

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** October 24, 2025  
**Contact:** Vote YES for Rockwall ISD  
**Email:** [voteyesforrockwallisd@gmail.com](mailto:voteyesforrockwallisd@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Clarifying the Facts: Rockwall ISD’s VATRE Will Not Trigger Recapture

## ROCKWALL, TX —

Recent claims circulating on social media and in published articles have suggested that if Rockwall ISD’s Voter-Approval Tax Rate Election (VATRE) passes, the district will “send over \$4 million to Austin for the first time ever.” This claim is inaccurate and not supported by official Texas Education Agency (TEA) data or Rockwall ISD’s verified financial documentation.

With early voting already underway, Rockwall County voters deserve clear, factual information about how this election impacts our schools and community. Decisions about local education funding should be made based on verified financial data—not incomplete or outdated estimates. Transparency and accuracy ensure that every voter—whether they support or oppose the VATRE—has confidence in the process and the facts guiding it.

According to the district’s **October 17, 2025 financial analysis**, based on the most recent TEA *Summary of Finances* report, Rockwall ISD does **not** pay any recapture—now or under the VATRE scenario.

“Based on the most recent data available on the Texas Education Agency website, we would not pay any local property revenue to the state in the form of recapture. All of the current local revenue that we collect, and all of the potential new revenue that we would collect if the VATRE is approved by voters, would stay inside the district.”

— **David Carter, Chief Financial Officer, Rockwall ISD**

## What the Data Actually Shows (Derived from TEA Estimates)

| Funding Tier        | Local Revenue  | State Revenue  | Total           |
|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Tier 1 (Current)    | \$97.8 million | \$64.6 million | \$162.5 million |
| Tier 2 (Current)    | \$7.8 million  | \$7.7 million  | \$15.5 million  |
| Tier 2 (with VATRE) | \$19.0 million | \$1.27 million | \$20.3 million  |

In every case, the state is still contributing funds to meet Rockwall ISD’s entitlement. If the district were in recapture, the state’s share would drop to zero or become negative—indicating that local property taxes exceeded the guaranteed yield. **That is not occurring in Rockwall ISD.**

The TEA report explicitly cautions that early *Summary of Finances (SOF)* drafts “may not be appropriate for budgeting purposes,” as property values and enrollment estimates are frequently revised. The 2023–2024 SOF was updated **47 times before finalization**.

The confusion appears to stem from a misreading of a temporary “excess local revenue” line within TEA’s preliminary template. That placeholder does **not** represent an actual recapture payment. Instead, it reflects early modeling estimates that fluctuate as TEA refines statewide values.

## Clarifying Recent Reporting

Vote YES for Rockwall ISD contacted *The Texan* to request further updates to its recent article. While the outlet has added some contextual information, its headline remains:

*“Rockwall ISD Likely to Become Recapture District for First Time.”*

We have requested that the headline be revised to reflect verified TEA data and that CFO David Carter’s public statement be included for full factual context.

To summarize, **Rockwall ISD remains below the recapture threshold under current and projected data.**

The state continues to contribute funding alongside local revenue. Every dollar generated by the VATRE will stay in Rockwall ISD to support teachers, staff, special education programs, and campus safety.

 *Watch: At the October 20, 2025, Rockwall ISD Board Meeting (full version, beginning at the 24:24 mark), CFO David Carter confirms that Rockwall ISD is not entering recapture under the VATRE.*

[<https://youtu.be/WVRpsj9fopA>]

## About Vote YES for Rockwall ISD:

Vote YES for Rockwall ISD is a community-led political action committee of parents, educators, and local taxpayers advocating for the passage of Proposition A (VATRE) to sustain competitive teacher pay, maintain student programs, and ensure safe, high-quality learning environments across Rockwall ISD.

## Media Contact:

### Vote YES for Rockwall ISD

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