



Louisa-Muscatine CSD



WE ARE L-M
WHERE FALCONS SOAR, STUDENTS LEARN, SCHOOL ROCKS AND CHARACTER RULES!



**WE ARE HOSTING A COMMUNITY
BOND REFERENDUM
Q & A SESSION ON TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 29TH.
THE
SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE IN
OUR HIGH SCHOOL
CAFETERIA BEGINNING AT 8PM.**

**THE 2024 GENERAL ELECTION
WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 5, 2024. POLLING
LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN ON
ELECTION DAY FROM 7:00 A.M. TO
8:00 P.M.
OUR BOND RESOLUTION FOR A
NEW GYM & LOCKER ROOMS WILL
BE ON THE BALLOT.**

Website: www.lmcsd.org

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Louisa-Muscatine CSD
14478 170th St
Letts, IA 52754





Please take a moment to read this letter from our School Board President, Scott Wilson.

My name is Scott Wilson and I am the current Board President. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the reasons the Board voted to put this bond on the 2024 ballot.

It is important to know that bond measures take a supermajority to pass. In this case, it takes 60% +1 vote to pass. Louisa-Muscatine has not had a voter approved bond since the 90s for the construction of the Elementary building. The school district has used its 1% sales tax wisely over the years to keep the school up to date. Most projects that use revenue from 1% sales tax dollars are under four million dollars. Any project over four million would put the school district in a position where it must choose between buses, furniture, technology, or facilities. Because this is an \$11 million dollar project, we are asking our voters to approve this.

The Board also realizes that inflation has been an issue for our property owners but at the same time we know that the longer we wait, the more it will cost.

Here are the reasons why the Board would like the voters to approve a bond for a new gym and locker rooms.

1. **Activity space.** Louisa Muscatine has added many new activities and more participants. Examples include dance, girls wrestling, larger cheer groups and color guard. Practice space is at a premium at school, by having an additional gym we can hold more practices simultaneously. This allows our high school teams to practice right after school rather than having to wait for a free time slot. Giving them more time after practice to study or work. This also helps the youth league programs gain access to gymnasium space. Many times our elementary kids have to wait till late hours to practice.
2. **Band and chorus space.** A larger gym with doubling our seating capacity would mean more space for our students and audience. If you have been to a winter or spring concert, you know what I am talking about.
3. **Seating capacity and new basketball regulations.** Regulations for basketball have changed over the years, and because our bleachers are so close to the sidelines, the first row of our bleachers cannot be used during games. Increasing the sidelines for basketball allows more safety for players and spectators.
4. **Handicap and ease of access.** We cannot provide any additional handicap accessibilities or improvements like handrails without reducing capacity.

Facts about our gym

- Original gym built in 1960s
- Seating was reduced in the mid 90s with new bleachers. These are the beachers we currently have.
- The current gym has the smallest seating capacity in the SEISC but LM is the 3rd largest school. In some cases we seat half compared to other smaller schools. Gyms with larger seating include Winfield, Columbus, Wapello, Lone Tree, Mediapolis. See table below.

- Due to locker room door locations in the current gym, we lose space to seat another 150 spectators.

The Board is asking the voters to consider the issues above when voting for the bond measure on the November ballot.

The Board plans to use existing and future funds to cover \$3.5 million of the \$11 million project. This will provide taxpayers with a lower burden of this project. The elementary building was paid off in 2012 and if this bond passes, taxpayers of Louisa Muscatine will still have a lower rate compared to neighboring districts. Louisa-Muscatine has one of the lowest rates in southeast Iowa. Louisa-Muscatine is the smallest ask of all the school bond referendums in Iowa this November (see table below). The Board takes this bond measure seriously and the potential burden it puts on our residents. The Board believes we have done everything we can to keep the costs down and provide a facility that allows the students and community to enjoy.

If you have questions about how your property tax will be impacted, please contact me or the school district office. We have some tax tables that provide an estimate on the tax impact. Of course, these are estimates and do not take into account all the tax credits you are eligible for.

Seating Capacity in the Conference

School Name	Gyms in High School	Main gym capacity
Central Lee	2	1400
Columbus Community	2	1400
Durant	2	900
Highland	2	1200
Lone Tree	2	1000
Mediapolis	3	1200
New London	2	950
Van Buren	2	700
Waco	2	750
Wapello	2	700
West Liberty	2	1200
Wilton	3	1300
Winfield	2	950
Louisa Muscatine	1	530

Louisa-Muscatine Levy Rates

Amount paid for each \$1,000 of taxable value

Highlighted shows
were LM is lower than
state averages

Levy	Levy Rate	Percent	Statewide Average
Uniform Levy	\$5.40000	49.1%	\$5.39452
Additional Levy	\$2.54468	23.1%	\$2.62682
Ed Improvement Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.01447
Cash Reserve Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.72033
Instructional Support Levy*	\$0.14680	1.3%	\$0.60910
Management Levy*	\$1.57526	14.3%	\$1.26047
Amana Library Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.00060
Voted PPEL*	\$1.00000	9.1%	\$0.83500
Regular PPEL*	\$0.33000	3%	\$0.32900
Reorganization Equaliz	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.00000
Playground Levy	\$0.00000	0%	\$0.01224
Debt Service Levy*	\$0.00000	0%	\$1.34301
Total District Levy	\$10.99674	100%	\$13.14556

zero debt

School District bond referendums on 2024 ballots

Highlighted are SEIC schools

School	Amount on Ballot for Fall 2024
Marshalltown	\$57,000,000
Le Mars	\$49,970,000
Fairfield	\$38,515,000
Glenwood CSD	\$36,000,000
Emmetsburg	\$29,750,000

Lewis Centra	\$30,000,000
Van Buren County	\$29,000,000
Williamsburg	\$22,335,000
Central Point-Urbana	\$20,615,000
Westwood	\$18,600,000
Hampton-Dumont	\$17,000,000
Lawton-Bronson	\$16,955,000
West Fork	\$16,885,000
Aplington-Parkersburg	\$16,500,000
Martensdale-St Marys	\$15,950,000
Monticello	\$15,000,000
GMC-Green Mountain	\$12,300,000
Hinton	\$11,870,000
Earlham	\$10,000,000
Louisa-Muscatine	\$8,895,000

2024 Tax rate compared to neighbors

School	Rate
Wapello	13.01425
Columbus	10.63750
Muscatine	13.23077
Wilton	13.53178
West Liberty	12.95152
Louisa Muscatine	11.01242
Morning Sun	12.19251

3rd Party Analysis of Louisa Muscatine

Iowans for Tax Relief

<https://itrlocal.org/index.php/home/louisa-muscatine-school-district/>

NEW GYM AND LOCKER ROOM CONSIDERATION

The L-M Board of Directors has approved a vote on a general obligation (GO) bond resolution of \$8,895,000 for a competitive secondary school gym with locker rooms. This will be on the ballot during the November 5, 2024, general election. The project costs \$11,241,600, with \$8,895,000 coming from the GO bond and the remaining \$2,346,600 indebtedness designated as a PPEL/SAVE expenditure.

Our competitors have practice, competition, and performance advantages over our students at L-M. None of our facilities are large enough to effectively run a two-court practice. Having only two gyms in the district with no auditorium is a huge detriment to programs. We currently attempt to share our two gyms between junior high athletics, senior high athletics, youth league athletics, community events, play practice/performance, band practice/performance, dance practice/performance, cheerleading, flag practice/performance, choir practice/performance, numerous club events (FFA, BPS & FCCLA), and other school events. Our JH/SH gym seating capacity is not large enough to allow all our student body to sit on one side of the gym to accommodate assemblies or guest speakers. As you can see from the following chart, our competitors do not have these limitations.

Below, you will find how our gym/auditorium quantity and varsity gym seating capacity compare to our competitors.

	Gyms in School	Varsity Gym Seating	Gyms in District	Auditorium in District
Central Lee	2	1,400	3	No
Columbus	2	1,000	3	Yes
Durant	2	900	2	Yes
Highland	2	1,200	3	No
Lone Tree	2	1,000	3	No
Mediapolis	3	1,200	3	Yes
New London	2	950	2	Yes
Van Buren	2	700	4	No
WACO	2	750	3	No
Wapello	2	700	3	Yes
West Burlington	2	1,130	3	Yes
West Liberty	1JH/1SH	1,200	3	Yes
Wilton	3	1,300	3	No
WMU	2	950	2	No
Louisa-Muscatine	1	530	2	No

The Louisa-Muscatine High School gym was completed in 1964 with a seating capacity of 600 for a high school (9-12) with 160 students. Bleachers were replaced in 1995, reducing the seating capacity to 540 (-60) due to adding walkways. In 2014 handicapped cutouts were implemented, resulting in our current 530 seating capacity gym. The current bleachers have less than ten years of life left in them. With required handicapped modifications and recommended spacing between the basketball court and the first row, it is possible that we lose an additional 80 seats with new bleachers resulting in a seating capacity of 460 with a projected JH/SH (7-12) student population of 350.

A NEW GYM MEANS!

1. L-M will have the same seating capacity as Highland, Mediapolis, and West Liberty.
2. L-M will be able to have assemblies with all the staff and student body on one side of the gym.
3. With two gyms, the fine arts programs and clubs (FFA, BPS, & FCCLA) will have more accessibility to gym space for practice, performance, events, and contests.
4. The new gym will be prime for youth practice, programming, and tournaments.
5. There will be a designated gym for Junior High PE classes and Senior High PE classes.
6. There will be a separation of Junior High and Senior High locker rooms.
7. Practice space would become the equivalent of our competitors.
8. More practice space allows youth league teams to practice earlier and get home.
9. L-M would have the gym space to host large tournaments and have enough seating for both spectators and athletes.
10. L-M would have the seating capacity to be eligible to host sub-state play in volleyball, basketball, and wrestling.
11. The new gym is in an area that would be conducive to open gyms for the students and the general public.
12. It would be a source of pride for the school and community.

FALCON PRIDE!

WHAT ARE OTHER DISTRICTS ASKING FOR?

A Louisa-Muscatine board has yet to ask the district's citizens to vote on a GO bond since the building of the elementary school in 1992. A school district can only go before the local voters with a bonding question during the November 5th general election. Below are the known districts that will ask their voters to consider a property tax bond this fall. The amount of the bond is also given. As you can see, the Louisa-Muscatine board is cognizant of what they ask local taxpayers to consider. We are asking less of our property owners than any other district asks in the state.

Marshalltown	\$57,000,000	Hampton-Dumont	\$17,000,000
Le Mars	\$49,970,000	Lawton-Bronson	\$16,955,000
Fairfield	\$38,515,000	West Fork	\$16,885,000
Glenwood CSD	\$36,000,000	Aplington-Parkersburg	\$16,500,000
Emmetsburg	\$29,750,000	Martensdale-St Marys	\$15,950,000
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Central Point-Urbana	\$20,615,000	Ealham	\$10,000,000
Westwood	\$18,600,000	Louisa-Muscatine	\$8,895,000

OPTION 22 - GYM ADDITION | Louisa-Muscatine Jr. Sr. High School

