Original Sample Amendment Text

A SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING IOWA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT 1 ON THE NOVEMBER 2, 2026 ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS the Iowa Legislature has required the Secretary of State to include Amendment #1 on the November 2026 General Election Ballot, and

WHEREAS Amendment #1 would amend our Iowa Constitution to require a 2/3rds majority of the Iowa House and Senate members to approve any increases to state incomes taxes, and

WHEREAS Iowa's flat income tax rate has resulted in significantly reduced state general fund revenues, which are directly related to low state funding levels of public schools over the last several years, and

WHEREAS Amendment #1 would make it harder for the Iowa Legislature to overcome a small minority of Senators (17 out of 50) or Representatives (34 out of 100) able to block income taxes on corporations or the wealthiest Iowans to solve a future state budget problem, and

WHEREAS that would only leave sales taxes, property taxes, higher fees and budget cuts as budget solutions available to simple majority consensus, and

WHEREAS the alternatives of sales taxes and property taxes are significantly disadvantageous to lower and middle income families and Iowans on fixed incomes in our urban school district, and

WHEREAS Iowa's gap in per pupil spending, very close to the national average (within $202 or 1.8% below in 2013-14) has grown exponentially, now estimated to be $4,197 (or 22.2%) BELOW the national average for 2025-26, and Iowa schools have been funded at levels below inflation and labor costs for nearly every year in that comparison, and

WHEREAS state and local funding pay for teachers, paraeducators, counselors, librarians, bus drivers, custodians and all other staff, to which 80% of school district general fund budgets are directed, and

WHEREAS legislative investments to raise teacher salary were insufficient to move the needle, as Iowa ranks 32 th in average teacher pay in 2026, and

WHEREAS more years of chronic underfunding will increase our schools' challenges in attracting and retaining quality staff, providing individualized and engaging programs and activities for students, and

WHEREAS needed investments in the education of Iowa children, including programs for full-day preschool, adequate resources to educate English Learners and students with disabilities, programs for at-risk students and families from low-income households and funding to cover the cost of providing college credit courses to high school students are even less likely to be considered without adequate state General Fund Revenue, and

WHEREAS hundreds of millions of dollars have been simultaneously dedicated to education savings accounts to support families whose students are accepted to and enrolled in private schools, primarily benefitting higher income families in Iowa's urban and suburban centers and further stressing their neighboring public schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CEDAR FALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

1. The Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education encourages parents, staff, and citizens in our school district to carefully consider the impact of this undemocratic constitutional amendment, which is particularly hurtful to urban school districts' abilities to provide a great education for our students, and stakeholders are further encouraged to support our school district by turning the ballot over during the Nov. 3 General Election, and voting NO on Amendment #1.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 26, 2026

Version reflecting Cedar Falls

A SCHOOL BOARD RESOLUTION REGARDING IOWA CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT 1 ON THE NOVEMBER 2, 2026 ELECTION BALLOT

WHEREAS the Iowa Legislature has required the Secretary of State to include Amendment #1 on the November 2026 General Election Ballot, and

WHEREAS Amendment #1 would amend our Iowa Constitution to require a 2/3rds majority of the Iowa House and Senate members to approve any increases to state incomes taxes, and

WHEREAS Iowa's flat income tax rate has resulted in significantly reduced state general fund revenues, which are directly related to low state funding levels of public schools over the last several years, and

WHEREAS Amendment #1 would make it harder for the Iowa Legislature to overcome a small minority of Senators (17 out of 50) or Representatives (34 out of 100) able to block income taxes on corporations or the wealthiest Iowans to solve a future state budget problem, and

WHEREAS that would only leave sales taxes, property taxes, higher fees and budget cuts as budget solutions available to simple majority consensus, and

WHEREAS the alternatives of sales taxes and property taxes are significantly disadvantageous to lower and middle income families and Iowans on fixed incomes in our urban school district, and

WHEREAS, the Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education is a nonpartisan, locally elected governing body accountable to the residents of Cedar Falls and surrounding district communities; and

WHEREAS Iowa's gap in per pupil spending, very close to the national average (within $202 or 1.8% below in 2013-14) has grown exponentially, now estimated to be $4,197 (or 22.2%) BELOW the national average for 2025-26, and Iowa schools have been funded at levels below inflation and labor costs for nearly every year in that comparison, and

WHEREAS state and local funding pay for teachers, paraeducators, counselors, librarians, bus drivers, custodians and all other staff, to which 80% of school district general fund budgets are directed, and

WHEREAS legislative investments to raise teacher salary were insufficient to move the needle, as Iowa ranks 32 th in average teacher pay in 2026, and

WHEREAS more years of chronic underfunding will increase our schools' challenges in attracting and retaining quality staff, providing individualized and engaging programs and activities for students, and

WHEREAS, the Cedar Falls Community School District's mission is to educate each student to be a lifelong learner and a caring, responsible citizen, guided by the vision "Every student, every day"; and

WHEREAS needed investments in the education of Iowa children, including programs for full-day preschool, adequate resources to educate English Learners and students with disabilities, programs for at-risk students and families from low-income households and funding to cover the cost of providing college credit courses to high school students are even less likely to be considered without adequate state General Fund Revenue, and

WHEREAS hundreds of millions of dollars have been simultaneously dedicated to education savings accounts to support families whose students are accepted to and enrolled in private schools, primarily benefitting higher income families in Iowa's urban and suburban centers and further stressing their neighboring public schools, and

WHEREAS, rising costs increase pressure on local school budgets and may reduce resources available for staffing, student services, and educational programming in districts such as Cedar Falls;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CEDAR FALLS COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:

2. The Cedar Falls Community School District Board of Education encourages parents, staff, and citizens in our school district to carefully consider the impact of this undemocratic constitutional amendment, which is particularly hurtful to urban school districts' abilities to provide a great education for our students, and stakeholders are further encouraged to support our school district by turning the ballot over during the Nov. 3 General Election, and voting NO on Amendment #1.

PASSED AND ADOPTED ON OCTOBER 26, 2026