



Starmont
COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Starmont CSD School Board Releases Statement on Bond Vote

ARLINGTON, IA — The Starmont Community School District School Board has issued the following statement regarding the results of the November 4 election:

“On Tuesday, the general obligation bond measure on the ballot for the Starmont Community School District fell short of the 60 percent approval needed to pass. This outcome means the district will not move forward with potential improvements to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in our schools.

The election results do not change the fact that our schools have mechanical systems and equipment that are more than 60 years old and beyond their anticipated useful lifespan, and the problems will become greater as more time passes. Delaying the proposed improvements creates a situation at Starmont where the HVAC systems could fail, leading to emergency repairs and disruptions to student learning.

We will continue to explore alternative solutions to these challenges. Among the options to be considered is raising the district’s physical plant and equipment levy (PPEL) to defray some repair expenses. However, as we have communicated previously, PPEL generates less than \$200,000 annually, which this year was used to purchase a new school bus for \$160,803. Raising the PPEL rate to match what voters approved last spring would not be enough to address the millions of dollars in maintenance and infrastructure needs that exist in our schools today—which is why the board unanimously opted to pursue a bond referendum.

Our students deserve a safe and comfortable learning environment that can accommodate 21st-century education. It is our goal to provide the resources and opportunities they need to be successful, and do so in a fiscally responsible manner. Starmont has one of the lowest total property tax levy rates in our region, and our current rate of \$10.77 per \$1,000 of taxable value is down more than 35 percent since 2012.

We sincerely thank our community members for their consideration of the bond measure. We have had many important conversations about the future of our district over the past several months, and we will continue to seek your feedback and answer questions as we move forward.”

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