

What was the reason for your vote choice?

Supportive Themes

1. Commitment to Education and Facilities

- Many residents voiced strong support for updated, safe, and modern school buildings—particularly for Edgewood Elementary, which was frequently cited as being outdated, in poor condition, and a top priority for replacement.
- Numerous individuals emphasized that investment in education is an investment in the community’s future, citing the importance of quality learning environments for students, staff, and families.
- Several community members noted they supported the proposal because it would not increase the current millage rate, but rather extend the existing one.

2. Broader Community Benefits

- Supporters believe that upgraded facilities will improve student outcomes, draw new families to the district, support local businesses, and attract quality educators.
- Early childhood education, before/after school care, and extracurricular infrastructure (e.g., concessions, bathrooms, soccer fields) were also seen as necessary components to modernize and support the whole student experience.

3. Staff and Parent Endorsements

- Staff and parents from Edgewood, ECC, and other schools frequently shared firsthand experiences of outdated, inadequate facilities.
 - Several voters expressed trust in the long-term vision and planning done by the district and appreciated the efforts made to educate the public.
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Critical Feedback and Concerns

1. Cost and Financial Burden

- A significant number of voters expressed that the proposal requested too much money, especially in the current economic climate where residents are struggling with rising property values, inflation, and other increasing costs.
- Although the proposal was presented as a continuation, some felt it was still a net increase compared to what they expected if the current millage expired. Concerns about affordability and future tax rates were common.
- Suggestions were made to scale down the project, focusing only on urgent building needs and avoiding perceived “extras” like athletic facilities.

2. Transparency and Communication

- Several commenters indicated a desire for more detailed, transparent breakdowns of project costs, current bond debt, and how new business developments would offset future tax burdens.
- A few voters expressed skepticism over spending decisions by district leadership, including concerns about perceived waste, ISD overhead, and administrative expenses (e.g., retreats).
- Some felt overwhelmed by the campaign outreach and questioned the cost of marketing the proposal.

3. Project Scope and Prioritization

- While there was strong support for replacing Edgewood and updating elementary schools, others criticized the inclusion of new athletic facilities (especially the soccer field and concessions), saying those should be secondary to academic and safety-related upgrades.
- Some expressed the desire for a leaner plan that would consolidate elementary schools to reduce long-term operational costs.

4. Misinformation, Missed Votes, and Regret

- Several individuals reported not voting due to being out of town, thinking the proposal would pass easily, or misunderstanding the tax impact.
- Others, upon learning more after the vote, expressed regret for not supporting the proposal and stated they would vote "yes" in the future.

Conclusion

The feedback reveals a divided but deeply engaged community. There is widespread agreement that Edgewood needs replacement, and many see the value in investing in updated school facilities for the long-term benefit of students and the community. However, concerns about cost, transparency, and prioritization of funds must be addressed more clearly in any future proposal to build broader consensus and trust.