



October 28, 2008

School levy vote is important decision

Traci McCaudy

On Nov. 4, you will be asked to make very important decisions about local and national candidates and issues. One of those critical decisions will be about the proposed new middle school for Fremont City Schools. Please consider the following points before casting your vote on the issue of the new middle school.

"Passage of this levy will allow Fremont to receive \$8.8 million from the Ohio School Facilities Commission, which reduces the cost for the average property owner in Fremont to only 15 cents per day.

"Passage of this levy will enhance the educational opportunities for our children. Additionally, the Ohio School Facilities Commission will provide the funds for new classroom furniture and a comprehensive safety and security system.

"Although permanent improvement monies have been spent on repairs, it is estimated that \$4.5 million will be needed in the near future for additional repairs and upgrades due to Jarod's Law and an aging facility. This repair list continues to increase on a daily basis. Passage of this levy will allow Fremont to invest its monies in a new facility instead of expending money on an aging, already 100 year-old building.

"Passage of this levy may provide local businesses with jobs during the construction phase of this project.

"Passage of this levy is a commitment by taxpayers to quality schools. Young homebuyers with children seek quality schools. Quality schools encourage businesses to consider Fremont for their operations. Quality schools promote the importance of education and prepare students for a competitive, challenging job market. Quality schools maintain or raise property values in their communities. Quality schools reflect a quality community.

I urge you to take the time to carefully consider all aspects of this levy proposal. We have a wonderful opportunity to make a long-term improvement to our schools with the help of millions of dollars from the State of Ohio. The cost to each of us, even in these difficult economic times, is very fair and very reasonable. The benefits for our children will be enormous.

Please contact me if you have any questions about the Ohio School Facilities Commission, the proposed new middle school or the levy itself. On Tuesday, November 4th, I am hopeful that you will go to the polls and vote "YES" for the school district's levy. It is a vote for children, for education, and for Fremont.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of our children and their schools.

Traci McCaudy is superintendent of Fremont City Schools