

# Bricks-and-mortar votes

On May 6, four area school districts are asking voters to approve bond issues worth millions of dollars to build or renovate schools. The Enquirer compiled this numbers snapshot with the latest available data from the Ohio Department of Education and the local school districts.

| Category   | Cincinnati Public                           | Princeton                                  | Kings   | Franklin  | Ohio Average |
|--|---|--|---|---|--------------|
| County   | Hamilton                                    | Hamilton                                   | Warren  | Warren  |              |
| Amount of Bond Issue                                   | \$480 million; 4.61 mills for 28 yrs.       | \$85 million; 2.84 mills for 27 yrs.       | \$43 million; 4.49 mills for 28 yrs.                    | \$16.7 million; 2.84 mills for 28 yrs.                                      | na           |
| Purpose  | Build 35 new schools and renovate 31 others | Build new or renovate 8 elementary schools | Increase size high school & jr. high; other renovations | Expand elem schools; add wing jr. high; improve stadium facilities; repairs | na           |
| Cost to Taxpayers on \$100,000 home                    | Extra \$134 yr.                             | Extra \$87 yr.                             | Extra \$138 yr.   | Extra \$87 yr.  | na           |
| Age of Buildings                                       | Average 61 yrs.                             | Average elem. 62 yrs                       | 14 and 36 yrs.  | 35-82 yrs..   | na           |
| Enrollment/Growth                                      | 40,347; declining                           | 6,200; flat                                | 3,774; slow growth                                      | 3,051; flat   | na           |
| Last Bond Issue Passed                                 | 1975  | 1956                                       | 1999  | 1989  | na           |
| Last Operating Levy Passed                             | 2000  | 1999                                       | 2001  | 1995  | na           |
| Current total Tax Rate for Schools <sup>1</sup>        | 34.32 mills                                 | 27.05 mills                                | 28.32 mills   | 22.0 mills  | na           |
| Revenue Raised by 1 mill property tax                  | \$6,557,373                                 | \$1,816,994                                | \$600,000   | \$369,750   | \$343,374    |
| Assessed Property Value per pupil <sup>2</sup>         | \$162,520                                   | \$305,803                                  | \$151,845   | \$121,190   | \$116,054    |
| Median Income <sup>3</sup>                             | \$26,823                                    | \$32,902                                   | \$43,151  | \$29,877  | \$30,079     |
| Residential/agr property valuation % of total          | 51.3%                                       | 30.5%                                      | 62.0%   | 55.2%   | 63.2%        |
| Local Tax Effort <sup>4</sup>                          | 0.82  | 0.57                                       | 0.54  | 0.86  | 1.00         |
| Number of State Standards Met (out of 22) <sup>5</sup> | 5   | 12   | 22  | 13  | na           |

na=data not available

1. Total rate paid currently by homeowners for all local school-related taxes, including operating and permanent improvement levies, bond issues and vocational education levies.
2. Total unadjusted property valuation of district divided by the total number of students.
3. Median income per resident tax return. Half earn more than this number, half earn less.
4. A state-created index that reflects extent of effort residents make in support of public education taxes. Calculation includes residents' relative ability to pay (compared to other districts in the state) and the portion of personal income devoted to school taxes.
5. Academic standards reported on most recent state report card.