

MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

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*William O. George III, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools*

January 4, 2019

Dear Middletown community,

The Board intends to consider approval of a resolution for the annual school board elections to remain on the first Tuesday in November at a special voting meeting to be held this Sunday, January 6 at 9:00 a.m. at Middletown High School North's media center. At its meeting on Wednesday evening, the Board discussed taking action on the resolution at its scheduled workshop meeting on January 15. However, the Board was subsequently notified late Thursday afternoon that the Township intends to consider adoption of a resolution to move the annual school elections back to April at its reorganization meeting on Sunday, January 6 at 10:00 a.m.

After enabling legislation was passed in 2012, the Board voted to move the annual school election from April to the November general election as a cost saving measure as well as to increase voter participation in the interest of transparency. The general election provides the opportunity for the largest number of voters to voice their opinions. In 2018, only 13 school districts in New Jersey held elections in April and the voter turnout in the majority of those districts was below 10%. In comparison, the 2018 November general election statewide voter turnout percentage was 53.7%. The cost to hold the election in April would be in excess of \$40,000.

When school board elections are held in November, the school budget is not subject to a public vote. The increase in the school tax levy is capped at 2%, with certain allowable waivers. Moving the school board elections to April requires the annual school budget to be placed on the ballot for voter approval. Further, the 2% cap on the tax levy increase can be exceeded. If the voters do not approve the proposed school budget, the responsibility of reviewing and possibly revising the school budget lies with the Township Committee. The average tax levy increase for the school budgets that were voted on for the seven years prior to the change of elections from April to November in 2012 is 3.45%; the average tax levy increase for the seven budget years after the election change to November is 1.86%.

Through this correspondence it is my intention to make the community aware of this important addition to our Board of Education meeting schedule and the necessity of the meeting. The resolution can be accessed through this [link](#).

Sincerely,



William O. George III, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

