

Citizens for Better Education

Reasons to Vote No on the \$370 Million Wichita School Bond Issue

On November 4, voters in Wichita's USD 259 school district should vote NO on the \$370 million dollar school bond measure because there is a better way. USD 259 is still paying for the last school bond passed only eight years ago. In these uncertain economic times we need to move slowly and cautiously and not add more debt.

Economy

Our economy has slowed significantly. According to a recent USA Today survey 75% of Americans already believe we are in a recession (3-18-2008 USA Today). Every day stories on the nightly news and in newspapers draw attention to the credit crunch and companies closing or losing contracts. Now is not the time to add \$370 million dollars of new debt.

Taxes

Your taxes will increase to pay for this new school bond. In addition, you will pay more for the bond that was passed only 8 years ago. Now is not the time to add \$370 million in new debt when the school district has not paid for the last bond.

Luxuries

Included in the \$370 million school bond are six new swimming pools, eight new tennis court complexes, building second gyms at eight schools, all weather turf for four high schools and seating for 1000, three all weather tracks, five new 2000 seat gymnasiums. (USD259.com)

Cost of living

Gas prices are up over 78 cents a gallon. Food costs escalated 4.9% in 2007 and continue to rise in 2008. Milk prices, for example, increased 26 percent over the year, while egg prices jumped 40 percent (Labor Department). If this bond passes, the cost of everything will go up – not just your property taxes, but every business will pay higher taxes, which means you will pay more for everything you buy. Now is not the time to add \$370 million dollars in new debt.

Alternatives to the \$370 million bond

Wichita Unified School District #259 owns six buildings that are not currently being used to educate our students. We could renovate these buildings as well as other improvements to meet the needs of our students. Now is not the time to add \$370 million in new debt when there are more cost effective alternatives.

The real cost of the bond will be at least \$600 million and could go as high as \$1 billion

The total cost of paying for this new \$370 million bond plus extending the time to pay back the bond passed in 2000 by eight years is over \$600 million dollars.

On Tuesday, November 4th, Vote NO on the Wichita USD 259 \$370 million school bond

Paid for by Citizens for Better Education, Treasurer Helen Cochran.

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