



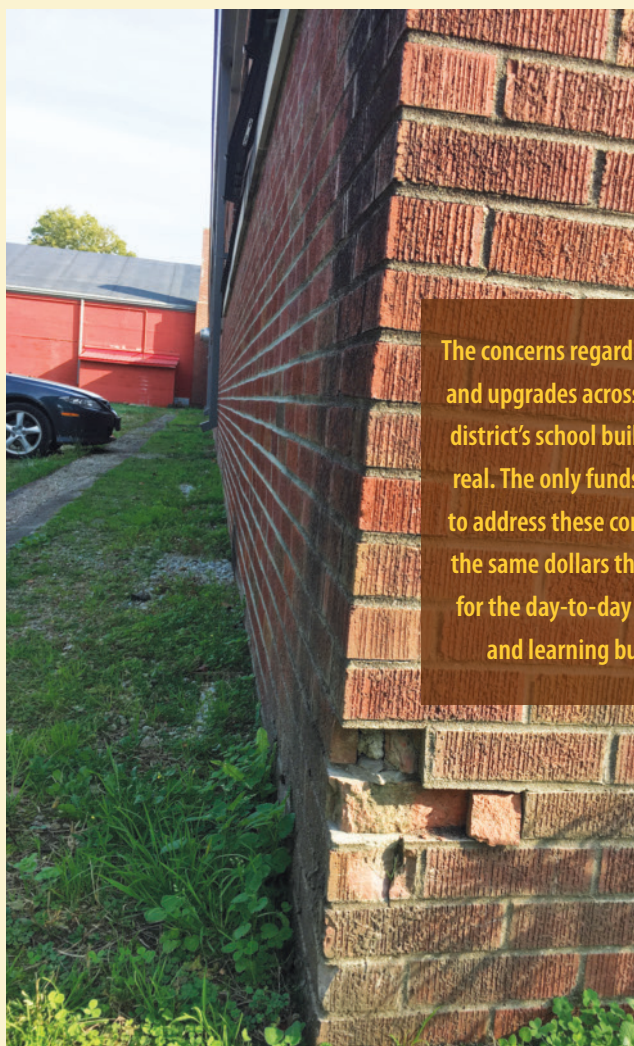
# Northridge Local School District

[www.northridge.k12.oh.us](http://www.northridge.k12.oh.us)

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## Special Edition – What's on the November Ballot

*Message from the Superintendent, Scott Schmidt*



The concerns regarding repairs and upgrades across all of our district's school buildings are real. The only funds we have to address these concerns are the same dollars that we use for the day-to-day teaching and learning budget.

I've had the privilege of getting to know so many great community members during my listening tour. You talked to me about your expectations for the future of our schools and why you love our Northridge Local School District. Yet many of you have also asked about what's going on with our facilities and what's on the November 7 ballot? In being responsive to this concern, I'm dedicating much of this newsletter to addressing these very real and very fair questions.



**Scott Schmidt**  
Superintendent

As a resident and taxpayer, you deserve to know what it is that your school district is asking for and how this issue impacts you. You should understand how the money will be used and you need to know what happens if the issue fails. The concerns regarding repairs and upgrades across all of our district's school buildings are real. The only funds we have to address these concerns are the same dollars that we use for the day-to-day teaching and learning budget. So what happens on November 7 impacts our students, staff and community in a big way.

My hope is that you will get the information you need to make an informed decision. However, should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I'm happy to discuss this as well as any other questions you may have about our great Northridge Local Schools. Go Vikings! ★



### Join Northridge on Social Media

Northridge Local Schools is now on **Facebook!** Be sure to "Like" the page at **Northridge Viking School District** to see the latest information about what's happening in Northridge Local Schools. You can also follow the district on **Twitter** and **Instagram** at **NRVikings**. Be sure to use our hashtag **#NRVikings** to join the conversation!



**A great BIG Thank You to Mrs. Hamilton's first grade class for letting Mr. Schmidt be a guest reader. #NRVikings Mr. Schmidt says, "You guys were AWESOME at making predictions!"**



# Northridge Local School District

## Frequently Asked Questions – November 7 Ballot Issue

Many residents have questions about the November 7 ballot issue for Northridge Local Schools. Here are answers to the most frequently asked questions.



Plumbing in the walls have failed, water lines now run on the wall.

### Q What is on the November 7 ballot for Northridge Local Schools?

Northridge Local Schools is asking voters to support a combined 0.75 percent Earned Income Tax and a 2.9-mill 30-year bond issue. The ballot issue is for construction of a new pre-K-elementary grade school as well as important updates to the security and mechanical needs at the middle and high school. It will also address ongoing maintenance and upkeep needs at all schools across the district.

### Q Why is this issue needed?

Northridge Primary School is nearly 100-years-old and after heavy use has serious mechanical, plumbing, heating, ventilation and infrastructure needs that are simply too costly to repair. The middle school and high school need ongoing preventative maintenance so that we can maintain their integrity for years to come. Band-Aid fixes to these problems is simply no longer enough. The November 7 ballot issue provides our students a suitable environment for learning and avoids cutting teachers or programs to pay for needed repairs or construction.

### Q What happens if the November 7 issue is approved?

Then the district will have the necessary and appropriate funds to update the serious safety, mechanical and educational needs at the middle and high school as well as build a new pre-k-elementary school. In addition the fourth and fifth grade students will be moved out of trailers and into real classrooms. The plan creates a modern yet no frills environment for learning and protects the district's day-to-day teaching and learning budget.

### Q What happens if the November 7 issue fails?

Then the district will need to address ongoing mechanical and structural repairs by using operating dollars, which will negatively impact the education and opportunities we are able to provide students.

### Q How does our tax rate compare to our neighbors?

Northridge Local Schools' tax rate is lower than any district in the area. Even with the passage of the November 7 ballot issue, residents will still have a lower rate on property and earned income taxes than area neighbors.

### Q What is an Earned Income Tax?

An earned income tax only applies to earned wages and does not include any property, social security, pensions, capital gains or other forms of compensation.

### Q Is it feasible to renovate Northridge Primary School?

Unfortunately, it is not economically feasible to renovate and renovation would not provide additional space. The plumbing, heating, ventilation and electrical systems all need to be replaced and the rubber membrane of the roof is failing. The classrooms, cafeteria and hallways are all small and the entire school would have to be brought up to today's modern codes. The Ohio Facilities

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Construction Commission (OFCC) estimated that the renovation costs would be at least 97 percent of the cost to build a new Northridge Primary. That is not an efficient use of taxpayer dollars and it doesn't provide enough space for our students.

### Why do we need to replace the trailers?

The trailers currently house the fourth and fifth grade students because there is not enough space in the Northridge Primary School. They are not permanent structures and were never intended as a long-term solution. In addition, they do not provide appropriate learning spaces for the educational demands of today. To save on costs, the district purchased used trailers that are now 22-years-old and are approaching the end of their useful life.

### So what will this issue cost me?

The 0.75 percent earned income tax only applies to earned income. So if you receive social security, pensions, capital gains or other forms of compensation then this modest tax increase **does not** apply to those wages.

The 2.9-mill bond issue **will not** begin collections until 2019. The bond issue to construct the high school that was approved by voters in 1996 will be paid in full in 2018. While the two issues have slightly different millage rates, due to nuances in the school funding system, their collection rate is actually the same. So property taxes paid to the school will not increase because of this bond issue.

### How can property taxes stay the same if voters approve a new bond issue?

In 1996, voters approved a bond issue to construct the current high school. In 2018 the district will pay these bonds in full and no longer collect these taxes. The proposed new bond issue won't begin collections until 2019. While the new millage rate is slightly different, state laws limit school districts from collecting more revenue when property values increase, so the effective new millage rate for both issues is actually the same. As a result, property tax rates paid to the schools will not increase if voters approve this new bond issue on November 7, 2017. ★



The cafeteria at Northridge Primary School is not large enough for the number of students, so some students must eat at tables in the hallways.



The cafeteria at the intermediate school is too small. Student are crammed into tight spaces.



# How to Cast a Vote in the November 7 Election

**Did you know that you could vote early from the comfort of your home for the November 7 general election?**

It's called **Vote By Mail** or **Absentee Voting**. Any registered voter is eligible to take advantage of this option to avoid long lines, bad weather and busy schedules.

**Simply visit:** [www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a\\_english.pdf](http://www.sos.state.oh.us/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_english.pdf) to begin the application process. Be sure to fill out the form completely including filling in the election date of November 7, 2017.

**You may also cast your vote in-person on Election Day. Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m.** and you can find your polling location at <https://www.voterfind.com/lickingoh/pollfinder.aspx>



NORTHRIDGE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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JOHNSTOWN, OH 43031

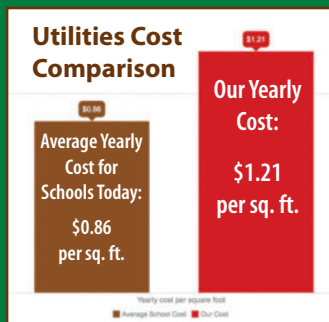
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**Answers to Your November 7  
Ballot Issue Questions - *INSIDE!***

## School Repairs and the Bottom Line

**N**orthridge Local Schools maintains and operates four school buildings to educate more than 1,215 students each day. While these schools have been well taken care of, they do require repairs and maintenance. "Just like in a regular household budget, schools must plan for and react to repair needs," said Superintendent Scott Schmidt. "Our schools are aging and require more frequent and oftentimes larger repairs in order to keep our classrooms in good order. For example, the plumbing, electrical, heating and ventilation systems all need to be replaced at the Primary School in Alexandria. In addition, the rubber membrane surface on the roof is failing and the trailers housing our fourth and fifth grade students are nearing the end of their useful life and need to soon be replaced."



Northridge Primary and Intermediate buildings are not operating efficiently when it comes to utilities. Their basic utilities currently cost \$61,500 per year or \$1.21 per square foot. The average utility cost for schools today is \$0.86 per square foot. That is \$0.35 less per square foot for an efficient building which would save the district \$17,640 per year in operating costs for a building of the same size.

"As we have shared, the current buildings are undersized and do not meet our needs," noted Schmidt. "The plans for the new elementary school includes additional square footage for students including classrooms so that fourth and fifth grade students will no longer need to use trailers, a new media/ library center inside the school, a larger gymnasium and larger cafeteria. Also, all classrooms will be larger in order to meet the recommended size of education today."

Currently, the funds to address ongoing maintenance and repair costs come from the day-to-day teaching and learning operations budget. These are the same funds that are used to pay for things such as teachers, textbooks and technology. "If we encounter an unplanned or significant repair issue, we have no choice but to use funds currently designated for classroom learning," explained Schmidt. "Permanent improvement funds are strictly regulated and would help protect the classroom learning and teaching budget." By law, permanent improvement funds can only be used on facilities and building repairs and cannot be used on salaries or administration.

"The bottom line is that our aging school buildings are hurting the day-to-day operations of the district," explained Schmidt. "With this modest increase in taxes, we still maintain the lowest property and earned income tax rates in the area and create a much more efficient and modern learning space for students." ★