

## **Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce Position Statement**

**Chamber Position:** Richmond Community Schools *should* continue bond financing for capital projects totaling \$6 million for the Charles, Vaile, Dennis Hibberd, Westview and technology projects.

### **Rationale:**

*The education of K-12 students is vital to the citizens of Richmond and livelihood of Wayne County.* In order for Wayne County to thrive it must have well-educated citizens, which will enable them to become productive members of society. These educated citizens can then, in turn, become good employees, managers, government officials, family leaders, etc. that add value to the entire community. These educated citizens also make it easier to attract new business and industry if there is a well educated workforce from which to draw.

*Investing in school infrastructure is a wise choice.* In order for the schools to educate its citizens, the schools must have a strong infrastructure of buildings, equipment and technology which requires ongoing investment in order to be well maintained. The community has invested millions of dollars in these facilities in the past, and must continually invest to use them well into the future.

*RCS has a history of being a wise steward of finances.* The Richmond Community Schools have undergone many changes in the past few years, including cost savings through consolidation of facilities and staff. The Administration has been frugal in its use of resources, and has demonstrated this through its master planning, budgeting and financing process. In fact, RCS has by far the lowest debt service rates of any North Central Conference school, worthy comparators for sure. The debt service of Richmond is \$0.0451, compared to \$0.1574 for the next closest NCC school (Marion) and \$1.0006 for the highest NCC school (Kokomo). That makes the next lowest NCC school more than three times higher than Richmond, and the highest NCC school more than 20 times higher than RCS. In fact, it would be a reasonable argument to make that RCS should be borrowing more funds in order to invest even further in its infrastructure and have better facilities for its students.

*No impact to taxes.* The proposed financing is a new bond offering that begins only after the expiration of the current bond financing structure, at the same tax rate as current financing. Therefore, these projects will not add any additional tax burden to the citizens of Richmond. The decision to forego a decrease in taxes is a prudent choice in order to continue much needed investment in our schools.

*Provides flexibility for unforeseen facility needs.* With the decreases in the property tax revenues over the past few years, there is less money available for capital projects, particularly for urgent needs that may arise. This bond issue will provide available capital for unforeseen, immediate expenses that most certainly arise in aging facilities.

***In summary, this bond issue is a wise decision for RCS, the citizens of Richmond, and the constituents of the Wayne County Area Chamber of Commerce.***



## School

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## Debt Service Rate

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• Anderson	• 1.0006	
• Logansport	• 0.8985	
• Muncie	• 0.5811	
• Huntington	• 0.3527	
• New Castle	• 0.3092	
• Kokomo	• 0.2369	
• Marion	• 0.1574	
• Richmond	• 0.1024	(0.0451 2013)

# Debt Service Conference Comparison

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