

## WHY SHOULD STUDENTS CARE?

Proposition RT would not only affect homeowners, but it will affect school districts as well. This timeline shows how it will affect students through steps over time.

### Proposition RT

The tax reform is focused on easing the weight of increasing prices among homeowners. This decreases the taxes that are owed.



### Homeowners

This would likely be an exciting thing for most homeowners because their taxes are going down, meaning they won't be paying as much to support schools and businesses in the community.



### Schools

Since the taxes will lower, that means the money getting received will decrease. This means the schools will have less income from taxes, therefore there will be need to cut funds and job spots.



### Community

If the pattern continues, the schools will not have the resources to be considered above others in terms of academics, potentially leading to people not wanting to live within the district boundaries.



Houses in the district will be effected by the property tax if the bill is passed in April. (Photo by Haley Beffa)

# MISSOURI LAWMAKERS PROPOSE PROPERTY TAX REFORM IN APRIL

Lawmakers are hoping to decrease property tax rates to relieve citizens of high costs, creating waves of impact

by Carly Dyson

[cdyson683@g.fhdschools.org](mailto:cdyson683@g.fhdschools.org)

Following the rapid rise in property values in recent years, Missouri lawmakers have proposed Senate Bill 3, also known as Proposition RT, a bill designed to lower the cost of property and vehicle taxes in specific counties. Aiming

to relieve citizens of increasing tax burdens, the bill proposes different property taxes for different types of property, as well as changing the current method of calculating property taxes.

"The district estimates a loss of **\$4 million** in the first year if Proposition RT passes..."

"I don't think it would impose too much of a strain on government facilities that rely on [property taxes]," St. Charles homeowner Parker Comparato said. "I think the pros of the common person being helped by that would massively outweigh the few people in the institutions that don't want to lose a large sum of their paycheck."

Some homeowners are looking forward to the proposed tax rates. However, others are divided about what this could mean for public services, and even criticize the current

taxation system set in place.

"I just think [the taxes are] too much," said Comparato. "I think it should be up to the government to sort out those finances. Not federal, probably state and local governments, because they're going to have

the tightest grasp on the current situation in any given area. I certainly think taxes are super

- Steven Blair,  
School Board President

beneficial, but the amount that, at least, I have seen, I think is way too much to be logical for the services that they provide."

Property taxes fund a variety of public services, such as public safety, infrastructure, local government services, and public K-12 education. This means, if property taxes decrease, funding for these services will decrease as well.

"The district estimates a loss of \$4 million in the first year if Proposition RT passes, and an estimate of \$54 million total during the first five years," FHSD School Board

president Steven Blair said. "The district has been very stingy in getting taxpayer dollars to cover all of the necessities that make Francis Howell the number one school district in St. Charles County, but there's no ability to pinch pennies or find any other way of moving funds...that can overcome the damage of Proposition RT."

According to Blair, with a potential loss of money as large as \$54 million in five years, FHSD would be forced to cut jobs and decrease salaries, reducing instruction quality and opportunities for students across the district.

"When we think about individual students, we have to consider students of all ages," Blair said. "Throughout the district, there are current jobs that are needed that remain open intentionally, because we don't want to hire somebody for a position that ends up being removed next year. Some of these positions include a reading specialist who can go to an elementary school... and have some dedicated one-on-one time with kids who have fallen behind in reading. This would also include services beyond elementary school, but middle school and high school services also."