

**CITY OF BILOXI  
AGENDA ITEM  
FACT SHEET**

Item No.: 5 Z

Council Meeting Date: **October 16, 2018**

ITEM TITLE: **STUDY AGENDA**

INTRODUCED BY: **Mayor Andrew "FoFo" Gilich**

CONTACT PERSON: **E. Michael Leonard, CAO**

**Peter Abide, City Attorney** 

**SUMMARY EXPLANATION:**

Resolution in Opposition to Harrison County School Board Referendum

Resolution  Ordinance  Public Hearing  Routine Agenda

Exhibits for Review

Contract  Minutes  Plans/Maps  Deed  Lease

Other (Specify):

Submittal Authorization: Council President  Mayor

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: **Staff recommends approval**

COUNCIL ACTION: Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_ Second By: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote:	<u>Councilmember</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Councilmember</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>
	Lawrence	___	___	___	Tisdale	___	___	___
	Gines	___	___	___	Glavan	___	___	___
	Newman	___	___	___	Barrett	___	___	___
	Deming	___	___	___				

ACTION TAKEN:

pa/km101618aleg

Resolution No.

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HARRISON COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD  
REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, on September 25, 2018, 42 days before the November 6, 2018 election, the Harrison County School Board placed a referendum before voters of the Harrison County School District, proposing a \$55 million bond issue, without prior consultation with the City of Biloxi; and

WHEREAS, the Harrison County School Board has indicated one reason for this bond issue is overcrowding due to increased population; and

WHEREAS, thousands of residents of the City of Biloxi are within the boundaries of the Harrison County School District and would be affected by this Harrison County bond issue in the amount of \$55 million, which, according to the Harrison County School Board, is part of a 15- to 20-year plan that has not been disclosed at this time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Biloxi has an interest in minimizing the taxes of its residents, as lower property taxes serve to incent economic development, and improve property values, and the City also has an interest in allowing all citizens to take advantage of available educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, it is public knowledge that property tax millage rates in the Biloxi Public School District are 12.51 mills less than the Harrison County School District, which amounts to a difference of \$125.00 in annual property taxes for every \$100,000 in home value; and

WHEREAS, the Biloxi Public School District is an A-rated district, with North Bay Elementary being the latest Biloxi School to achieve Blue Ribbon status; and

WHEREAS, the Biloxi Public School District has capacity to accept some or all of the Harrison County School District territory, which would allow Biloxi citizens to attend Biloxi Public Schools, and would further alleviate overcrowding concerns expressed by the Harrison County School District; and

WHEREAS, the Harrison County School District has not sought any input on their bond referendum from the City of Biloxi or Biloxi Public School Board; and

WHEREAS, the City of Biloxi recommends consideration of other feasible, reasonable alternatives for Biloxi residents within the territory of the Harrison County School District, rather than seeking a referendum on a \$55 million bond issue only 42 days before the election.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI, that:

SECTION ONE: The findings, conclusions, and statements of fact contained in the foregoing preamble are hereby adopted, ratified, and incorporated herein.

SECTION TWO: The city requests the Harrison County School Board to delay or defer its November 6, 2018, bond referendum, until such time as the Biloxi Public School Board and the Harrison County School Board have had an opportunity to discuss other reasonable, feasible alternatives that could result in a significant **tax decrease** for residents of the Woolmarket and Eagle Point areas of Biloxi who are currently in the Harrison County School District.

SECTION THREE: In the event the Harrison County School Board does not defer or delay the bond referendum, the City of Biloxi opposes such bond referendum at this time.

SECTION FOUR: The City further calls upon the Biloxi Public School Board and the Harrison County School Board to confer and meet with City officials to discuss potential alternatives for accommodating growth in numbers of students that reside in Biloxi but are still in the Harrison County School District, in order to reduce the current county tax burden and alleviate any future tax increases for Biloxi residents within the territory of the Harrison County School District, while continuing to serve the best interests of the students in both the Biloxi Public School District and Harrison County School District.

SECTION FIVE: The Clerk of the Council is directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Harrison County School Board, the Biloxi Public School Board, and members of the media.