



VOTER INFORMATION

Saydel Community School District

Please Vote Sept. 13 Special Election on the Public Education & Recreation Levy (PERL)

This information is not intended to advocate for or against PERL. The intention of this communication is to inform you of the facts related to the election.

What is PERL?

Revenues from the Public Education & Recreation Levy (PERL) are used to establish and maintain public recreation places and playgrounds in the public school buildings and grounds of the district. The PERL revenues are also used to provide public educational and recreational activities within the district boundaries and for community education as defined in Iowa Code. The levy provides \$0.135 per \$1,000 to support public education and recreation opportunities in the Saydel School District. If approved, the tax would take effect for the 2016-2017 school year. The goal of this levy is to elevate an already strong sense of community in Saydel through expanding opportunities for community recreation and engagement for all ages.

PERL Public Forums



Informational Public Forums about PERL will be held:

- **Sept. 6 at 6 PM: District Office Board Room**
- **Sept. 9 at 6 PM: Norwoodville Community Center**

Why has the public requested a vote for PERL?

Saydel resides in an unincorporated area of Polk County. While we have strong established communities, our communities do not have the same level of community engagement and recreation opportunities experienced by citizens of incorporated areas. There is no public entity to support public recreation for youth or adult educational opportunities for the general public. While Saydel has a strong and successful history of youth athletic programs, the scope of these programs is limited by available volunteer coordination and funding. In addition, there are no opportunities for the general public to fully utilize school facilities for recreation and learning beyond school hours.

If approved, PERL will generate approximately \$95,000 per year (based on yearly valuation) to support:

- Creation, organization and staffing of a community education program.
- Funding to support facility and resource enhancements to areas utilized by the general public for non-school related activities.

The intention of creating a Community Education Program is to:

- Increase access and availability of athletic, fine arts and club programs for K-6 students outside of the school day and year.
- Increase availability for facility use and community learning opportunities for the general public, including creating adult education courses and community engagement opportunities.
- Complement and enhance opportunities for 7-12 students to engage with the greater community.

PERL Ballot Language

SHALL THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC MEASURE BE ADOPTED?

PROPOSITION ____

YES

NO



Shall the Board of Directors of the Saydel Community School District in the County of Polk, State of Iowa, be authorized to levy a tax upon all the taxable property within the School District of not to exceed thirteen and one-half cents (\$13½¢) per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of the taxable property within the School District for public educational and recreational activities and community education purposes?

[END BALLOT LANGUAGE]

Voting Locations for Special Election Sept. 13:

- **Saydel District Office Board Room**
- **Saylorville Fire Department**

Why not just start community education programs without assessing the tax?

PERL will give us the funding to create a self-sustaining community education program. Currently, these programs are coordinated by volunteers and exist outside of the Saydel Community School District. Because of this status, the Saydel Schools cannot fully assist in the promotion, organization or operation of these programs. Having support to coordinate volunteers, arrange events and assist in promotion and communication will be essential in increasing opportunities. Community education offerings will have a fee structure due to operational costs, but PERL will help ensure this fee structure makes programs accessible to the public. This money can also be used to upgrade property owned by the school district, but primarily dedicated to public use. Examples include the Woodside baseball fields, Cornell field, and other public use spaces.



Fitness Facility Open House:

August 1-5

The item most requested by our community that PERL will allow us to offer is more community access to the wonderful new fitness facilities at the High School.

We will be opening our cardio and weight room facilities to the public from 6PM to 9PM the week of August 1- 5 so community members can experience these new facilities and experience a snapshot of the intended use of PERL.

HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT PERL?

Call Saydel District Office at 515-264-0866

Visit www.saydel.k12.ia.us/district/PERL.cfm, where you can:

- Read more Q & A's about PERL
- Link to a survey about community education at Saydel
- Email questions to PERLQuestions@saydel.net

PERL Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the tax impact on me if this levy is passed?

A: The tax impact per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.135; meaning for a home valued at \$100,000, homeowners would pay \$6.85 per year after the residential tax rollback OR \$0.58/month for residential properties. As is the case with the majority of our school district levies in Saydel, the largest amount of money to support these programs will come from our healthy commercial and industrial base. Once approved, this amount is set for the life of the levy. The levy cannot exceed \$0.135.

Q: What are my school taxes and how do they compare to the surrounding areas?

A: Due to a large industrial and commercial tax base (62% of total tax base), Saydel residents have the lowest taxes in the Metro. In the 2015-2016 school year, our tax rate per \$1,000 was \$12.76. Each district bordering Saydel had a higher rate with average rate of \$19.11.

Q: How was this issue brought to the School Board?

A: This year, Saydel established a Board Committee called the Opportunities Committee. The mission of this committee is: *The Saydel Opportunities Committee exists to support students, staff and community through the identification of programs and opportunities that will engage all members of our community to enhance their learning and development.*

This committee launched a petition for this levy with the purpose of providing public funds to achieve this mission for our community and students.

Q: How will PERL help create a Community Education Program?

A: Current funding sources do not allow for the use of public funds to support community-wide recreation efforts. PERL will allow for the creation of a self-sustaining Community Education Program for children and adults in Saydel Schools.

Q: How will the move to a Community Education Program enhance current youth programs?

A: It is the intent to invite these organizations to participate through community education as a method to ensure consistency in communication, training, accounting, logistics and promotion. Therefore, organizations such as Saydel Little League, Saydel Youth Wrestling and Saydel Youth Basketball will receive formal support from the school. Students participating in outside organizations such as Saydel Youth Football, and North Des Moines Girls Softball will receive support in their participation if they align with community education to enhance the identity of players as members of the Saydel community. Representatives from these groups currently participate as part of the opportunities committee and would have representation on the Board of the Community Education Program, once established.

Q: What types of programs can a Community Education Program bring for adults?

A: This would be based on input given to the Community Education Program Board, but the intent would be to provide access to District facilities such as our fitness facilities as well as club and adult education offerings based on interest.

Q: Who will the Community Education Program attempt to serve?

A: If established, the Community Education Board would receive input from the community and establish viable athletic, fine arts, and education opportunities for all community members. This will include opportunities that enhance the experience of students currently participating in school activities, creating and expanding access to programs for students in grades K-6, and creating of opportunities for adult community members.

Q: How will Saydel use the approximately \$95,000 that PERL could bring to the District?

A: Annually, approximately 40% of the money will be used to staff and coordinate Community Education Program activities. This coordination will involve organizing/screening/training of volunteers, community outreach, and coordinating the logistics of offering expanded programs to the community. The remaining money will be used to enhance or create facilities used primarily for public use such as recreation fields/spaces owned by the District. Examples include, but are not limited to little league fields, tennis courts, and walking paths.

Q: Will this provide a free Community Education Program?

A: The purpose of the levy is to establish a funding stream for coordination of programs and upgrades to district property primarily used outside of school hours by the community. This allows both the ability for some free public recreation opportunities and facility access for the community and the creation of a self-sustaining, organized and efficient Community Education Program charging appropriate participation fees.

Q: If passed, when will the funds be available?

A: If passed, the funds would not be levied until the 2017-18 school year; however, planning for the Community Education Program will begin immediately, including the creation of the Community Education Program Board and some limited offerings in the 2016-17 school year.

Q: Who decides how the money is allocated?

A: The PERL money itself is allocated by the Saydel Board of Education. Once allocated to establish a community education program, the Community Education Board, made up of a representative sample of the community, annual appointment by the Board, will identify programming and budgeting of the Community Education Program.

Q: Is this only for athletics?

A: The intent of PERL goes beyond expanding opportunities for athletics. While PERL will support and expand recreation opportunities in athletics, especially for younger children it will also bring the necessary structure to create fine arts opportunities that cannot currently be offered. Creation of fine arts opportunities for the community will be a strong focus of the Community Education Program.

Q: How are opportunities for younger children chosen?

A: The Saydel Board of Education and Community Education Program Board will take suggestions and examine feasibility. The community survey suggests looking into soccer, volleyball, youth drama, music lessons, and tennis.

Q: How are opportunities for adults chosen?

A: Community members bring suggestions to the Community Education Program Board. The Community Education Board then examines feasibility and acts upon requests. A recent community survey suggests looking into basic computing, adult athletics, and fine arts leagues and clubs. The use of school facilities is also a highly requested item.

SAYDEL SCHOOLS:

Cornell Elementary School 5817 NE 3rd Street, Des Moines, IA 50313 * 515-244-8173 * Brian Vaughan, Principal

Woodside Middle School 5810 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313 * 515-265-3451 * Joshua Heyer, Principal

Saydel High School 5601 NE 7th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313 * 515-262-9325 * Kevin Schulte, Principal

Saydel District Office 5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313 * 515-264-0866

Mr. Douglas Wheeler, Superintendent of Schools
Ryan Eidahl, Business Manager
Mary Salazar, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services
Jessy Sadler, Director of Food Service

Brian Bowman, School Board President
Jennifer Van Houten, School Board Vice President
Chad Vitiritto, School Board of Director
Melissa Sassman, School Board of Director
Doug Kayser, School Board of Director
Henry Wood, School Board of Director
Roland Kouski, Jr., School Board of Director

It is the policy of the Saydel Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices. There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's **Equity Coordinator, Julie McKibben, Director of Student Services, 5740 NE 14th Street, Des Moines, IA 50313; mckibbenjulie@saydel.net.** Office for Civil Rights, Citigroup Center, 500 W. Madison Street, Suite 1475, Chicago, IL 60661.

SAYDEL COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
5740 NE 14TH STREET
DES MOINES IOWA 50313

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
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VOTER INFORMATION INSIDE!

**Saydel Community School District's
Special Election on the Public Education
& Recreation Levy (PERL) will be Sept. 13**



See inside for important PERL information, ballot language, public forum dates, special election voting locations, and PERL FAQ's.



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"Big City Opportunities, Small Town Commitment for Students"