

**SOUTHWEST LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
FACILITIES SURVEY**

Hamilton County, Ohio

3/27/2017 – 3/30/2017

N=300, +/- 5.65%

Registered Voters

(percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)



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Q. 1. Generally speaking, would you say that Hamilton County is going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

44.2% Right direction
30.2 Wrong track
7 Mixed/both (volunteered)
18.6 Unsure/no answer

Looking at some local matters in the particular area where you live...

Q. 2. Do you think that property taxes in the area where you live are too high, generally pretty fair or too low?

47.1% Too high
44.7 Pretty fair
1.7 Too low
6.4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 3. Thinking about the Southwest Local School District that serves your community, would you say that it is generally going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

47.5% Right direction – skipped next question
35.9 Wrong track – proceeded to next question
1.8 Mixed/both (volunteered) – skipped next question
14.8 Unsure/no answer – skipped next question

Q. 4. What is the biggest reason you feel the Southwest Local School District has gotten off onto the wrong track?

n=108

21.8% Difficulty passing a school levy/funding
21 District keeps asking for more tax money
9.5 Financial mismanagement
8.5 New buildings are needed
6.1 Overcrowding

- 5.7 Poor quality education
- 4.5 Inadequate bus service
- 5.2 Lack of school programs and activities
- 3.6 Ineffective teachers and administration
- 3.2 Too concerned with new buildings that are not needed
- 10.1 Other
- .8 Unsure/no answer

Looking at some other local education matters...

Q. 5. In your opinion, how would you rate the job that the Southwest Local School District has done spending its money in an effective and responsible manner? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?

41.3% TOTAL POSITIVE RATING

- 9.3 Excellent
- 32 Good

29% Fair

15.6% TOTAL NEGATIVE RATING

- 10.8 Poor
- 4.8 Very poor

14% Unsure/no answer

Q. 6. Overall, how would you rate the quality of education being provided by the Southwest Local School District? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?

68.7% TOTAL POSITIVE RATING

- 21.7 Excellent
- 47 Good

16.3% Fair

5.4% TOTAL NEGATIVE RATING

- 4.7 Poor
- .7 Very poor

9.6% Unsure/no answer

Looking at school buildings and related matters...

Q. 7. Over the next few years, do you think that enrollment of students in the Southwest Local School District schools will increase, stay about the same, or decrease?

80.3% Increase
13.2 Same
2.4 Decrease
4.1 Unsure/no answer

Q. 8. Prior to this survey, were you aware that because of new housing growth, generational changes and new families moving in, the number of children in the Southwest Local School District schools will increase by approximately 1,000 students above typical enrollment over the next few years?

55.2% Yes, was aware
37.3 No, not aware
4.3 Mixed/knew of some growth (volunteered)
3.2 Unsure/no answer

Q. 9. Thinking more about this, which of the following opinions comes closest to yours? Do you think it is more important to...(rotated)...expand the Southwest Local school buildings, even if taxes have to be increased...or...prevent taxes from going up, even if some students will have to go to classes in trailers to prevent overcrowding?

60% Expand
24.4 Classes in trailers
15.6 Unsure/no answer

Looking at some various different options for new buildings...

(RANDOMLY ROTATED NEXT 4 QUESTIONS)

Q. 10. If the plan was to renovate the high school...replace the junior high school building with a new one...and...construct 2 new elementary schools at different locations in the district...which would cost local property owners \$240 dollars annually for each \$100,000 dollars of property value...would you favor or oppose it?

43.7% Favor
49.4 Oppose
6.9 Unsure/no answer

Looking at another option, instead...

Q. 11. If the plan was to renovate the high school...replace the junior high school building with

a new one...and...construct a separate new kindergarten through second grade and third through fifth grade elementary school buildings on a central campus in the middle of the school district...which would cost local property owners \$240 dollars annually for each \$100,000 dollars of property value...would you favor or oppose it?

41.6% Favor
53.1 Oppose
5.3 Unsure/no answer

Looking at another option, instead...

Q. 12. If the plan was to keep the current buildings and grade configurations, so there will be no new buildings or changes in where students attend school...add climate control systems and more learning technology to each of the existing buildings...add trailers for additional classroom capacity...and...make essential repairs to building infrastructure...which would cost local property owners \$191 dollars annually for each \$100,000 dollars of property value...would you favor or oppose it?

37.2% Favor
55.4 Oppose
7.4 Unsure/no answer

Looking at one last option, instead...

Q. 13. If the plan was to renovate the high school...replace the junior high school building with a new one...and...construct 3 new elementary schools in different parts of the district...which would cost local property owners \$248 dollars annually for each \$100,000 dollars of property value...would you favor or oppose it?

41.2% Favor
51.2 Oppose
7.6 Unsure/no answer

Looking at a particular school, as you may or may not know, the Whitewater Valley Elementary School is currently in the flood plain, so it is not eligible for any state assistance...

Q. 14. Do you think that the school district should...(rotated)...renovate the school, which would cost property owners about \$72 dollars annually for each \$100,000 dollars of property value...or...reassign the students to another district school and use the building for a school district administration office, adult education center and open community gymnasium?

30.4% Renovate the school

- 49 Reassign students/use for administration
- 20.6 Unsure/no answer

Q. 15. As plans are being made, which of the following do you think should be the most important factor in deciding what will be done with the school buildings? Is it...

(randomly rotated)

- 20.8% Avoiding a tax increase
- 22.1 Making the school system as efficient as possible by reducing the number of buildings
- 47.1 Ensure that there is adequate classroom space to meet enrollment growth
- 1.9 All/combination (volunteered)
- 1.3 Other (recorded - volunteered)
- 6.9 Unsure/no answer

Now I would like to read you some of the goals that could be accomplished by the Southwest District's plan for school buildings in the community. After each one, please tell me if you think it should be a high, medium or low priority. Here's the first one...

(RANDOMLY ROTATED NEXT 7 QUESTIONS)

How much of a priority should it be to...

Q. 16. Adopt a building plan that qualifies for state matching funds, which could provide as much as \$32 million dollars to the school district?

- 74.2% High
- 18.6 Medium
- 4.8 Low
- 0 Not a priority (volunteered)
- 2.5 Unsure/no answer

Q. 17. Have schools with updated features for building security, in order to keep kids safe during the school day?

- 75.9% High
- 16.3 Medium
- 7.4 Low
- 0 Not a priority (volunteered)
- .4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 18. Avoid having to shift money from the instructional budget for textbooks and teachers to buildings and facilities, in order to make vital repairs needed to ensure the buildings remain

operational?

36% High
43 Medium
17.7 Low
0 Not a priority (volunteered)
3.2 Unsure/no answer

Q. 19. Have new labs for STEM education, which are the science, technology, engineering and math programs that are being offered in the top-rated schools in the State?

56.7% High
36 Medium
7 Low
0 Not a priority (volunteered)
.3 Unsure/no answer

Q. 20. Minimize the amount of reliance on trailers as a long-term solution for growing enrollment?

36.3% High
34.1 Medium
28.3 Low
0 Not a priority (volunteered)
1.2 Unsure/no answer

Q. 21. Create more science labs, so students can have more exposure to the types of advanced coursework they will need for college or the workforce?

55.7% High
33.8 Medium
9.6 Low
0 Not a priority (volunteered)
.9 Unsure/no answer

Q. 22. Upgrade climate control systems at all the schools, so they operate more efficiently and make classroom environments more conducive to learning?

44.4% High
40.8 Medium
14 Low
.5 Not a priority (volunteered)
.3 Unsure/no answer

Q. 23. Based on all the information we have discussed during this survey, do you generally support or oppose new, expanded and upgraded school buildings?

70.1% Support
24.6 Oppose
5.3 Unsure/no answer

Finally, I have a few short questions for statistical purposes...

Q. 24. I would like to read you a list of age groups. Please stop me when I get to the one you are in.

39.7% 18 to 44
33 45 to 64
27 65 and older
.3 Unsure/no answer

Q. 25. Do you have any children currently enrolled in a Southwest Local School District public school?

33% Yes
66.3 No
.8 Unsure/no answer

Gender:

48.5% Male
51.5 Female