



# VOTE NO! on the Education Reduction Referendum

April 2nd

- ✓ Vote NO to DEEP and DAMAGING School Cuts
- ✓ Vote NO to DECLINING Home Values
- ✓ Vote NO to FRACTURING our Community



## MythBusters: Volume #2 – A Intro Page on “Yes 4 Less” Facebook page

**Yes 4 Less Lisle 202 Taxes**  
February 6 at 11:00 AM · 🌐

What this is all about:

Lisle CUSD 202 School Board in Lisle, IL has implemented a policy of deliberate overtaxation of its property owners. This has gone on for many years and is continuing, despite a growing outcry from its citizenry. In addition, the district has been underrunning its operating budget by an average of \$2M/year (over 6%), and plowing these savings back into their reserves.

The result is the school district building a new school without needing to ask the public via a referendum - funding it 64% from reserves. Additionally, the school district settled five years of overtaxation lawsuits brought by a small group of business owners who were refunded \$775,000 this past spring. Lisle CUSD 202 is landlocked and has experienced steadily declining enrollment (17% since 2003-2004).

Because of this deliberate overtaxation, Lisle CUSD 202 is the second highest funded school district in DuPage County (149%). The Illinois State Legislature and Governor has recognized this cash hoarding phenomena that is occurring in 202 and in other school districts. In the new school funding bill signed into law on 8/31/2017, the governor and legislature provide a legal mechanism for citizenry of overfunded school districts to modestly scale back the tax levy extension they are incurring.

In October, 2017, over 100 citizens attended a school board meeting requesting a tax abatement from the school board. The school board not only rejected the abatement request but voted to continue their established policy of raising the tax levy on property owners by the maximum amount allowed by state law without having to go to referendum. With no other option to secure tax relief, a group of over two dozen homeowners collected signatures from 14% of the residents to place a referendum on the April, 2019 ballot asking voters whether they want to receive a one-time tax levy extension reduction equating to 6.5% of the school district's current tax levy extension. This petition survived court challenges and will be on the April 2019 ballot.

While the subject of school funding triggers many emotional reactions, we have focused solely on facts people can independently verify. We did extensive analysis and if we thought for one moment the referendum would negatively impact teachers, students or student services, we would not have moved forward with the petition. We continue to hold that viewpoint.

**BUSTED**  
See C4LK.ORG for the Truth

**WRONG:** . FALSE: LISLE 202 is NOT OVER TAXING. The tax rates for LISLE 202 are completely consistent with the tax rates of neighboring communities and have been consistent for years

**MISLEADING & WRONG:** While LISLE 202 did have a \$2MM surplus in FY2018, that is not expected to continue. FY2019 projections show a surplus of only \$6,000. Lisle 202 only has a modest reserve; policy is to maintain 3-6 months of operating expense in the reserve and the current reserve is within that range

**MISLEADING:** LISLE 202 saved money by postponing large scale capital projects on existing schools and used that money for a new school. Building a new school without raising taxes is something Lisle 202 should be applauded for not criticized

**WRONG:** LISLE 202's enrollment is increasing and expected to further increase with the new school

**MISLEADING:** LISLE 202 chooses to spend more on higher quality teachers, lower class sizes, extensive special education and greater opportunities for their students. There is nothing wrong with paying more to better educate your children, we should be proud we can offer more for our kids

**MISLEADING:** Many of the 100 people in attendance did not support a tax abatement and were there to support the schools

**WRONG:** A \$1,200,000 reduction each and every year would require Lisle 202 to cut 20+ positions. To have any chance of even discussing this point, please provide your view of a 10 year financial projection