

## L&T staff report

Northeast Liberal Leadership has endorsed the upcoming school bond.

“Our children's futures, the quality of our community, and our economic prospects are all closely linked to school quality,” the organization stated in their letter of support.

The upcoming bond issue has proposed the creation of five new schools to replace Liberal's aging elementary and middle schools. The intermediates will be converted to elementary schools, eliminating the number of transitions from four to three.

The entire plan totals \$127 million, but with state aid and a half-cent sales tax, local property owners will pay \$36 million of the cost spread out over a 25-year period, or 29 percent of the total.

“One of NELL's fundamental purposes is to be a resolute advocate for transparency and public debate in setting public policy,” the release stated. “NELL is pleased to be able to commend the school board for its open and responsive decision-making process.”

NELL also pointed out that the funding for this project represented cooperation between the school district at the City of Liberal with the use of a half-cent sales tax.

“NELL strongly endorses the clarity, openness, and respect for community opinion utilized to develop the decision voters will make on April 8,” the release stated. “We understand community improvement requires community investment sustained by an informed, willing public seeking a better life for all.”

## **NELL endorses school bond plan**

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