VOTER POLL

Evanston voters say: plan first, then decide about schools

Public Policy Polling surveyed 665 registered Evanston voters on Nov. 4 and 5, 2026. Respondents were drawn at random from the voter rolls, and results are weighted to reflect the electorate. Margin of error ±3.8 points for the full sample.

65%
oppose D65's budget plan
21% support it

66%
want the board to wait for a long-term plan
19% say move ahead now

41%
less likely to back a referendum if schools close
11% more likely

1. Opposition is broad, not just parents

Share who oppose the plan. Opposition outweighs support in every group measured.

All voters	**65%**
No child in D65	**62%**
D65 parents	**78%**
Homeowners	**64%**
Voters over 65	**53%**

78% of respondents have no child in D65; they oppose the plan 62% to 23%. Margins are wider for smaller groups.

2. Closures work against the referendum

Support for a 2028 referendum today:

28% for **41%** against

If Dewey and Lincolnwood close, voters say they are:

Less likely	**41%**
More likely	**11%**

Among D65 parents, 56% say less likely. 47% of voters say property taxes are already too high; 38% are willing to pay more for local schools.

3. Trust is the obstacle

	Positive	Negative
Trust D65 to manage taxpayer money	22%	**65%**
Confidence in the school board	25%	**64%**
Schools headed in the right direction	10%	**62%**
District listened to community input	24%	**53%**

4. What would earn their support

Voters' top choice for earning a yes vote on a referendum:

Long-term financial plan with clear spending limits	**38%**
Independent citizen committee overseeing spending	**18%**

Voters' top priority for the board:

Improving academic achievement	**33%**
Keeping neighborhood schools open	**24%**
Balancing the budget	**19%**

THE PROBLEM, AND THE WAY FORWARD

Voters don't trust D65's plan, and closing schools makes the referendum it depends on harder to pass. What would win them back is a long-term financial plan with clear spending limits. Our alternative financial model (attached) is built to be that plan, and we would welcome the chance to build it with you.

Full results, crosstabs and question wording available on request.

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