

WESTERVILLE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT SURVEY

Delaware & Franklin Counties, Ohio

1/19 – 1/22/2009

n=300, +/- 5.6%

Registered Voters

(percentage may not add up to 100% due to rounding)



www.FallonResearch.com

Q. 1. Generally speaking, would you say that your community is going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

76.2% Right direction
15.3 Wrong track
3.4 Mixed/both (volunteered)
5.1 Unsure/no answer

Q. 2. Thinking about the Westerville City School District that serves your community, would you say that it is generally going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

57.3% Right direction
23.4 Wrong track
4.1 Mixed/both (volunteered)
15.2 Unsure/no answer

As you may know, there may be a funding issue on the ballot this year for the Westerville City School District. Looking at the different types of issues that could be on the ballot...

(RANDOMLY ROTATED QUESTIONS 3a/b THROUGH 5a/b)

Q. 3a. If the issue was a 9.9 mill operating levy for a continuing period of time, would you vote for or against it?

39.4% For
47.1 Against
13.5 Unsure/no answer

Q. 3b. Would you be more or less likely to vote for it if you knew that for each \$100,000 dollars of property value, it will cost home owners about \$303 dollars per year in additional taxes?

23.3% More likely
57.8 Less likely
12.6 Doesn't matter/no difference (volunteered)
6.4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 4a. If the issue was a 9.9 mill operating levy for a continuing period of time and renewal of a

2.4 mill permanent improvements levy, would you vote for or against it?

40% For
47.8 Against
12.2 Unsure/no answer

Q. 4b. Would you be more or less likely to vote for it if you knew that for each \$100,000 dollars of property value, it will cost home owners about \$303 dollars per year in additional taxes, but the permanent improvements levy would not increase taxes?

34.3% More likely
44.9 Less likely
13.1 Doesn't matter/no difference (volunteered)
7.7 Unsure/no answer

Q. 5a. If the issue was a 9.9 mill operating levy for a continuing period of time, combined with a renewal of a 2.4 mill permanent improvements levy and .9 mill bond issue, would you vote for or against it?

30.9% For
54.4 Against
14.6 Unsure/no answer

Q. 5b. Would you be more or less likely to vote for it if you knew that for each \$100,000 dollars of property value, it will cost home owners about \$303 dollars per year in additional taxes, but the bond issue and permanent improvements levy would not increase taxes?

34.2% More likely
48.3 Less likely
11.3 Doesn't matter/no difference (volunteered)
6.1 Unsure/no answer

Regardless of which issue might be on the ballot this year...

Q. 6. Would you be more or less likely to vote for it if you knew that, it will not be collected until 2010, in order to keep a past promise that the school board made to not ask for a new levy until then? Follow-up: Would that be much more/less likely or just somewhat more/less likely?

TOTAL MORE LIKELY 12.1% Much more likely
40.6% 28.5 Somewhat more likely

14.9% Doesn't matter/no difference

TOTAL LESS LIKELY 14.4% Somewhat less likely

40.8%

26.4 Much less likely

3.7% Unsure/no answer

Thinking more about the various issues the District may be placing on the ballot...

Q. 7. I would like to read you two things that people have said. After I am done, please tell me which opinion comes closest to yours...(rotated)...

...(Some/other) people say both levies and the bond request should be placed on the ballot as one issue, so that voters can make their decisions all at once and the District will not be delayed by uncertainty about whether the funding will be approved by voters. They favor making all the decisions at once...

...(Other/some) people say that both levies and the bond request should be placed on the ballot as separate issues, so that voters can make their decisions about each one individually and vote for just the requests that they think have merit, and against those they do not support. They favor making all the decisions separately...

Which opinion comes closest to yours?

24.4% Favor making all the decisions at once

73.5 Favor making all the decisions separately

2.1 Unsure/no answer

Looking at some other local education issues...

Q. 8. Generally speaking, do you approve or disapprove of the work being done by the Westerville City School District's Board of Education? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly approve/disapprove, or just somewhat approve/disapprove?

TOTAL APPROVE

21.5% Strongly approve

63.5%

42 Somewhat approve

TOTAL DISAPPROVE

12.8% Somewhat disapprove

18.2%

5.4 Strongly disapprove

11.9% No Opinion

6.4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 9. Do you approve or disapprove of the work being done by the classroom teachers of the Westerville City School District? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly approve/disapprove, or just somewhat approve/disapprove?

TOTAL APPROVE	37.1%	Strongly approve
65.4%	28.3	Somewhat approve
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	7.1%	Somewhat disapprove
9.8%	2.7	Strongly disapprove
14.2%		No Opinion
10.5		Unsure/no answer

Q. 10. Do you approve or disapprove of the work being done by the new superintendent, Doctor Dan Good, or do you not have enough information about him yet to have formed an opinion? Follow-up: Would you say that you strongly approve/disapprove, or just somewhat approve/disapprove?

TOTAL APPROVE	7.9%	Strongly approve
11.2%	3.3	Somewhat approve
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	.3%	Somewhat disapprove
2.7%	2.4	Strongly disapprove
83.2%		No Opinion
2.9		Unsure/no answer

Q. 11. Overall, how would you rate the quality of education being provided by the Westerville City School District? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?

TOTAL POSITIVE ASSESSMENT	23.5%	Excellent
77.4%	53.9	Good
15.8%		Fair
TOTAL NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT	1.6%	Poor
2.3%	.7	Very poor
4.6%		Unsure/no answer

Thinking about taxes and public finances...

Q. 12. In your opinion, how would you rate the job that the Westerville City School District has done spending its money in an effective and responsible manner? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?

TOTAL POSITIVE ASSESSMENT	6.9%	Excellent
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49.6% 42.7 Good
 28.1% Fair
TOTAL NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT 10.8% Poor
14.3% 3.5 Very poor
 8% Unsure/no answer

Q. 13. Prior to this survey, were you aware that in the past year the Westerville City School District has cut approximately \$900,000 dollars from its operating budget?

34.7% Yes
 63.7 No
 1.6 Unsure/no answer

Q. 14. Does knowing this make you more or less likely to vote for the proposed Westerville City School District tax issue that will be on the ballot this year?

41.6% More likely
 24.5 Less likely
 26.7 Doesn't matter/no difference (volunteered)
 7.2 Unsure/no answer

Thinking more about the tax issue the Westerville City School District may have on the ballot this year, I would like to read some of the things it will do, if it is approved by voters. After each one, please tell me if you think it should be a high, medium or low priority for use of tax dollars.

(RANDOMLY ROTATED QUESTIONS 15 THROUGH 21)

How much of a priority should it be to...

Q. 15. Maintain current class sizes?

41.1% High
 37.9 Medium
 12.8 Low
 .3 Not a priority (volunteered)
 7.9 Unsure/no answer

Q. 16. Purchase updated textbooks and learning materials?

61.9% High
29.7 Medium
7.6 Low
0 Not a priority (volunteered)
.8 Unsure/no answer

Q. 17. Remodel existing building space to create new classrooms to keep pace with enrollment?

42.1% High
39.1 Medium
16.2 Low
.6 Not a priority (volunteered)
2 Unsure/no answer

Q. 18. Remodel existing building space to create new classrooms to meet increased needs for English-as-Second-Language programs for students that do not speak English?

14.1% High
40.7 Medium
42.1 Low
2.4 Not a priority (volunteered)
.7 Unsure/no answer

Q. 19. Remodel existing building space to create new classrooms to provide special education programs for students with learning disabilities?

45.2% High
38 Medium
14.2 Low
.8 Not a priority (volunteered)
1.8 Unsure/no answer

Q. 20. Renovate and repair the District's transportation facility for school bus storage and maintenance?

12.6% High
47.8 Medium
33.2 Low
.3 Not a priority (volunteered)
6.1 Unsure/no answer

Q. 21. Provide access to technology for learning?

60.4% High
34.6 Medium
4.2 Low
0 Not a priority (volunteered)
.8 Unsure/no answer

Finally, I have a few short questions for statistical purposes...

Q. 22. I would like to read you a list of age groups. Please stop me when I get to the one you are in.

10.2% 18 to 29
25.1 30 to 44
38.1 45 to 59
26.7 60 and older
0 Refused
0 Unsure

Q. 23. What do you consider to be your main race?

(volunteered)
86.3% White
5.8 African-American
2.7 Hispanic/Latino
3.1 Something else/mixed race
2.1 Refused
0 Unsure

Q. 24. Do you have any children currently enrolled in a Westerville City School District public school?

27.8% Yes
72.2 No
0 Unsure/no answer

Gender:

45.5% Men
54.5 Women
