and attract and retain quality teachers. Since 2016, class sizes have been reduced significantly, particularly in the elementary grades, helping teachers provide more individualized instruction.

What are the consequences if the MUSD M&O Override is not approved?

If the override is not approved, the current 10% M&O override would continue fully funded through the 2021/2022 school year. Starting in the 2022/2023 school year the override would reduce by 1/3 or approximately \$1.7 million per year until it is completely eliminated at the end of the 2023/2024 school year. Ultimately the loss of override funding would result in:

- A **reduced capacity to invest in student and instructional technology**
- A **reduction of teachers and staff** hired to maintain current class size targets
- The **elimination of RAM Academy**, the alternative high school graduation program

If this is an all mail election, how do voters cast their ballot?

For this all mail election, ballots will be mailed to voters on October 6, 2021. **Pinal County Elections Department recommends voters place their ballots in the mail by October 26, 2021 so that ballots are received by Election Day which is November 2, 2021.** For specific voting information visit the Pinal County Elections Department website at <https://www.pinalcountyaz.gov/elections>.