

# Why should you vote no on the Birmingham School Bond?

This bond is a tax increase. If this bond were not on the ballot, your property taxes would decrease beginning with your July 2015 property tax bill and decrease further in coming years.

If the bond passes, you will not see any tax decrease in July.

Additionally:

- It's irresponsible of the district to have this bond issue on the ballot with the sales tax proposal. If passed, the sales tax will provide additional funding to school districts. The school bond should be voted on in November.
- The budget numbers for this bond are not based on competitive bids. Instead, the budget is based on "estimates" made by three paid consultants—mechanical, design and architectural.
- The plan contains inflated budget items. For example:

An average of \$10.29/sq ft to replace 600,000 sq ft. of roofing at 7 schools.  
Conservative replacement costs should be in the \$5-6 sq. ft. range.  
**\$2.5 million+ of waste.**

\$425,000 to replace 8 dugouts for baseball and softball.  
That amounts to \$53,125 for a dugout.

\$300,000 for six LED scoreboards. These scoreboards are available for under \$20,000 each including installation. **\$180,000 of waste.**

\$100,000 to improve "traffic flow" in Seaholm "phantom" football team room.

Spending money irresponsibly does not result in strong schools and stable property values. It results in waste, dubious benefits to scholastic achievement and higher taxes. Demand a better, more accurate, plan that benefits students and protects taxpayers.