



**Maroa Forsyth School District  
Online Community Survey  
November/December 2019**

**Overview of Data**

In November/December 2019, UNICOM•ARC conducted an online survey of residents of the Maroa Forsyth service area. The purpose of the survey was to better understand area residents' perceptions of the district's facility improvement plan.

Five hundred forty-two (542) surveys were completed. Results were tabulated on December 2 2019.

		%
01. Students are often given the grades A, B, C, D, and F to score the quality of their academic work. What grade would you give to Maroa-Forsyth School District?	A	41.5%
	B	40.1%
	C	9.7%
	D	2.2%
	Fail	1.4%
	other, don't know	5.2%

		%
2. Maroa-Forsyth School District is considering options for building a new middle school. The options range in cost from \$28 to \$33 million that would be funded by a bond proposal. Based on what you know, how much need is there for a new middle school. . .	a great need	52.4%
	a moderate need	28.6%
	not much need	7.0%
	no need at all	2.9%
	undecided or don't know	9.1%
	<b><i>total need</i></b>	<b>81.0%</b>
	<b><i>total no need</i></b>	<b>9.9%</b>

3. Presented below are options for building a new middle school. First, indicate which option you prefer the most.

	<i>Prefer This Option the Most</i>
	%
Building a new middle school in Maroa at the current middle school site for \$28.2 million. This proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$29 a year or 55 cents per week.	25.6%
Build a new middle school in Maroa attached to the high school for \$33.1 million. This option would also make some improvements in the high school including an auditorium. This proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$108 a year or \$2.08 per week	37.1%
Build a new middle school close to the grade school in Forsyth for \$29 million. The village of Forsyth has offered to supplement the cost with a half-cent sales tax so property taxes in the district would remain unchanged. With this option, the district would have the option to lower property taxes or finance additional building upgrades in 2028.	30.3%
Opposed to all options	6.1%

4. Next, think about this in a different manner. Rather than indicating the option you prefer most, indicate if you could support the option – some people might be willing to support all three options while others may oppose all of the options.

	I could support this option	I could not support this option
	%	
Building a new middle school in Maroa at the current middle school site for \$28.2 million. This proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$29 a year or 55 cents per week.	70.2%	20.8%
Build a new middle school in Maroa attached to the high school for \$33.1 million. This option would also make some improvements in the high school including an auditorium. This proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$108 a year or \$2.08 per week	61.6%	33.8%
Build a new middle school close to the grade school in Forsyth for \$29 million. The village of Forsyth has offered to supplement the cost with a half-cent sales tax so property taxes in the district would remain unchanged. With this option, the district would have the option to lower property taxes or finance additional building upgrades in 2028.	47.1%	45.1%

5. Below are some statements that people might make about public education. For each, indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	total agree	total disagree	other, don't know
	%	%	%	%
A. We get an excellent educational value for the taxes we pay to our school district.	47.2%	83.4%	9.7%	7.0%
B. People like me can't afford to pay higher property taxes, no matter how good the cause.	14.0%	39.4%	53.7%	6.9%
C. Supporting public schools is the best thing we can do to protect the investment we've made in our homes.	48.2%	83.3%	11.2%	5.5%
D. Our schools are fine just the way they are. Nothing needs to be done beyond normal maintenance and repairs.	4.5%	14.0%	78.4%	7.6%
E. I'm willing to support a bond proposal to make sure the quality of our school measures up to that of other districts in our area.	45.2%	78.5%	17.3%	4.1%
F. The quality of our public schools is the most important factor regarding property values in our area	35.3%	77.7%	16.1%	6.2%
G. It is important to our community to keep our schools up-to-date and in good working condition.	67.4%	95.6%	2.0%	2.5%

6. When deciding what option works best for improving our middle school, many factors can be taken into account. For each factor listed below, indicate if you think it is a . .

	<i>Very Important Factor</i>	Total Important Factor	Total Not Important Factor	other, don't know
	%	%	%	%
A. Avoid spending \$8 million on the existing building to comply with state mandated health/life safety requirements and address other essential repair needs.	42.9%	72.4%	21.8%	5.7%
B. Keep the building in Maroa to allow the high school and middle school to share resources.	53.2%	73.2%	24.0%	2.8%
C. Long term operating costs for things like transportation, food service and staffing.	48.4%	82.0%	13.8%	4.3%
D. Avoid any increase in property taxes.	27.0%	56.5%	40.8%	2.6%
E. Move the middle school to Forsyth where the larger population is concentrated.	19.4%	35.1%	62.2%	2.8%
F. Locate the building to maximize educational programming for the students.	60.0%	85.1%	11.4%	3.4%

-7. Next are some statements people might make about a possible bond proposal improving our middle schools. For each, indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	total agree	total disagree	other, don't know
	%	%	%	%
A. Our middle school is old and beyond being able to cost-effectively repair and upgrade. Our community needs a new middle school.	59.9%	80.4%	12.6%	7.0%
B. Investing in improved school buildings now will benefit many future generations of students and homeowners.	68.6%	89.4%	6.1%	4.5%
C. Our schools are fine the way they are. These improvements are simply not needed.	2.6%	11.6%	78.7%	9.7%
D. To keep our property values strong, we need to keep up with neighboring districts when it comes to quality school facilities.	43.3%	80.7%	13.9%	5.4%
E. Up-to-date facilities will help us make sure that our students are well-prepared for success in the workplace or in higher education.	57.0%	83.9%	11.7%	4.4%

8. Next are some statements people might make about a possible bond proposal improving our middle schools. For each, indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the statement.

	<i>strongly agree</i>	total agree	total disagree	other, don't know
	%	%	%	%
A. People need tax relief more than better school facilities. We should forget this proposal and let the tax rate go down.	8.7%	22.5%	70.2%	7.4%
B. Over the years, people in our community stepped up and provided up-to-date school buildings for children. It is our turn to do the same thing with a new middle school.	44.3%	78.6%	14.3%	7.1%
C. I don't care where the building is located. Our district needs a new middle school and it should be built in the most cost-effective manner.	15.4%	43.0%	50.0%	7.0%



9. Now that you've answered a lot of questions about our district, we'd like to ask you one more time about the options for improving our middle school. This time included is a "status quo" option that leaves the existing building the way it is but does address state required maintenance and repair issues. For each option listed below, indicate if . . .

	This Is My Preferred Option (Check Only One Time)	Total Support this option	Could NOT support this option
	%	%	%
Building a new middle school in Maroa at the current middle school site for \$28.2 million. This proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$29 a year or 55 cents per week.	24.9%	72.6%	20.0%
Build a new middle school in Maroa attached to the high school for \$33.1 million. This option would also make some improvements in the high school including an auditorium. This proposal would cost the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$108 a year or \$2.08 per week	32.8%	63.9%	28.4%
Build a new middle school close to the grade school in Forsyth for \$29 million. The village of Forsyth has offered to supplement the cost with a half-cent sales tax so property taxes in the district would remain unchanged. With this option, the district would have the option to lower property taxes or finance additional building upgrades in 2028.	26.9%	51.3%	40.4%
Addressing only state mandated health life/safety requirements and other essential buildings repairs for \$8.1 million	8.2%	29.3%	59.5%

		%
10. In which of the following age groups do you fall within?	18-34	24.3%
	35-49	37.9%
	50-64	21.3%
	65-74	10.7%
	75 or older	2.9%
	other, don't know	2.9%

		%
11. Do you have children or grandchildren who are 18 years of age or younger?	yes	66.3%
	no	32.0%
	other, don't know	1.7%

		%
12. Children or grandchildren?	children	38.8%
	grandchildren	26.1%
	both	1.4%
	other, don't know	33.7%

		%
13. Do any attend Maroa-Forsyth Schools?	yes	52.%
	no	13.7%
	other, don't know	33.9%

		%
14. Are any of these children pre-school age?	yes	21.7%
	no	44.4%
	other, don't know	33.9%

		%
15. Have you ever had children who attended Maroa-Forsyth schools?	yes	65.0%
	no	31.8%
	other, don't know	3.3%

		%
16. What is your zipcode?	62535	37.1%
	61756	46.1%
	62526	8.1%
	Other or don't know	3.8%

		%
18. Are you ...	male	49.4%
	female	49.5%

*\* Even though responses were more heavily received from parents and women, the results were “weighted” so that the responses reported more accurately reflect actual community demographic percentages . . . 50/50 male/female and 40/60 parents with children 18 or younger/non parents.*