January Mail-Ballot Election
Maintaining Current Local School Funding

What is the Local Option Budget (LOB)?
Vital support for teachers and classroom instruction provided by local funding that supplements the district’s General Fund at a percentage (31%) set by the State.

Why Conduct an LOB Election?
The State allowed school boards to increase the LOB by 2% this year. The Lawrence Board of Education approved the increase to offset a $2 million loss in state aid. It generated approx. $1.4 million for our schools, without raising the local mill levy. The State requires voter approval to maintain the 33% LOB.

What is the Tax Impact of the 2% Increase?
Approval of a 2% increase in the LOB does NOT increase taxes. It maintains the board’s current level of LOB authority at 33% for our schools.

What Happens if the Election Doesn’t Pass?
The school board must identify approx. $1.4 million in program cuts and/or reallocations.

How do I Vote?
Ballots will be mailed to registered voters in USD 497 on Jan. 7. Mark and sign your ballot in blue/black ink and mail it back to the Douglas County Clerk’s Office. Mailed ballots must be received, not postmarked, by Jan. 27. Hand-delivered ballots must be received by noon on Jan. 27.

Learn More at:
www.usd497.org