

BELLBROOK SUGARCREEK LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

6/11/2019 – 6/14/2019

N=252, +/- 6.17%

Registered Voters

(percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding)



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Q. 1. Generally speaking, would you say that [Greene/Warren] County is going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

67.9% Right direction
9.5 Wrong track
2 Mixed/both (volunteered)
20.6 Unsure/no answer

Looking at some local matters in the particular area where you live...

Q. 2. Do you think that property taxes in the area where you live are too high, generally pretty fair or too low?

62.3% Too high
32.9 Pretty fair
0 Too low
4.8 Unsure/no answer

Q. 3. Thinking about the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District that serves your community, would you say that it is generally going in the right direction, or has it gotten off onto the wrong track?

61.5% Right direction
24.2 Wrong track
4 Mixed/both (volunteered)
10.3 Unsure/no answer

Turning to look more closely at the local school system...

Q. 4. Overall, how would you rate the quality of education being provided by the Bellbrook Sugarcreek schools? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?

91.2% TOTAL POSITIVE RATING

57.9 Excellent
33.3 Good

3.2% Fair

1.2% TOTAL NEGATIVE RATING

- .4 Poor
- .8 Very poor
- 4.4% Unsure/no answer

Q. 5. Generally speaking, how would you rate the work being done by the classroom teachers in the Bellbrook Sugarcreek schools? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?

78.1% TOTAL POSITIVE RATING

- 46.4 Excellent
- 31.7 Good

8.7% Fair

.7% TOTAL NEGATIVE RATING

- .7 Poor
- 0 Very poor

12.7% Unsure/no answer

Q. 6. Would you generally say that the amount of information you get from the Bellbrook Sugarcreek School Local District is too much, about the right amount or too little?

- 2% Too much
- 70.6 Right amount
- 21 Too little
- .8 Do not want any information from district (volunteered)
- 5.6 Unsure/no answer

Q. 7. How do you get most of your information about the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District? Is it by...

(randomly rotated)

- 6.3% Reading the newspaper
- 27 Reading the school district's newsletter
- 6.3 Visit the school district's website
- 16.3 Talking with parents and kids who attend the schools
- 6.3 Talking with teachers that work at the schools...or...
- 9.1 Social media, such as Twitter and Facebook
- 21 All/combination (volunteered)
- 5.2 Other (volunteered – recorded response)
- 2.4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 8. Over the last year, have you seen or noticed any news, information or posts about the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District on social media, such as the Facebook and Twitter accounts of friends, parents or others in the community?

- 56% Yes
- 32.9 No – skipped next question
- .8 Do not recall (volunteered) – skipped next question
- 8.7 Do not use social media (volunteered) – skipped next question
- 1.6 Unsure/no answer – skipped next question

Q. 9. Generally speaking, was most of the information you saw on social media favorable or unfavorable towards the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District?

n=141

- 43.3% Favorable
- 27.7 Unfavorable
- 25.5 Mixed/some of both (volunteered)
- 1.4 Do not recall (volunteered)
- 2.1 Unsure/no answer

Turning to school finances...

Q. 10. In your opinion, how would you rate the job that the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District does spending tax money and managing its budget? Would you say it is excellent, good, fair, poor or very poor?

47.6% TOTAL POSITIVE RATING

- 13.1 Excellent
- 34.5 Good

22.2% Fair

18.2% TOTAL NEGATIVE RATING

- 10.7 Poor
- 7.5 Very poor

11.9% Unsure/no answer

Q. 11. At this time, would you say that the amount of money and other compensation being paid to teachers is too much, about the right amount, too little or do you not know enough about this matter to have an opinion?

- 13.9% Too much
- 30.6 Right amount
- 9.1 Too little
- 44.4 Do not have an opinion

2 Unsure/no answer

Q. 12. At this time, would you say that the amount of money the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District receives from the State of Ohio is too much, about the right amount, too little or do you not know enough about this matter to have an opinion?

2.4% Too much
7.9 Right amount
42.5 Too little
45.2 Do not have an opinion
2 Unsure/no answer

Q. 13. Do you think the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District...(rotated)...needs more money, regardless of whether it comes from the local taxpayers or the state...or...has enough money, but needs to do a better job of spending it?

31% Needs more
53.6 Has enough
15.5 Unsure/no answer

As you may or may not know, in May an operating levy for additional funding for the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District was defeated...

Q. 14. Which of the following would you say is the biggest reason that voters in your community voted against it? Was it because...

(randomly rotated)

13.1% The school district did not seek enough community input
.4 Voters were unhappy with the quality of education in the schools
18.3 Voters did not think the money was needed
40.9 Voters could not afford the additional taxes...or...
5.2 The school district should have gotten more state money
8.7 All/combination (volunteered)
9.9 Other reason (volunteered – recorded response)
3.6 Unsure/no answer

Q. 15. As a result of the levy defeat, do you think the school district should...(rotated)...request a lower amount next year and make moderate reductions in spending and staffing...or...avoid increasing taxes altogether and make major reductions in spending and staffing?

57.9% Request a lower amount next year/moderate reductions
29.4 Make enough reductions/so no new taxes needed
12.7 Unsure/no answer

Thinking more about this...

(SPLIT SAMPLE – Randomly assigned to version A or B)

Q. 16A. Would you support or oppose an additional 5.9 mill property tax levy for a continuing period of time, if it was on the ballot next year?

- 35.1% Support – skipped next question
- 52.3 Oppose
- 12.6 Unsure/no answer – skipped next question

Q. 16B. Would you support or oppose an additional 3 mill property tax levy for 5 years, if it was on the ballot next year?

- 36.9% Support – skipped next question
- 40.4 Oppose
- 22.7 Unsure/no answer – skipped next question

Q. 17. What is the biggest reason that you would oppose it?

n=115

- 49.6% Taxes are too high/do not want taxes to increase
- 23.5 Financial mismanagement/wrong spending priorities
- 11.3 Cannot afford it/financial hardship
- 4.3 The levy amount is too high
- 9.6 Other
- 1.7 Unsure/no answer

Q. 18. Supposing that the district does have to reduce spending, which of the following would you prefer to have done to lower the budget? Is it...

(randomly rotated)

- 30.6% Make class sizes a little bigger
- 2.8 Reduce the number of teachers
- 3.6 Eliminate some art, music, physical education and STEM classes
- 18.3 Reduce busing transportation...or...
- 15.5 Cut some sports and extracurricular programs
- 8.3 None of them (volunteered)
- 5.6 All/combination (volunteered)
- 5.6 Other (volunteered – recorded)
- 9.9 Unsure/no answer

Q. 19. Still supposing that the district does have to reduce spending, which of the following do you most strongly feel should not be done in order to lower the budget? Is it...

(randomly rotated)

- 11.9% Make class sizes a little bigger
- 20.6 Reduce the number of teachers
- 25 Eliminate some art, music, physical education and STEM classes
- 12.7 Reduce busing transportation...or...
- 9.5 Cut some sports and extracurricular programs
- 5.6 None of them (volunteered)
- 8.3 All/combination (volunteered)
- .8 Other (volunteered – recorded)
- 5.6 Unsure/no answer

Finally, I have a few short questions for statistical purposes...

Q. 20. I would like to read you a list of age groups. Please stop me when I get to the one you are in.

- 36.5% 18 to 44
- 35.3 45 to 64
- 25.8 65 and older
- 2.4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 21. Which of the following do you consider to be your main race? Is it...

- 85.3% White
- 3.2 African-American
- 2 Hispanic or Latino
- 2 Asian or Indian...or...
- 3.2 Something else
- 0 Mixed race (volunteered)
- 4.4 Unsure/no answer

Q. 22. Do you have any children who will be enrolled in a Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District public school during the upcoming school year that begins in August?

- 50% Yes
- 49.2 No
- .8 Unsure/no answer

23) Gender:

- 48% Male
- 52 Female



VERBATIM RESPONSES

Q. 7. How do you get most of your information about the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District? (extraneous answers)

I visit the schools.

Email.

Emails from the school.

Through my realtor.

Email.

Emails.

Emails from the school district.

Emails from the schools.

Emails from the principal.

The principal's email.

Emails.

Through mail.

I get my information by email.

Q. 7. How do you get most of your information about the Bellbrook Sugarcreek Local School District? (extraneous answers)

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VERBATIM RESPONSES

Q. 14. Which of the following would you say is the biggest reason that voters in your community voted against it? (extraneous answers)

Fed up with the taxes of wanting more and more and was getting a stadium for free legal funding is not available in Ohio, so it's put on the taxpayers' backs.

Voters are too stingy to spend enough money to ensure the future of their children.

I think they did not go vote.

Voters did not agree with the way money is being managed.

The administration was paid too high.

I think our community is overtaxed.

I think they do not spend the money wisely.

Advertisements. They did not put out enough. It was more 'Vote No' signs than there was people, plus online everything was negative. They need to be more positive out there. The signage itself, you could not make heads or tails of it driving down the road.

I think the people that voted, their kids were out of school, so they voted against it.

I think voters did not think they needed it.

They use tactics unfairly.

Q. 14. Which of the following would you say is the biggest reason that voters in your community voted against it? (extraneous answers)

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Within the past two months property taxes were increased, so they were not going to approve another raise.

Transparency on the money they spend.

Too big of an increase.

People don't understand where the money is going.

There was a pretty aggressive ad campaign against it.

Money was not being appropriated correctly.

The school should watch how they spend the money.

The overall taxes were too high.

Too much negative press.

A lot of the votes came from people who don't have kids in the school system.

They asked for too much.

Public figures against it.

A local bully selling propaganda.

Someone decided that they needed to steal money from the state.



VERBATIM RESPONSES

Q. 17. What is the biggest reason that you would oppose it?

I pay a lot for the school as it is. There isn't a lot of transparency with what they are using the money for.

The school district is not very open with how they are spending the money.

Because they don't use the money they are getting wisely; it's going in the administrators' pockets and not the school.

The overall taxes are too high in Sugarcreek.

I do not think money is spent wisely; I suspect there is graft and people get overpaid.

I am not ssure.

I think they should work with what they have.

Because of the increase in property values based on revaluation of property values and increase in property taxes, due to percentage of the value. In other words, we pay higher taxes anyway.

Taxes are high. Water is high. Our city council has not managed the growth in Greene County appropriately to maximize tax opportunities.

Both of us are retired, so our income drops dramatically and so we need to budget.

We are senior citizens and our children have never gone to the Bellbrook Sugarcreek schools and they have too much and need to cut back.

We are paying too many taxes already. They need to cut some programs.

They build these schools and we don't need them. They don't need what they are spending.

There is a lack of trust for the Board of Education.

Our taxes are too high.

Projections of student enrollment is going down in the next 5 years.

I think with all of the new houses, and everything, they have so much money they just need to manage the money better.

I would want to be reassured that they are spending the money wisely.

They have not been responsible with the money we have trusted them with.

We pay too much at the local level and the state keeps demanding more and we are at the breaking point.

Because they need to control the spending on schools.

The budget is adequate as it exists, they need to reduce their spending.

That is like giving money away. The school does not need any more money.

I think our taxes are too high now.

Because I do not want to pay any more taxes.

According to the news, I see that they are wanting to threaten the community that have children by doing away with bus routes.

I think in the times we are in right now, a lot of people are still without work and we are struggling with the economy.

I feel that it is not needed at this time.

Taxes are too high right now; I can't afford it anymore.

They have had every levy pass that I am aware of, other than the last one. I think they need to take the money they receive and do something better with it.

Because it's too high for the community of elderly people; we are on fixed incomes.

There are just too many taxes right now.

Property taxes are definitely on the high end in this area.

I don't know.

There is a lack of documentation proving that they need it.

My taxes are out of sight already.

Because three-fourths of our tax money goes to the school now and we pay too much in taxes right now.

It is still too large and it's continuing the amount that is still too much.

We are looking to retire and we get no raises. His pension was cut 70 percent, so we just can't afford any more taxes.

I do not want to pay higher property taxes.

Additional taxes are too much.

They spend money like there is an endless supply. The requests are unconstitutional.

Taxes are too high already.

The property tax, in comparison to other locations, is very high.

We already pay enough property taxes.

Our taxes are high enough.

I just don't think we can afford to pay more taxes we pay enough now.

I think they are requesting too much, and they should benefit from the increased property additions. As the population increases, a smaller mill, like two or three mill, could pass, but when you ask for 5.9 or 6, it is too much.

They are not managing their money well enough.

Our taxes are already too high in Greene County, that includes the taxes going to our schools.

Our property taxes are already too high.

I already pay \$4,500 a year in taxes. \$2,900 goes to Sugarcreek Schools, so I am paying way too much already. So, I would not support it.

Property taxes are too high.

I cannot afford a higher tax increase.

Our township is overtaxed.

I believe our property taxes are high enough in this community already.

The current taxation system to pay for schools is a poor choice. They need to find voluntary means to receive revenue.

The school district needs more state funding.

I do not want to pay more taxes.

Don't feel that the school board has done an adequate job getting money from the state.

I do not want substantially increased property taxes.

Property taxes are too high.

Property taxes are really high in relation to most towns.

Don't think that they have showed the need for the money and I don't think they are spending wisely.

The money is not going to the correct places.

I don't see the justification on why they need more money in the school system.

It is already high enough. We have other priorities to take care of.

I believe that the property tax that we are paying is more than enough for them to do what they need to do.

The taxes are too high now in Bellbrook.

One, it is unaffordable. Two, it will hurt property taxes for home sellers. Three, the school board and Bellbrook community as a whole need be better stewards of the taxpayer's money.

We are taxed enough.

I'm tired of paying these high taxes.

Teachers are overpaid and there is too much political dialogue in the schools.

Because our taxes are already too high.

I only have so much money, everything goes up and up. I can't operate a family in the red, just like they can't operate a family in the red; so, they need to make some cutbacks.

I need to figure out what they use the money they have now for.

The reason is that I don't have children in the school system, so it doesn't matter to me. A lot of it makes my property taxes go up, so I am against it.

I have no income and I still have to pay it. They had raised it 20 percent on my taxes last year and they are adding in all the new homes.

Too much money.

My taxes are too high.

Because, for the working class and the fixed income people, it would put a lot of burden; it's hurting the taxpayer.

Too high and I don't have the money.

Because the levy is forever; five years is a long time.

I think we currently pay enough in taxes.

They can't keep raising taxes just to pay more to teachers.

Because the taxes go too high and taxes here are already very high.

The school district was not transparent enough with what exactly they needed the additional funds for.

They are taking too many things away and raising all this stuff and, in my opinion, they should have left it as it was years ago.

My taxes are high enough.

Our property taxes are already too high as it is.

Because my property taxes are already too high and if they can't work with what they have, then we need new people in office.

It sounds like taxpayers would have to pay more taxes.

Voters cannot afford it and it is a mismanagement of funds.

No new taxes.

The school must help the taxpayer by telling us why they need an increase in taxes. Our taxes are too high right now.

Until all the information is out there about how things are spent and where the money is going, I oppose it.

They need to budget the money they have now better.

Because I already pay \$1,100 a year in taxes.

I think that they need to spend more wisely with the money that they have, and they get enough from taxpayers.

I mean, Sugarcreek is already expensive as it is. They don't need to add any more to the cost of living.

Again, unless they can be very specific about how the money will be spent, I will oppose it.

Voters can't afford it. Get rid of the dumb books and unnecessary costs.

I would need to have more input and I would need more information as to why they would need it and how much; you must explain to the community why there is a need for the money and where it is going to go. Right now, the schools seem to be doing fine.

Increasing taxes. I do not want to pay more taxes.

Property taxes are already too high.

Property taxes would be higher, and I don't want higher property taxes.

Many people can't afford it.

I got my tax bill and it's too high.

I would rather not have taxes raised.

The taxes are already too high, and we need more government support.

I don't want my taxes going up, they are high enough as is.

Because there are other areas, not in Greene County, that need it.

We pay too much in taxes. The state does not allocate to the schools. I lived in other places where we paid less taxes and the schools had enough money.

As a rule, I never vote for a continuing levy.

There is too much taxes that are being levied against homeowners and not enough support from the state. It is not fair to the taxpayers and the community.



VERBATIM RESPONSES

Q. 18. Supposing that the district does have to reduce spending, which of the following would you prefer to have done to lower the budget? (extraneous answers)

Cut their pay.

Reduce reliance on technology.

Reduce the salaries of the teachers and administrators.

Cut administrative staff.

Eliminate from the top.

They should just do a better job spending their money without cutting programs. They get a lot of money.

Cut money from the superintendent and other people that manage the district; don't cut teachers, absolutely not.

Manage the money better.

Paying for college tuition for students, because they can afford their own.

Cut administrative salaries and superintendent salaries.

Cut staff.

Pay the superintendent less money.

Q. 18. Supposing that the district does have to reduce spending, which of the following would you prefer to have done to lower the budget? (extraneous answers)

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Cut out athletics.

They are cherry picking things that are important to people to get a yes vote out of them and not pointing out other things that they can spend money on.

Q. 18. Supposing that the district does have to reduce spending, which of the following would you prefer to have done to lower the budget? (extraneous answers)

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VERBATIM RESPONSES

Q. 19. Still supposing that the district does have to reduce spending, which of the following do you most strongly feel should not be done in order to lower the budget? (extraneous answers)

Cut some administration.

They have to work with what they have.

Q. 19. Still supposing that the district does have to reduce spending, which of the following do you most strongly feel should not be done in order to lower the budget? (extraneous answers)

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