



Statement from the Center Point-Urbana CSD School Board

On Tuesday, November 5, voters in the Center Point-Urbana Community School District will have the opportunity to approve a general obligation bond referendum of up to \$20.615 million. The decision to add this bond referendum to the ballot was made with careful consideration.

As a School Board, we have dedicated significant time to ensuring that the proposal prioritizes the district's needs. Since the 2021-22 school year, this process has involved comprehensive building assessments, collaboration with architects, engineers and the community, the formation of a facilities task force that included community members, and the exploration of multiple project options—among other critical evaluations.

The solutions outlined in this bond proposal prioritize the enhancement of safety and security, which remains our top concern. Additionally, the bond would provide the necessary resources to address facility challenges, tackle ongoing maintenance updates and improvements across multiple schools, and create more opportunities for students in our district.

Our reputation as a leader in education in the region is a result of the continued generosity and investment from our residents. We consistently strive to balance the needs of our students and staff with the financial responsibilities of our property taxpayers.

Since 2005, CPU's cumulative levy rate has remained stable. The highest rate in nearly two decades was \$18.56 per \$1,000 of taxable property value (in 2011), while the lowest rate was \$17.06 (in 2006). Currently, the district's levy rate of \$17.78 per \$1,000 of taxable value is comparable to other districts in the region. Importantly, if voters approve the referendum on November 5, the debt service portion of CPU's tax rate will not increase.

We are grateful to all the residents in our communities for their involvement in the upcoming bond referendum and, as always, for their steadfast support of the students we serve.

Kim Simon, Board President, At-Large
Nick Larson, Board Vice President, District 2
Alan Marshall, Director, District 3
Kristeen Opfer, Director, District 1
Ann Wooldridge, Director, At-Large

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