

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 2025 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 money 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. Under the current revenue, the school can self-bond projects up to four million dollars. Anything over that amount would cause the School to choose between buses, furniture, technology, or facilities. The board is asking voters to approve the bonds necessary to fund this \$12 million dollar project.

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 until late hours to practice.
2. **Band and chorus space.** A larger gym with doubling the seating capacity would mean more space for our students and audience. If you have been to a winter or spring concert, you know that space is very limited.
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 greater safety for players and spectators.
4. **Accessibility 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 bleachers 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 the information in the 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 up to \$3.5 million of the \$12 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. 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 and benefit from.

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**

<b>School Name</b>	<b>Gyms in High School</b>	<b>Main gym capacity</b>
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

## Tax rates history

<https://dom.iowa.gov/local-government/school-resources#school-data>

Year	Property Rate	Comments
2011	14.08973	
2012	13.78625	Elementary Paid Off
2013	11.97595	
2014	10.58609	
2015	11.20916	
2016	12.39496	PPEL increase vote passed
2017	12.84927	
2018	12.294	
2019	11.34850	
2020	11.15953	
2021	10.79597	
2022	10.78504	
2023	11.14682	
2024	11.01242	
2025	10.99674	
2026	11.32	
Est if bond passes	13.24	Close to 2012 tax rate

## 2026 Tax rate compared to neighbors

School	Rate
COLUMBUS	10.57336
LOUISA-MUSCATINE	11.32621
MORNING SUN	11.62623
MUSCATINE	13.90852
WAPELLO	12.79876
WEST LIBERTY	13.08881
WILTON	14.12477