The Initiative on the Aug. 28 ballot is for a four-year "half-mill" property tax increase to fund essential operating expenses, an immediate solution to fund Martin County schools’ most critical needs.

**How Much Will I Pay?**
Less than you might think!
For the owner of a median priced single-family home in Martin County, with a taxable value of $250,000, a half-millage increase equals about $10 per month.

**Where Does the Money Go?**
It stays right here! Because Martin County voters will control where the funds from this half-millage increase go, 100% of it will go the Martin County School District to be used at schools in Martin County, only.

**How Will the Funds Be Used?**
It will meet our schools’ most critical needs! The funds will be used to make our schools safer and enhance mental health programs across our district. It will also be used to provide much needed supplemental pay and professional development for teachers and staff, including incentives to recruit and retain quality teachers. Voters will continue to have input on how the funds will be spent.

**How Much Money Will it Raise?**
Approximately $11.2 million annually for 4 years

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ELECTION DAY IS AUGUST 28!
The Operating Budget Isn’t Enough to Cover Underfunded State Mandates

Like all school districts in Florida, during the recession and in the years following, the Martin County School District endured the effects of major state budget cuts. Those funds were never replaced yet educational needs continue to grow. For example, the underfunded state mandate for security enhancements that resulted from the Parkland tragedy earlier this year.

Voter Approval is the Only Way to Increase Operating Funds

Currently the state of Florida takes 41.5% of our collected property taxes, leaving Martin County with 58.5%. The only way to increase our operating funds is through special initiatives like this half-mill property tax initiative, where 100% of the funds generated will stay in Martin County. If approved by the voters, the funds will be used to enhance school safety and mental health programs, as well as attract and retain high quality teachers. These critical needs fall under the district’s operating budget, which isn’t sufficient to adequately cover these needs. A half-mill increase will help fill the gap.

A Local Tax is the Best Way to Ensure the Funds Stay Local

The benefit of a Martin County millage increase is that it ensures the funds stay here in Martin County. This half-mill increase will go to Martin County schools only, benefitting the students, teachers and staff of our local school system.

A Small Property Tax Increase Equals Big Results

A half-mill property tax increase has a small impact on the typical homeowner in Martin County (about $10 a month for homes with a taxable value of $250,000). Additionally, the half-mill increase will expire in four years. The vote will make an immediate impact without a long-term commitment by tax payers.