

Trimble Local School District

Proposed 1% Earned Income Tax Levy – November 4, 2025

Overview

Trimble Local School District is in Fiscal Emergency and is proposing a 1% Earned Income Tax (EIT) to appear on the November 4, 2025 general election ballot. This levy is part of the District's financial recovery plan to restore fiscal stability and repay state solvency assistance.

Levy Details

- **Type:** School District Earned Income Tax
- **Rate:** 1.00% on earned income (wages, salaries, net self-employment)
- **Exclusions:** Does not apply to retirement income, pensions, Social Security, interest, dividends, or other investment income
- **Term:** 5 years
- **Start Date (if approved):** January 1, 2026
- **Estimated Annual Revenue:** \$655,000 – \$665,000 (Athens County Auditor's estimate)

Why Earned Income Tax Instead of Property Tax?

- **Low Property Valuation:** Trimble's total taxable valuation is about \$62–63 million.
- **1 mill generates approximately \$62,000 annually.** To raise ≈ \$660 thousand per year through property taxes would require a double-digit millage increase.
- **Impact on Retirees:** An earned income tax applies only to current wages and self-employment income, not fixed retirement income.
- **Stability:** EIT revenue grows with local wages, helping keep pace with inflation.

Ballot Status

- Board Action: Resolution of necessity passed on July 21, 2025.
- Board Action: Resolution to proceed passed on July 24, 2025.
- Financial Planning & Supervision Commission approved both Board Actions on July 30, 2025.
- All necessary resolutions filed with Athens County Board of Elections on July 31, 2025.
- Election Date: November 4, 2025 general election.

What's at Stake

Without new revenue, the District faces continued financial shortfalls and will be unable to sustain essential educational programs and staffing. The EIT is projected to provide a steady source of local funding while protecting residents on fixed incomes.