



Downers Grove Grade School District 58

2022 Referendum Proposal





Welcome

Dr. Kevin Russell
Superintendent



Downers Grove
Grade School
District 58

Overview

- District 58 has adopted a resolution to place a \$179 million bond referendum on the Nov. 8, 2022 ballot.
- If the referendum is passed, its proceeds would address high-priority capital improvements at District 58's 13 schools.
- The last time District 58 voters approved a referendum was 30 years ago (1992), which funded **school additions**. The last time voters approved funding for **districtwide building improvements** was 72 years ago (1950).
- These are your schools. You have the final word when it comes to how we protect and improve them. We are not advocating a “yes” or “no” vote, but simply presenting the facts so voters can make an informed decision.



Tonight's Focus

- Presentation
- Building Tour
- Available to Answer Questions





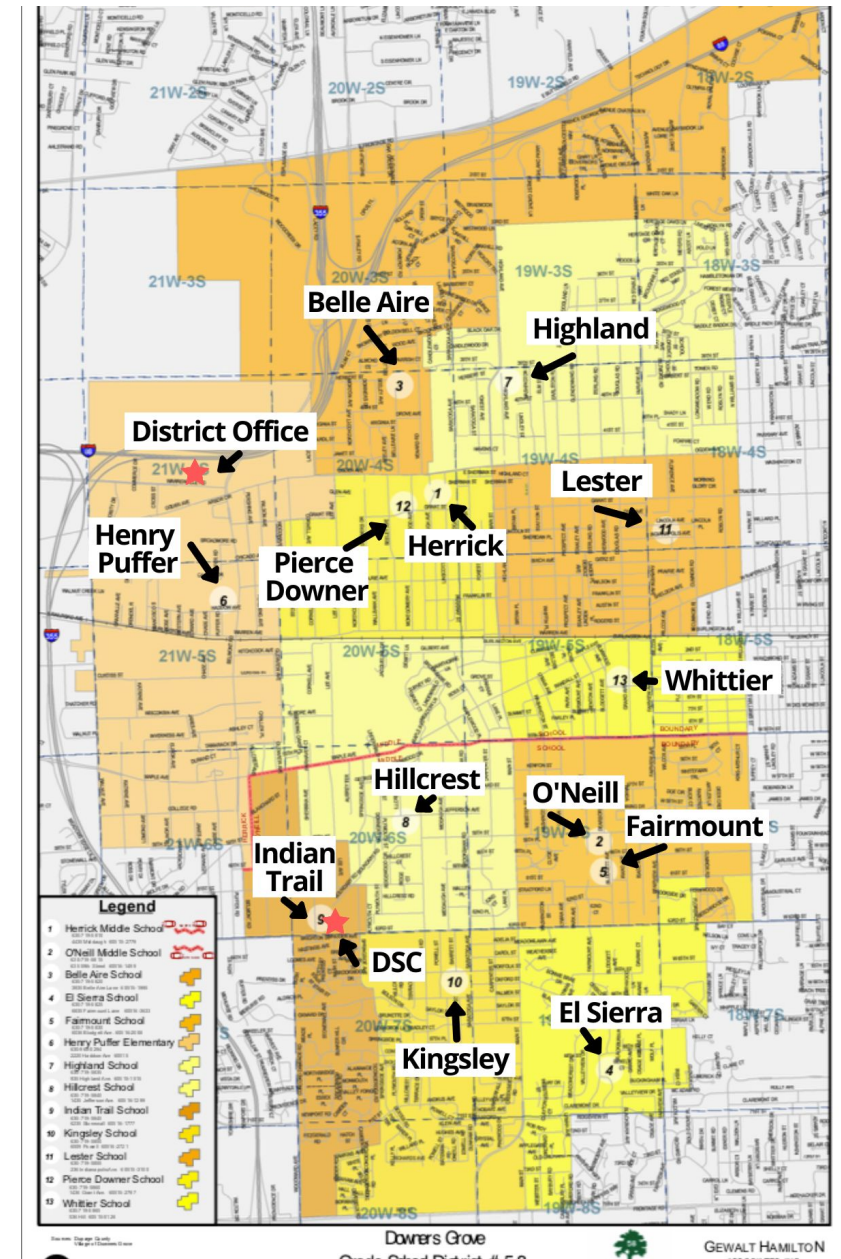
Introduction to District 58



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About District 58

- **11** neighborhood elementary schools (grades K-6)
- **2** middle schools (grades 7-8)
- **approx. 5,000** students from Downers Grove and parts of Westmont, Woodridge, Oak Brook, Lisle, Darien and Lombard
- **approx. 640** full and part-time employees (nearly half live in Downers Grove!)



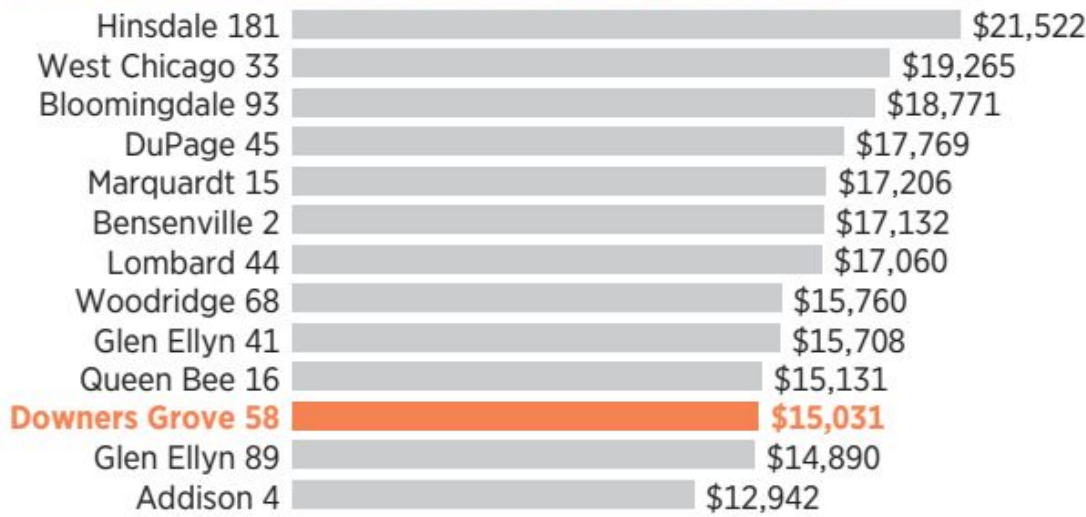
Our Finances

- District 58 earned the **Illinois State Board of Education's** highest financial strength rating for **20 straight years**.
- District 58 annually spends **\$15,031 per student**, which is **\$966 less than the state average**. Locally, **76% of all DuPage County school districts spend more money per student** than District 58.
- District 58 teacher salaries are competitive with surrounding districts and **administrative salaries comprise 2.2%** of District 58's budget, which is **less than 90% of Illinois districts**.



Our Finances

District 58 Spending Per Student Comparison with benchmark school districts

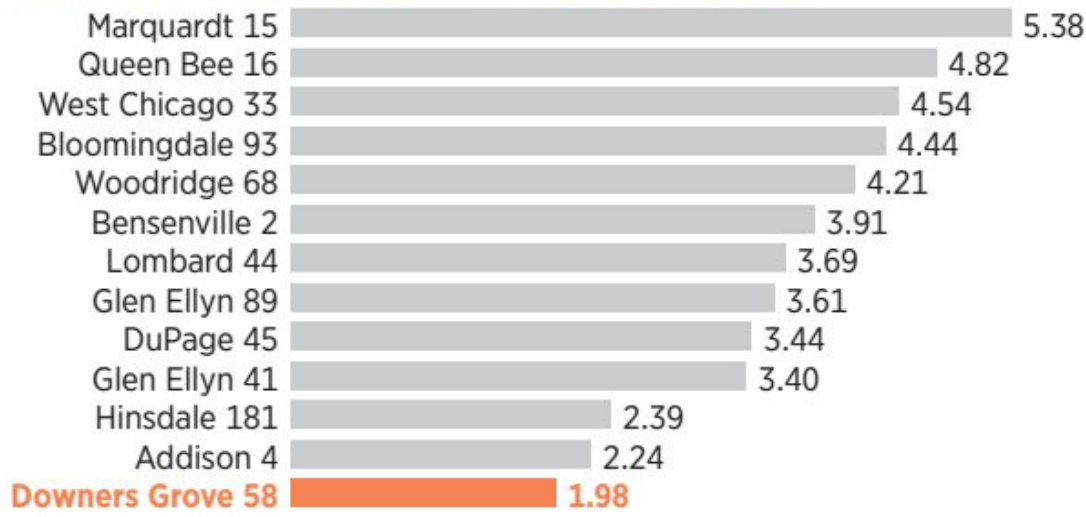


Source: ISBE's 2021 Operating Expense Per Pupil Report

What Difference Does Per Student Spending Make?

Consider if District 58 spent **\$6,491 more per student per year**, or the equivalent spending at nearby Hinsdale District 181. Multiplied by our enrollment, District 58 would need an **additional \$31.8 million** in revenues each year. That's **more than 40%** of the District's current budget.

District 58 Property Tax Rates Comparison with benchmark school districts



Source: 2021 DuPage County Tax Rate Booklet

What Makes District 58's Property Tax Rate Significant?

If your home's fair market value was \$300,000, you would pay **\$1,980 in taxes to District 58** each year. Meanwhile, if you owned a similarly-valued home in nearby **Woodridge District 68**, you would pay **\$4,210** in taxes to that district each year.



Factors that Affect District 58's Spending

- The State passed a law in 1991 that restricted some school districts, including District 58, to issuing non-referendum debt equal to its 1991 debt level. District 58 had very little debt then; other districts had greater debt.
- This means that **while many other school districts can borrow large sums of money without seeking voter approval, District 58 cannot.** This limits its ability to fund critical, but costly, facility projects without a referendum.



Factors that Affect District 58's Spending

- The State passed at least **218 unfunded mandates** since 1992. This means District 58 had to find money from its **existing budget** to pay for 218+ new services required by law.
- District 58 has 11 neighborhood elementary schools and two middle schools. In general, it is **costlier to maintain several schools**, rather than just a few large schools. Community surveys and the Citizen Task Force have shown that neighborhood schools are highly valued by District 58 residents, so the District has prioritized maintaining its existing schools.



A Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility

District 58's 2018 Strategic Plan included a Finance goal. Through this goal, District 58 completed the following financial action steps to improve District 58 finances and, recognizing the need for a referendum, to decrease the total ask:

- District 58 **expanded the Financial Advisory Committee's membership and increased its meeting frequency** to offer more opportunities for community members with financial expertise to provide input on the District's finances.
- District 58 **restructured** the small amount of debt it had to capture an **interest rate under 1%**, which will save taxpayers approximately \$390,000.



A Commitment to Fiscal Responsibility

- District 58 created a **fund balance policy of 35%** to better manage capital funds, and developed a **Five-Year Financial Plan** to ensure fiscal stability and transparency.
- District 58 has also delivered a **balanced budget** for the past four years, and has prioritized producing balanced budgets for the future.
- District 58 **sold the Longfellow facility and entered a partnership with the Village of Downers Grove on a shared office space.**



30 Years Since the Last Successful Referendum

- **1950:** Building Bond Referendum (**Passed**)
- From **1951-1971**, District 58 had 17 referendums. Records show at least 7 passed and helped District 58 build new schools and school additions.
- **1977:** Rate Increase Referendum (**Did Not Pass**)
- **1978:** Rate Increase Referendum (**Did Not Pass**)
- **1986:** Building Bond Referendum (**Did Not Pass**)
- **1989:** Building Bond Referendum (**Passed**)
- **1992:** Building Bond Referendum (**Did Not Pass-Spring**)
- **1992:** Building Bond Referendum (**Passed-Fall**)
- **2007:** Rate Increase Referendum (**Did Not Pass**)





Facility Challenges & Unmet Needs

Pictured: Lester does not have a separate music or art room due to space constraints. Instead, the music and art teachers travel from classroom to classroom and provide “art on a cart” and “music on a cart.”



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District 58 Schools are 53 to 94 Years Old



53 Years Old

Belle Aire Elementary School (Built 1969)



53 Years Old

El Sierra Elementary School (Built 1969)



63 Years Old

Fairmount Elementary School (Built 1959)



84 Years Old

Henry Puffer Elementary School (Built 1938)



69 Years Old

Herrick Middle School (Built 1953)



70 Years Old

Highland Elementary School (Built 1952)



70 Years Old

Hillcrest Elementary School (Built 1952)



55 Years Old

Indian Trail Elementary School (Built 1967)



59 Years Old

Kingsley Elementary School (Built 1963)



66 Years Old

Lester Elementary School (Built 1956)



65 Years Old

O'Neill Middle School (Built 1957)



70 Years Old

Pierce Downer Elementary School (Built 1952)



94 Years Old

Whittier Elementary School (Built 1928)

Many High-Priority Facility Challenges



Safety & Security Challenges



Outdated Mechanical Systems



Ventilation & Temperature Control Issues



Deteriorated Roofing & Building Envelopes



Building Code Issues



Outdated Classrooms & Labs



Planning Efforts Completed to Date



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Studies and Community Engagement Overview

2012: Comprehensive Facility Assessment Report

2016: Demographer Report

2017-18: Strategic planning initiative developed by the community

September 2018: Strategic Plan approved, includes a 10-step facility planning process

2018-19: Facility Planning Council work

December 2018- February 2019: Staff and Community Visioning Sessions

May 2019: Staff and Community Facility Planning Community Engagement Sessions

Summer 2019: Draft Master Facility Plan presented

Fall 2019: Citizen Task Force forms

December 2019-March 2020: Citizen Task Force meets three times, provides feedback

March 2020: Board of Education approves public engagement initiative

March 2020-June 2021: Facility planning pauses due to pandemic

July 2021: Citizen Task Force reconvenes, recommends District 58 proceed with work

Fall 2021: Board of Education accepted the Citizen Task Force's recommendation to move forward

Winter/Spring 2022: District sends facility planning mailers, hosts facility presentations and tours, and seeks public input

Summer 2022: Board of Education approves adding a \$179 million facility referendum to the Nov. 8, 2022 ballot

Fall 2022: District 58 referendum information communications





Citizen Task Force

- 40+ members, including business, civic and educational leaders, parents and non-parents, and other community members.
- Responsible for vetting proposed capital improvements and various funding proposals
- Met multiple times from 2019 to 2021
- Agreed with sharing and seeking feedback districtwide on a \$179 million potential funding proposal





Building Tour



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Proposed Solutions

- Maintenance
- Health, Safety & Security
- Grade 6-8 Reconfiguration



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Proposed Improvements at Each District 58 School

Maintenance (Capital Repairs & Upgrades) (\$58.6M)

	Belle Aire ES	El Sierra ES	Fairmount ES	Henry Puffer ES	Herrick MS	Highland ES	Hillcrest ES	Indian Trail ES	Kingsley ES	Lester ES	O'Neill MS	Pierce Downer ES	Whittier ES
State-Mandated Repairs:													
Fire Alarms	●	●	●		●		●	●		●	●	●	●
Clocks/PA/Intercom Systems	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
ADA Signage	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Doors/Hardware	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bleachers					●						●		
Roofing			●			●	●				●		
Building Envelope	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●
Plumbing			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Electrical Repairs/Panelboards	●	●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Bathroom Renovations	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Proposed Improvements at Each District 58 School

Health, Safety & Security (\$67.6M)

	Belle Aire ES	El Sierra ES	Fairmount ES	Henry Puffer ES	Herrick MS	Highland ES	Hillcrest ES	Indian Trail ES	Kingsley ES	Lester ES	O'Neill MS	Pierce Downer ES	Whittier ES
Secure Vestibules (Entryways)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Comprehensive Indoor Air Quality, Heating & Ventilation Systems and Equipment Improvements	○	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Air Conditioning with Required Electrical Upgrades			●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Proposed Improvements at Each District 58 School

Grade 6-8 Reconfiguration (\$52.8M)

(Partial Addition & Renovation of Both Herrick and O'Neill Middle Schools)

	Belle Aire ES	El Sierra ES	Fairmount ES	Henry Puffer ES	Herrick MS	Highland ES	Hillcrest ES	Indian Trail ES	Kingsley ES	Lester ES	O'Neill MS	Pierce Downer ES	Whittier ES
Additional Classrooms & Science Labs to Accommodate Sixth-Grade Students					●						●		
Consolidation of Staff & Student Support Spaces					●						●		
Expansion/Remodel of Existing Cafeterias & Kitchen Additions					●						●		
Library Improvements					●						●		
Collaboration Spaces					●						●		
New, Larger Main Gym					●						●		

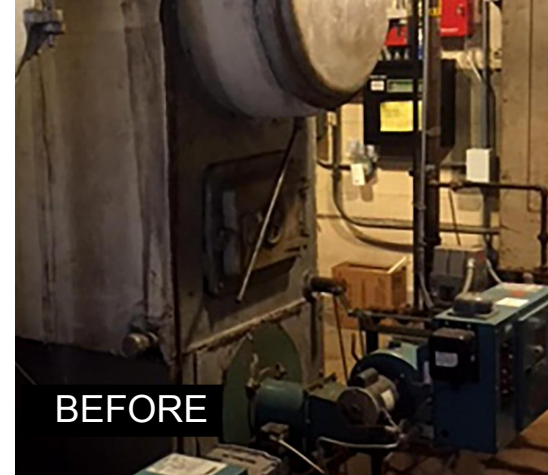
Maintenance

- State-Mandated Repairs
 - Fire Alarms
 - Clocks/PA/Intercom Systems
 - ADA Signage
 - Doors/Hardware
 - Bleachers
- Roofing
- Building Envelope
- Plumbing
- Electrical Repairs and Panelboards
- Bathroom Renovations



Health, Safety & Security

- Secure Vestibules (Entryways)
- Comprehensive Indoor Air Quality; Heating & Ventilation Systems; and Equipment Improvements
- Air Conditioning with Required Electrical Upgrades



Grade 6-8 Reconfiguration

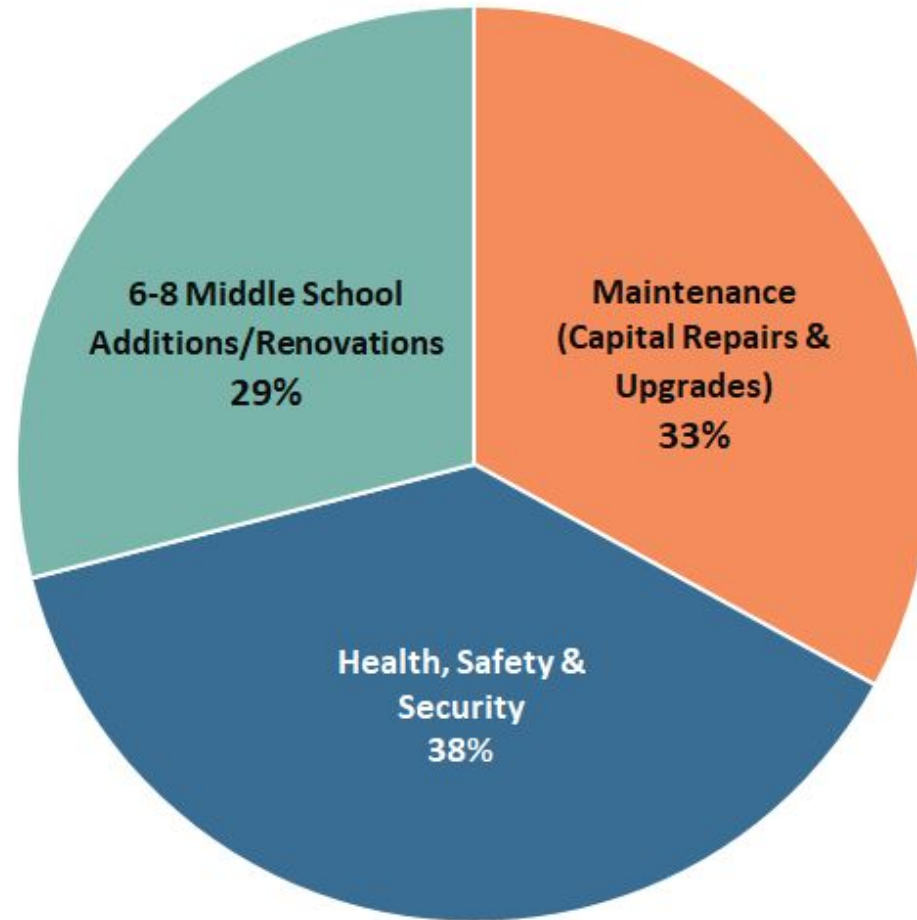
(Partial Addition & Renovation of Both Herrick and O'Neill Middle Schools)

- Additional Classrooms & Science Labs to Accommodate Sixth-Grade Students
- Consolidation of Staff & Student Support Spaces
- Expansion/Remodel of Existing Cafeterias & Kitchen Additions
- Library Improvements
- Full Size Gymnasiums
- Collaboration Spaces

	Herrick Middle School	O'Neill Middle School
Proposed Gross Building SF	162,000 SF	118,000 SF
Proposed Enrollment	985 Students	739 Students
SF/Student	164 SF/Student	160 SF/Student
Estimated Classroom Count	36 (+14 Classrooms)	28 (+5 Classrooms)
Main Office & Student Support Services	Consolidates administration and student support spaces throughout the buildings	
Cafeteria	Expansion/remodel of existing cafeteria	
Kitchen	Kitchen Additions	
Library	Reimagine the Libraries	
Collaboration Spaces	Provide formal and informal spaces	



Breakdown of Use of Proceeds for \$179M Proposal





Anticipated Benefits



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Anticipated Benefits



Making our local schools safer and more secure



Improving energy efficiency



Extending the useful life of existing facilities



Maintaining high-performing schools that protect property values



Reducing costly emergency repairs



Creating classrooms that leverage instructional technology, promote collaboration and can adapt to existing and future teaching methods



Enhancing ADA accessibility

Benefits of Moving 6th Graders to Middle Schools

- Improve alignment
- Provide educational benefits
- Improve opportunities in math
- Improve collaboration
- Increase the time between transitions
- Address developmental needs
- Benefit social emotional learning (SEL)
- Alleviate overcrowding (at several elementary schools and HMS)
- Enhance equity in terms of classroom square footage per student
- Save operating dollars





Financing Plan



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Financial Details

- 20-year term
 - Not a permanent increase
- \$179 million general obligation bond measure
 - Only used for the purposes stated
- Estimated tax impact assumes 25 cents higher than District 58's current tax rate of 1.98
 - Would keep District 58's tax rate as the lowest among large DuPage County elementary districts *
- Visit www.dg58.org, select "About" menu, and click "Finance & Transparency" for detailed financial information.

Estimated Annual Tax Impact:

Home Value	Tax Impact
\$250,000	\$211
\$300,000	\$253
\$500,000	\$422
\$750,000	\$634
Rate Increase	.25

*Assumes Current Rates



Voter Information

- Election Day is **Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.**
- Early Voting takes place **Oct. 24-Nov. 7, 2022** at 22 sites across DuPage County. Nearby sites include:
 - **Downers Grove Lincoln Center**, 935 Maple Ave., Downers Grove, IL
 - **Westmont Public Library**, 428 N. Cass Ave., Westmont, IL
 - **Yorktown Center - Former Brio**, 330 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard, IL
 - **Woodridge Community Center**, 2600 Center Drive, Woodridge, IL
- Vote By Mail takes place **Sept. 29-Nov. 8, 2022.**
- Visit <https://www.dupagecounty.gov/Election/Voting/> to register to vote, access early voting locations and more.



Thank you for your
time.



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