



OK, I've got a question . . .

You have said that this new bond issue will not raise our taxes. No one gets something for nothing. How is that possible?

Past generosity leads to future dividends.

In the past, the Oakdale School District has passed every bond issue that the school board has requested. The feeling is that the patrons of the district have received their monies worth and the result of that is Oakdale having one of the best educational facilities in the state. Being generous definitely has had its benefits.

There is also a financial benefit to the process of district generosity. As the school has improved the neighborhoods have grown. As the neighborhoods have grown so has the base line of funds available grown. As the baseline of funds available have grown so has the amount of funds available for bond issues grown. And so, together the patrons and the district have created an upward spiral of prosperity. This positive growth is then magnified because with each passing year previous bond issues are paid in full and no longer count as debt against the district's bonding capacity (10% of the district's evaluation, a little over \$71 million this year). A positive cycle of financial growth, though not unique to Oakdale School, is certainly not present in every district. The financial planning to maximize the trend is a great effort by the Board of Education and an expert financial planning firm. The ability to make it all happen, that is a community effort.

Very simply, the district has more funding available, spread out over a larger base of collection, during a time when the overall long-term financial obligations of the district are being reduced. The result is being able to get more without paying at a higher rate than is presently being paid.

One last point that may cause some thought. You live in the Oakdale school district. Pick your house up and move it to the Edmond school district. Now, it does make a difference where you move the house – you may end up in OKC city limits or you may end up in Edmond city limits. Regardless of where you move your house, you will pay between 13.1% and 15.4% more in taxes than you do now.

That past generosity really does seem to lead to future dividends.