

SCHOOL VOTES



| Year | Item | Percentage |
|--|--|------------|
| Cedar Rapids district school votes since 1945 | | |
| 1945 | Building bonds - \$750,000 | 90.6% |
| | Build Cleveland and Kenwood. | 9.4% |
| | Build additions at Arthur and Buchanan. | |
| 1948 | Building bonds - \$2,500,000 | 61.4% |
| | Build and equip Cleveland, Grant Wood and Kenwood (additional funds required above \$750,000 from 1945). Build Kingston Stadium, First Avenue garage and Arthur annex. | 38.6% |
| 1952 | Building bonds - \$7,500,000 | 41.0% |
| | Build 2 high schools, and elementary school, make additions to 5 schools, purchase land. | 59.0% |
| 1953 | Building bonds - \$2,750,000 | 67.5% |
| | Build Erskine, Hoover and Wright. | 32.5% |
| | Build additions at Cleveland, Garfield, Harrison, Hayes, Johnson, Lincoln and Tyler (now Metro). | |
| 1954 | Building bonds - \$5,950,000 | 62.0% |
| | Build Washington and Jefferson. | 38.0% |
| 1959 | Building bonds - \$4,990,000 | 75.3% |
| | Build Fillmore, Grant, Madison and Monroe. | 24.7% |
| | Build additions at Buchanan, Hayes, Kenwood, Polk, Jefferson and Washington. | |
| 1962 | Building bonds - \$3,900,000 | 56.0% |
| | Build Harding and Taft. | 44.0% |
| 1962 | Building bonds - \$3,900,000 | 63.0% |
| | Build Harding and Taft. | 37.0% |
| 1965 | Building bonds - \$4,200,000 | 72.3% |
| | Build Kennedy. | 27.7% |
| 1968 | Building bonds - \$5,900,000 | 67.4% |
| | Build Jackson, Nixon, Squaw Creek and Van Buren. | 32.6% |
| 1974 | Building bonds - \$7,800,000 | 58.0% |
| | Build additions to Franklin and Wilson. Remodel Franklin, McKinley, Roosevelt and Wilson | 42.0% |
| 1974 | Changed the way school board members are elected | 53.5% |
| | Schoolhouse fund - * | 46.5% |
| | 2 1/2 mill | 50.5% |
| | 1/2 mill | 49.5% |
| 1974 | Schoolhouse fund - * | 48.7% |
| | 1/2 mill | 51.3% |
| 1974 | Building bonds - \$8,900,000 | 56.1% |
| | Build additions to Franklin and Wilson. Remodel Franklin, McKinley, Roosevelt and Wilson. | 43.9% |
| 1976 | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 86.6% |
| | Sell Palo School | 13.4% |
| 1976 | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 89.5% |
| | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 10.5% |
| 1976 | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 88.0% |
| | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 12.0% |
| 1976 | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 89.8% |
| | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 10.2% |
| 1978 | Lease Eisenhower Elementary School | 87.3% |
| | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 12.7% |
| 1978 | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 79.2% |
| | Sell potential site for elementary school in Hiawatha | 20.8% |
| 1979 | Sell Eisenhower Elementary School | 83.7% |
| | Sell Hayes Elementary School | 16.3% |
| 1981 | Sell Eisenhower Elementary School | 66.0% |
| | Sell Hayes Elementary School | 34.0% |
| 1981 | Sell Eisenhower Elementary School | 67.9% |
| | Sell Hayes Elementary School | 32.1% |
| 1982 | Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of Fillmore Elementary School | 75.7% |
| | Physical plant and equipment levy - * | 24.3% |
| 1983 | Physical plant and equipment levy - * | 76.3% |
| | 67-1/2 cents, 10 years | 23.7% |
| 1984 | Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of Adams Elementary School | 69.3% |
| | Enrichment tax** | 30.7% |
| 1985 | This combination of income surtax and property tax would have raised \$2.5 million in an effort to avoid cutting district staff and services. | 26.7% |
| | Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of Noelridge Elementary School | 73.3% |
| 1985 | Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of Noelridge Elementary School | 88.6% |
| | Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of Squaw Creek Elementary School | 11.4% |
| 1985 | Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of Squaw Creek Elementary School | 88.3% |
| | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 11.7% |
| 1985 | Sell property that the district no longer needed | 90.5% |
| | Building bonds - \$4,900,000 | 9.5% |
| 1989 | Build gyms at Jefferson, Washington and Kennedy. | 63.3% |
| | Instructional support levy \$4,900,000 | 36.7% |
| 1990 | Instructional support levy \$4,900,000 | 48.4% |
| | Instructional support levy | 51.6% |
| 1991 | Instructional support levy | 71.5% |
| | 4% of program costs for 5 years | 28.5% |
| 1992 | Physical plant and equipment levy 67-1/2 cents, 10 years | 80.7% |
| | Instructional support levy | 19.3% |
| 1995 | Instructional support levy | 32.2% |
| | 10% of program costs for 10 years | 67.8% |
| | Instructional support levy | 52.9% |
| | As much as \$6 million annually for 5 years | 47.1% |

Compiled by Becky Stover
Source: Cedar Rapids School District, Linn County Auditor's Office

Gazette chart

Infrastructure answers

C.R. school board president: Local option tax most viable

By Becky Stover
Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — Opponents of a local option sales tax have asked why, if school building needs are so great, the Cedar Rapids school district didn't ask voters earlier to approve bonds to pay for projects.

Linn County voters on Tuesday will vote on a 1-cent local option sales tax that would provide approximately \$14.8 million a year for the Cedar Rapids schools. The money, by law, has to be spent on school infrastructure. If approved, the tax would be collected for 10 years.

Cedar Rapids school board President Ron Olson said the full extent of the district's facility needs wasn't known until after the district facilities task force completed its study in February.

Superintendent Lew Finch appointed a citizens committee in June 1997 to assess district facilities. In the intervening two years, about 200 parents, teachers, principals and other staffers toured buildings, discussed issues and put together recommendations.

In February, the committee presented its recommendations for district building and repairs — a list that totals about \$114 million, plus interest.

"Over the last 10 years, we knew we had needs at individual buildings, but it might have been as small as replacing a boiler or repairing a parking lot," Olson said. "When it became apparent that we had major facility needs as well as a

need for a new school, we needed to start looking at funding mechanisms."

The local option sales tax became a viable way of funding building improvements when the state approved its use last year, Olson said.

A sales tax requires a simple majority rather than the 60 percent required for a bond issue passage. It seems the least expensive way to fund the projects, Olson said.

The board takes seriously its responsibility to spend taxpayer dollars wisely and has strived to keep property tax rates down, doing capital projects as money was available through the physical plant and equipment levy, Olson said. The district's property tax rate of \$11.88 per \$1,000 assessed value is one of its lowest in recent years.

"We want to live within our budget as allowed within the state," he said. "That's why we have lived with our physical plant and equipment levy fund every year and not asked for more money."

Voters in the Cedar Rapids school district have approved nine of 13 bond issues since 1945, based on district records.

The latest, in March 1989, paid for new gyms at Jefferson and Washington high schools and a practice gym at Kennedy. The district has no bond indebtedness after paying off those \$4.9 million in bonds this summer.

Most of the schools in Cedar Rapids were built in the 1950s,

Vinton couple plead guilty to drug charges

By Kristopher Owens
Gazette staff writer

CEDAR RAPIDS — A rural Vinton husband and wife face 18 months or up to 40 years in prison after pleading guilty Thursday in federal court to charges they were growing 237 marijuana plants in their home Feb. 8.

Judge Michael Melloy scheduled sentencing for Richard and Patricia Biwer, ages 51 and 45, respectively, for Dec. 17.

The two pleaded guilty Thursday to manufacturing and attempting to manufacture marijuana and to aiding and abetting the manufacture of 100 or more marijuana plants.

Originally charged in Benton County Court, the Biwers' case was transferred to federal court because of the large number of plants involved.

The couple said the marijuana was for medicinal reasons, as Richard Biwer suffers from schizophrenia, nausea and other illnesses and Patricia Biwer suffers from chronic fatigue. Melloy told the Biwers that they could qualify for a "safety-valve" provision which could limit their sentence from 18 to 24 months in prison. To qualify, the Biwers must have no criminal history, have no intention of harming or injuring others and cooperate with the government. If those qualifications are



Patricia Biwer
Pleaded guilty



Richard Biwer
Pleaded guilty

not met, the Biwers could be sentenced from five to 40 years in prison.

The Biwers' attorney, Bruce Nestor of Iowa City, said he will try for a "downward departure" sentence based on his clients' medical history. The provision could allow Melloy to offer a lower sentence, possibly with home detention.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Reinert asked Melloy that the Biwers be placed into a federal medical facility for evaluation, but the request was denied.

Melloy said the move would be unfair to the Biwers as they would be away from their attorney and probation officer.

The Biwers were evaluated at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iowa City on Sept. 18. They were jailed pending the evaluation because of suicidal comments they made to a Benton County hotline, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Local Red Cross sends 3 more east

Three more local American Red Cross volunteers are leaving for the East Coast to assist with Hurricane Floyd disaster relief efforts.

Barbara Teahen and Gene and Dot Hinman of the Grant Wood Area Chapter are leaving for New Jersey this weekend.

Teahen and Dot Hinman will be interviewing families and assisting them with any needs they have.

Gene Hinman will help volunteers secure supplies for the

hurricane victims.

Nine local Red Cross volunteers are now assisting victims of the hurricane. The Red Cross has provided food and shelter to more than 200,000 people and has raised \$6 million since the hurricane struck.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

This list shows contributions of \$25 and more reported on campaign finance reports filed by groups supporting and opposing the local option sales tax:

Building for Kids

- \$5,000: Shive-Hattery.
- \$2,000: Alliant Energy Resources; Rockwell Collins; Ryan Companies US; Skogman Companies.
- \$1,000: Firstar; Life Investors Insurance Co.
- \$500: Collins Community Credit Union; Diamond V Mills; Kennedy High School PTA; Kleiman Construction; Millhiser Smith Agency; Moyer and Bergman; Phelan's Interiors; Pioneer Inc.; Fred and Lois Schuchmann; Marty Smith; Toyota Motor Credit Corporation; Washington High School PTA.
- \$499.99: Michael McGrath.
- \$499: Patrick McGrath.

- \$495: Shuttleworth & Ingersoll.
- \$400: Ridgewood LLC.
- \$275: Sheila Harman.
- \$250: Paulson Electric Co.; SCI Financial Group.
- \$200: Steve Allsop; David Evans.
- \$100: Donald Hansen; Doug Kohoutek; Cynthia Monroe; Erik Munson; David and Anne Nordstrom; Fred Timko; Rindernecht Associates; Franklin Middle School PTA; Truman Elementary PTA; Gary Streit;
- \$75: Lew Finch.
- \$50: Beth Hammell; Steve Ovel.
- \$25: Jack Evans; Lauree Gerber; Thomas Hobson; Jeff Hoefler; Dave Krueger; Petroleum Equipment and Service; Patricia Read Stevenson.

A LOT

- \$25: Phil Morris, Ivan Hand, Dale Fitzgibbons.

1960s and early 1970. Garfield and Arthur elementary schools opened in 1915, and Harrison in 1930.

Jackson, Nixon, Squaw Creek and Van Buren schools were the last Cedar Rapids schools to be paid for with a bond issue — in October 1968.

A federal grant paid for most of the construction of the district's newest building, Taylor Elementary, which opened in 1973 as a school for children with disabilities. It was later converted into a regular grade school.

The district has reopened five of the 14 schools closed during the 1970s and 1980s, a period of declining enrollment. The other

buildings were sold in lieu of paying maintenance costs on empty buildings and to avoid the risk of vandalism, said former school board member Mary Ann Kucera.

Eight bond issues, totaling nearly \$31 million, were passed between 1945 and 1968.

Accountant Eric Rosenthal adjusted for inflation the property tax investment in Cedar Rapids schools: \$26 million in the 1940s, \$97 million in the 1950s, \$132 million in the 1960s, \$54 million in the 1970s, \$46 million in the 1980s and \$26 million in the 1990s.

Contact writer Becky Stover at (319) 398-8219 or beckys@fjowa.com

Jury still deliberating Tumey murder case

Will resume work today in 1980 case

Gazette staff report

TIPTON — Fifteen hours of deliberation over two days have failed to produce a verdict in the first-degree murder case here that took 19 years to bring to trial.

The jury resumes its work in the Dean Ray Tumey case today.

Tumey, now 54, is accused of brutally beating and strangling 17-year-old acquaintance Sandra Jo Pittman in September 1980 and leaving her body in a Highway 30 rest area near Clarence.

Prosecutors have centered their case on a confession that authorities say Tumey made to them in 1990 and his reaffirmation of the confes-

sion in 1992. Early on, Tumey was a suspect.

Defense attorneys say Tumey's confessions represent either delusions that long have been part of his mental illness, paranoid schizophrenia, or the attention-seeking exaggerations of a longtime mental patient trying to get medical care.

Tumey did not testify at trial, but in recent comments made to a prosecution psychiatrist in late August, he said he did not kill the girl. He witnessed three men kill her and has wrestled with guilt for years for not intervening to stop them, he told the psychiatrist.

For updates on this story call 363-7000 or 337-7000, category 2552.

IRRITABLE BOWEL STUDY

Women 18-years of age or older may be interested in participating in a study for the control of bowel urgency with diarrhea predominant irritable bowel syndrome.

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Dedication set for Barthel addition

DECORAH — A \$1.8 million addition to the Barthel Eastern Star Nursing Home will be dedicated today in a cornerstone-laying ceremony conducted by the Grand Lodge of Iowa. An occupancy is expected in February.

The Arlin Falck Assisted Living Building will consist of 16 apartments and a commons area when it is completed.