

# Ballot Issue Arguments



## Reasons For:

**Argument 1:** With Lewis-Palmer School District 38 underfunded compared to all regional schools, and D38 staff underpaid by about 10% compared to those same schools, this initiative would provide a much-needed boost at a critical time, preserving educational quality and promoting stability in schools, combating a high 26.5% turnover rate.

**Argument 2:** A fixed mill rate, as opposed to a fixed dollar amount Mill Levy Override means the initiative can go as the community goes, and it will not lose its buying power over time, as the 1999 fixed-dollar MLO has. The 1999 MLO has lost 44% of its impact over time due to being a fixed dollar amount, and not adjusting for growth or inflation.

**Argument 3:** As stability of the district is a vital point of this ballot initiative, a sunset clause is not included in this to specifically create funding stability for operations. This means D38 and its staff will have certainty on future annual funding, which stabilizes its competitive position compared to peer districts.

**Argument 4:** This Mill Levy Override will allow Lewis-Palmer School District 38 to be competitive with surrounding school districts. Currently, all surrounding school districts receive significantly more funding than D38. To simply get to the regional average within this comparison, D38 needs \$890 more per pupil, or 8.5% of our Per Pupil Funding.

## Reasons Against:

**Argument 1:** This would increase the tax burden on residents, with a \$500,000 house absorbing about \$260 in increased taxes.

**Argument 2:** As it is a fixed mill rate, taxes will proportionately increase slightly as property values increase. (IE: 5% growth in property value = 5% growth in property tax)

**Argument 3:** This Mill Levy Override will impact the community in perpetuity, as there is no sunset clause.

**Argument 4:** This Mill Levy Override does not get D38 to a funding leadership position with neighboring districts. D38 would still be in the middle of the pack in terms of funding.