

Why VOTE “NO” on November 7th

if the **School Board** gets its way with their upcoming Bond Issues,

PROPERTY TAXES IN CEDAR RAPIDS WILL GO UP \$565 A YEAR (for a \$200,000 house)

Closing neighborhood schools will have a negative impact on our community.

The Cedar Rapids Community School District (CRCSD) wants to close your neighborhood schools and raise your property taxes to pay for it! There is **no clear plan to “repurpose”** the schools that will be closing.

Your Property Taxes will go up a lot. Remember they want two separate bond votes (first one costing 220 million dollars and the 2nd one costing 225 million for a total of around 445 million dollars).

The first bond is for this November 2023 and another bond vote in November of 2029.

- For every 1,000.00 your home is worth, your property taxes will increase 2.70 per 1,000.00 dollars if the first bond passes.
- In 2029, they will ask for a 2nd bond if the first one passes. You can expect with the cost of inflation and building materials, the cost will go up more than 2.70 per 1,000.00 of home value.
- **CRCSD** will also need to pass a PPELL fund next year (2024) because the current 10-year PPELL is about to run out to complete many of their elementary school projects.

(see more here on the current CRCSD plan: https://www.thegazette.com/k/cedar-rapids-schools-propose-combined-445-million-bond-referendums-over-six-years/?fbclid=IwAR1oscYGN0ZxWnBFivbm7jzPQx_rztuXkOsUiRv0SfRGn3LB6L4sSSeRWdQ)

- **Your property values are likely to go down** in the areas of school closures. As Cedar Rapids Mayor, Tiffany O’Donnell, correctly pointed out in the meeting with Cedar Rapids City Council and Cedar Rapids School board, property values are likely to go down in areas where schools close. So, even if you don’t have children in the school system, this bond plan will have a negative effect on your property value.
- Children in the West Side Schools will have their **neighborhood schools closed** and they will be forced to leave their neighborhood to go to another neighborhood across town to get an education. This will lead to **transportation problems** in the neighborhoods where the schools would be closed. We want kids being able to walk to school as an option. You can’t do that when kids have to go across town to get an education.
- CRCSD is proposing to build 1,200 student size buildings at the middle school level. They largely want to take Wilson and Roosevelt kids and merge them into the Taft neighborhood. 1,200 building schools will only lead to many more **behavioral problems**. Studies prove that learning suffers in larger schools.

- With new state plans for Educational Savings Accounts and open enrollment, many **parents are choosing to opt out of the CR schools** in favor of neighboring public and private schools. There is no guarantee that the total students served by CRCSD will not actually decline. Building larger new facilities is short sighted.
 - **Franklin Middle School** will also more than **double in enrollment** leading to more congestion in that neighborhood.
 - **Harrison Elementary School**, a school with rich, historic architecture and gothic design, is slated to be **turned down** with another building replacing it on the same site. This is being done despite Harrison's building being deemed structural sound by committee work, only to be overturned by the **Cedar Rapids School Board**.
 - CRCSD wants to rip all of the swimming pools out of the area **high schools** and build a single swimming pool community center. It leads to many more questions about how to organize practice time between the high school and middle school teams all at the same site. The plan also includes **3 new artificial turf fields** at a possible cost of more than 6 million dollars. Artificial turf leads to more student injuries and are an unnecessary expense in a community covered with snow for 4-5 months per year. Most artificial turf fields only last about 10 years.
 - Bottom line, Cedar Rapids Community Schools do need upgrades. They can even have new buildings. However, these buildings need to be built in the neighborhoods they serve. Sending our kids across town in overcrowded middle school buildings only see large property tax increases is not the answer. **We need to rebuild our schools and keep them at their existing sites.** That means not closing Wilson, Roosevelt and many other elementary schools. It also means not wasting tax dollars and tearing down buildings that are historical and structurally sound that can more than continue to serve Cedar Rapids students.
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Important Dates and Items:

<https://www.linncountyiowa.gov/1724/November-7-2023-Regular-City-School-Elec>

- [Pre-registration for voter registration ends Monday, Monday October 23, 2023, at 5 p.m. \(PDF\)](#)
- [Absentee ballot request forms \(PDF\)](#) must be received in the office by Monday, October 23, 2023, at 5 p.m.
- The first day absentee ballots can be mailed is Wednesday, October 18.
- Early in-person absentee voting for the special election will begin on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, and end at 5 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2023.
- Absentee ballots MUST be received in our office or ballot drop box by the close of polls on election day to be considered for counting.
- Polling places will be open on election day from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Satellite Voting:

- **Lindale Mall- 4444 1st Ave NE, Cedar Rapids**
 October 18 – November 5
 Tuesday through Saturday: 11 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
 Sundays: 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Mondays: Closed
- **Cedar Rapids Downtown Library- 450 5th Ave SE, Cedar Rapids**
 Saturday, November 04: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- **Cedar Rapids LADD Library- 3750 Williams Blvd SW, Cedar Rapids**
 - Friday, October 27: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Saturday, October 28: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
 - Sunday, October 29: 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.