

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Town of Pike Road
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Pike Road, AL 36064

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March 23, 2011

PIKE ROAD TOWN COUNCIL PROPOSES SCHOOL REFERENDUM

Following a public hearing Tuesday night, the Town of Pike Road town council voted Wednesday morning, March 23 to submit to the Alabama Legislature a request to hold a local referendum. The referendum would allow registered voters residing within the town's limits to vote on a proposed ad valorem tax increase to fund a municipal school system.

According to state law, a municipality must hold a public hearing before the council can petition the Legislature to authorize a referendum of this nature. A referendum is required by law if the municipality wishes to raise ad valorem taxes more than 7.5 mills. Based on extensive research and citizen input gathered over the past 6 years and most recently at the public hearing, the Town of Pike Road town council adopted a resolution asking the legislature to authorize a referendum for "up to 25 mills" of additional ad valorem tax dedicated to education.

A straw poll of the citizens of the town was taken during the public hearing and the results showed over 71 percent favored increasing the millage.

The Town of Pike Road conducted extensive research into the funding streams of public school systems and millage rates of counties and municipalities throughout the State of Alabama. Additionally, an in-depth study of the revenue potential within the town was provided.

"During the public hearing, the town council presented four options for revenue creation," said Mayor Gordon Stone. "Our citizens told us overwhelmingly that they would vote in support of additional funding. On their behalf, we now ask our local legislative delegation to give the people of the Town of Pike Road the chance to decide how they will fund the future school system."

If legislative authority is granted, the referendum will likely take place this summer.

For further information on the proposed referendum, please contact Gordon Stone or Charlene Rabren at Pike Road Town Hall, (334) 272-9883.

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