

Comments Received Through CFAC Web Site from 10/20/06 - 11/22/06

Submission	City	State	Zip	Children at WCPSS?	Comments	Comments Received
24	Apex	NC	27502	Yes	Succinctly, here are my thoughts on MYR... MYR is not good for my family, in that my children's ages are staggered and they will always be on different levels / schedules. If the bond fails (I think it will, due to the MYR clause and the fact that there are a lot of voters who don't have school children), when it comes to year round education, please either extend the volunteer year round system instead of MYR, or else apply 100% MYR in Wake County, without exception! Keeping our families on the same schedule is more important than making sure HS football teams can practice together. Thank You for your time and consideration.	10/24/06
25	Raleigh	NC	27613	No	I have been a resident of wake county for 25 years. My 3 kids went through wake county schools. I have always supported the bond issues but not this time. You have gone way overboard and are spending like drunken sailors. Spending \$22 million to renovate an elementary school is outrageous. Building high schools on 70 acres of land with 3 football fields is way over the top. With the incredible need in this county we need to get back to basics. We need to build elementary schools for 10 million or less so that we can build more. Four waalls,, plumbing, heat and air conditioning cut out the frills. Build them all the same to same costs. We need to build as many schools as we can, not the biggest, best with all the bells and whistles on them. get back to the basics. please spend our money wisely and effeciently. because of this recent foolish spending and outrageous costs per school, i can't support this bond issue. the money well is running dry, you are taxes us to death and you will ultimately kill the economic golden goose with taxes. we have the highest gas tax in the southeast as well as the highest income and sales tax. our sales tax is higher than new jersey and our income tax is higher than Pennsylvania. now we are adding toll roads to the mix. let's get practical and spend taxpayers money more effeciently.	10/24/06
26	Raleigh	NC	27614	No	The primary thing I do not understand about new school construction in Wake County is the materials and design of schools recently completed. While the Brier Creek Elementary school is attractive and probably very nice for students and teachers. It could have easily been constructed using basic concrete block construction at a much cheaper price. Why are we spending so much on appearance and amenity items when we could build more basic schools that get the job done at a lower cost. Additionally, it seems that the recently completed schools are far too small to accommodate demand. You are not taking advantage of the site when you don't build a large structure. Thus, we see trailers in front of recently completed schools.	10/27/06
27	Cary	NC	27511	No	How did you come up with the number '970 million' for the bond referendum?	10/27/06

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28	Zebulon	NC	27597	No	I am in my forties and I have never had any children nor do I plan on having any. I do not appreciate having to continually pay higher taxes for the sake of education when the teachers receive low pay. I thought the lottery was suppose to help take care of these financial issues for education--it appears that a lot of money is spent daily on lottery tickets but the amount going to education appears to be very small. One way to help save a little money is go back to having graduations at the school instead of paying thousands of dollars each year on renting a space--this adds up over time. Another suggestion--you have all of these Winn Dixie stores sitting in communities all over the county--renovate and put them to good use. Last comment--let the people with the kids (populating the schools) pay higher taxes to take care of the school over population--"x" amount per child--I am TIRED of paying!!!!!!!!!!!!	10/31/06
29	Raleigh	NC	27607	Yes	Learn from other cities. I used to live in Minneapolis, MN where they built school with 3 stories. It's cheaper to build a big one than 2 little one. School around Raleigh are small. Also, they built 2 schools for 7th to 9th and 10 to 12th grade right next to each other. The 2 schools can share facilities such as swimming pool, football field, track field, parking lot ... etc. They even share school buses and bus routes. One school starts at 8am the other starts at 8:30am.	10/31/06
30	Raleigh	NC	27609	Yes	Have you/are you as a group publicly endorsing the bond? Why/why not?	11/1/06
31	Knightdale	NC	27545	Yes	Why doesn't Wake Co. use impact fees to pass along much of the cost for expanding schools, fire/rescue/police services, water/sewage, etc to the people who are moving into the area? We have great services but they are being stressed by the rapid growth. Growth is good but the quality of these services suffers because of rapid growth. Growth needs to be balanced with expansion of services. It seems to me that impact fees will slow growth and provide the income needed to expand services.	11/1/06
32	Wake Forest	NC	27587	No	This is regarding the bond referendum. First, I will have one daughter attending school in a couple of years. Could you tell me whether the bond money will be spent in our area? I don't understand how much the bond impact will be, based on \$0.13/day per \$100,000 of assessed value, I guess that amounts to approximately \$80, in additional property taxes for our house assessed at \$167,652 in 2011. Is that correct? Third, why don't you people in the planning first go to the state, get permission or whatever you need to go after the builders? I'm very irritated that none of you care to ask them for this. All I've read is, "we could do it if we asked them for permission." Well, why don't you ask them for permission? Yes, it'll cost more to buy a *new* house. But, I'd like new residential developments to cost more money, so that my house actually appreciates! Plus, new developments tend to stress our existing ecosystem. By the way, with all that money you guys get, why don't you pay the teachers a living wage instead of enriching your bureaucrats?	11/1/06

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33	Raleigh	NC	27610	Yes	The only reason we have a problem with overcrowding, is do the abundance of homes being built in Wake County. We have to get the housing market under control. All we have to do is developed a formula that will figure out, for every x amount of households built, a new school has to be built. It's public record the plans for development, so we know how many houses people plan to build. With that, we could put it in a formula and once we are projected to hit the magic number, a school has to be built. If a school can't be built, then we have to put a moratorium on house building. If we do that, realtors will balk, but it will start people our school system in the minds of everyone. I have to commute an hour away to go to work, other people can do that too. It is imperative that we find a way to keep up with the growth of Wake County and it is the only way that makes sense.	11/7/06
34	Wake Forest	NC	27587	No	I would like to have detailed and specific information about the bonds that were just approved for education. For example, I'd like the name of the underwriter, the coupon amount, the projected date of issue, par value, and the names of agencies and brokerages from whom I can buy these bonds (if appealing enough). Thank you.	11/8/06
35	Raleigh	NC	27612	No	I am pleased and supported the School Bond issue that passed yesterday. I do believe we need to work with those individuals not supporting the bond issue and help provide confidence in the spending of the funds for new construction. Let's build basic structures, not a new design for each school. The square footage can flex with specific needs. However costs can be contained with a 'cookie cutter' approach and help us get more 'bang for each taxpayer dollar'.	11/8/06
36	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	I am one of the 93,000 who do not support this corrupt bond, the first time ever that I have not supported a bond for schools. When you force year round schools you will not have my support or those in our community. There is a better way that can be found with thoughtful leadership that is not driven by an altruistic agenda. I am surprised that business leaders do not understand the negative impact this school board's decision will have on our community. Offer choice, mandatory is not right!	11/8/06
37	Cary	NC	27519	Yes	I am very unhappy about year round. I will have a child in middle school for two years of year-round and a child in high school. I voted for the bond and will campaign against any others until they do smart growth and have developers help pay or donate land for schools.	11/9/06
38	Wake Forest	NC	27587	No	I am concerned with the planning, management and allocation of the bond funds. While Wake County talks about the need for space they have not simplified their building process. Why haven't they gone to a standardized plan for building schools. The county could save millions of dollars if they designed and build one type of school for all new elementary, middle school, and high school. With the high cost of engineering and architectural fees a standardized plan would improve costs and get buildings completed quicker.	11/9/06

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39	Raleigh	NC	27615	No	My comments are relative to the school construction which will result from the recent Bond Issue being approved. These same comments were presented earlier to several Wake County Commissioners and Citizen Groups who were in support of the Bond Issue. There appears to be a number of significant options that could employed to reduce the overall costs of this program. These are listed below: 1. Reduce land acquisition costs by foregoing the historical 'Campus' plans employed over the years. 2. Do not 'Custom' design each and every new school. Adopt basic facilities design to reduce architectural fees, make available volume purchaing discounts for basic materials and capitol equipment. 3. Expand the use of multiple story structures to reduce the acreage needs of the school facilities. 4. Provide real time program oversight to avoid significant project cost inflation as demonstrated in the cost history of programs such as the RBC Center, Raleigh Convention Center and most recently the Raleigh Underground Parking Garage. The now defunct TTA program is another example. I would also appreciate information regarding the total number of seats available today in the existing schools and the current enrollment of legally authorized students i.e. bonified Wake County residents.	11/9/06
40	Raleigh	NC	27616	No	A great way to raise childrens' awareness of energy conservation and save operating expense at the same time in our schools: Go to this site to see Powersmiths high efficiency transformers 'Window on the World' display we installed at K-12 in St Augustine FL. http://216.191.205.170/ I have met and presented to Jyoti Sharma and Robert Bittner but so far we have not been considered for any particular school upfit or new construction. DUKE Univ. recently cancelled an order for 30+ transformers for their new French Science building and instead installed our Powersmiths high efficiency units. Payback is usually less than 24 mmonths, and then significant energy usage reduction and cost savings occur for the life of the product which is 40-50 years! Lighting and HVAC are always the first areas we usually think of for energy savings targets but the controls for these items can get out of adjustment or operators can set them incorrectly, and continual maintenance is a major expense and requirement! The results can be that these items can actually end up operating at worse efficiency than before 'inprovemnets' were made! Not so with distribution transformers - no controls, no adjustments, no maintenance ever required! I offer to show proof of our products and welcome a chance to discuss how WCPSS can save OpEx in the range of 10's of thousands of \$'s annually - money that can be better spent on items that educate our students instead of paying for wasted energy and unecessary extra heat being generated by low efficiency electrical distribution transformers. Please examine further - thanks.	11/9/06
41	Raleigh	NC	27617	No	Post Election - Bond Comments and Considerations for the Future Sirs: Now that the bond issue has passed (I voted Yes), it is time to reconsider plans for future capital funding. 1. Construction Funding? Impact fees! I read in the paper that plans are already underway for more bond issues in the future for projected building needs. As could be seen by the close vote, the opponents nearly succeeded and I don't think that the next bond issue will pass without some major changes in funding procedures. It is unreasonable to continually come to the existing taxpayers again and again if the current tax base only pays for current operations. It is now past time to seriously push the implementation of impact fees dedicated to school construction. The builders will object again...but new residents must shoulder the major part of their impact on our infrastructure. Sales of new homes must have impact fees proportional to their purchase price. This would limit the impact on poorer/first-time homebuyers and the extra cost could easily be handled by the buyers with their mortgage.	11/13/06

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41 continued					<p>Sales of existing homes should also have impact fees associated with them, but be reduced by half or third and be proportional to their last assessed value (to avoid \$1 purchase scams). I can't figure out what would be fair for new apartment complexes, but something must be done there too. 2. More frequent Assessments? - Do it, by all means! 3. Eliminate Revenue-Neutral Reassessments? - Never! No way! This would be fought tooth and nail, myself included. Many proposing this seem to forget that the elimination of revenue-neutral reassessments would eventually force most poor and seniors (our parents, fixed income) to sell their homes and move out of the county. Take an average home and taxes from 20 yrs ago and determine what its taxes would be today (with a 2006 assessment). I suspect it would be somewhere near a crushing \$10k.</p> <p>4. Childless Tax Complaints - Ignore them! It is everyone's responsibility as citizens to make sure that the kids are educated. I'm single and childless folks helped pay for my education....so I'll help pay for theirs. 5. Charter Schools - Poor Education..but The poor performance of many Charter schools relative to the public schools on end-of-grade tests should be emphasized. Certainly, a few are doing a very good job. If more Charter schools are inevitable, then the successful ones should be monetarily awarded and encouraged to expand. Those that perform poorly, relative to the public schools, within two yrs of opening should be monetarily penalized, thus being encouraged to close. 6. Vouchers - No! I don't pay my taxes for private education at religious-oriented schools. That must remain out of the arena of public funding.</p>	