



## McLean County Unit 5 Menu Survey Script

Field Dates: May 24-28, 2022

### Survey Script

Hello, you're being called to participate in an important ten-minute survey on your school district, McLean County Unit 5.

If you would like to give your opinion, which is collected anonymously and will not be shared with any outside parties, please stay on the line for all twenty-nine questions or your response will not count.

Question 1:	What is your age?	CODE
PRESS 1 if you are 29 or younger.		1
PRESS 2 if you are between 30 and 44.		2
PRESS 3 if you are between 45 and 64.		3
PRESS 4 if you are 65 or older.		4
Question 2:	What is your gender?	CODE
PRESS 1 if you are male.		1
PRESS 2 if you are female.		2
Question 3:	What is your ethnicity?	CODE
PRESS 1 if you are white.		1
PRESS 2 if you are Hispanic.		2
PRESS 3 if you are African American.		3
PRESS 4 if you are Asian.		4
PRESS 5 if you are another ethnicity.		5

<b>Question 4:</b>	<b>Would you generally consider yourself to be more conservative, moderate, or liberal on matters of public policy?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 for conservative.		1
PRESS 2 for moderate.		2
PRESS 3 for liberal.		3
<b>Question 5:</b>	<b>What is your connection to McLean County Unit 5?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 if you have children currently attending Unit 5 schools.		1
PRESS 2 if you previously had children attend Unit 5 schools.		2
PRESS 3 if you do not have children who have attended Unit 5 schools.		3
<b>Question 6:</b>	<b>What is your opinion of your school district, McLean County Unit 5?</b>	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 if you have a very favorable opinion.		1
PRESS 2 if you have a somewhat favorable opinion.		2
PRESS 3 if you have a somewhat unfavorable opinion.		3
PRESS 4 if you have a very unfavorable opinion.		4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.		5
<b>Question 7:</b>	<p>Unit 5's high achievement is at risk as our limited funding is catching up to us. With the lowest education fund tax rate and combined operating funds tax rate of all neighboring districts, our education fund is in a deficit that is projected to continue growing despite our efforts to spend as efficiently as possible and live within our means. We've done everything possible to keep these financial challenges from impacting students and taxpayers, but we've reached the end of our ability to shield families from feeling the negative effects.</p> <p>Unit 5 is conducting community engagement efforts this year to collaborate on a plan for the future of our schools. Working together, we are exploring the possibility of increased funding to minimize the impact of these financial challenges on our students. The next eight questions are regarding steps the district may have to take due to our financial challenges and what it would cost to avoid having to take these steps.</p> <p>Do you support or oppose increasing funding so the district does not need to increase class sizes? Increasing class sizes would reduce costs for the district, but it would lead to less individual and small group instruction time for students and less support for each individual's social emotional needs. The estimated cost to avoid this is up to \$1.1 million per year.</p>	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 if you strongly support overcoming this negative effect.		1

PRESS 2 if you somewhat support overcoming this negative effect.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose overcoming this negative effect.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose overcoming this negative effect.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 8:**      **Do you support or oppose increasing funding so the district does not need to reduce program offerings? Reducing program offerings would reduce costs for the district, but it would lead to fewer course offerings, including electives and specials, hurting students' ability to reach their highest levels of academic achievement. The estimated cost to avoid this is up to \$2.9 million per year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support overcoming this negative effect.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support overcoming this negative effect.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose overcoming this negative effect.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose overcoming this negative effect.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 9:**      **Do you support or oppose increasing funding so the district does not need to reduce extracurricular and co-curricular offerings? Reducing extracurricular and co-curricular offerings would reduce costs for the district, but it would lead to reduced or even eliminated co-curricular and extracurricular activities, including music and athletic opportunities for students, giving them fewer choices to chase their passions. The estimated cost to avoid this is up to \$1.3 million per year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support overcoming this negative effect.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support overcoming this negative effect.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose overcoming this negative effect.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose overcoming this negative effect.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 10:**      **Do you support or oppose increasing funding so the district does not need to shorten school days? Shortening school days would reduce costs for the district, but it would lead to less instructional time for students, hurting all students but especially those in the district's special education program and at-risk students. The estimated cost to avoid this is up to \$2.9 million per year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support overcoming this negative effect.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support overcoming this negative effect.	2

PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose overcoming this negative effect.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose overcoming this negative effect.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 11:**      **Do you support or oppose increasing funding so the district does not need to decrease staff? Decreasing staff would reduce costs for the district, but it would lead to fewer teachers and staff to educate and support students and increased difficulty recruiting high quality educators to the district. The estimated cost to avoid this is up to \$4 million per year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support overcoming this negative effect.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support overcoming this negative effect.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose overcoming this negative effect.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose overcoming this negative effect.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 12:**      **Do you support or oppose increasing funding so the district does not need to close school buildings? Closing school buildings would reduce costs for the district, but it would lead to a loss of schools, increased transportation costs and travel times, and a likely need to redraw district boundaries. The estimated cost to avoid this is up to \$1.5 million per year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support overcoming this negative effect.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support overcoming this negative effect.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose overcoming this negative effect.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose overcoming this negative effect.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 13:**      **Do you support or oppose increasing funding so the district does not need to increase fees? Increasing fees would increase revenue for the district to avoid further cost-cutting measures, but it would lead to increased costs for families. The estimated cost to avoid this is up to \$180,000 per year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support overcoming this negative effect.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support overcoming this negative effect.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose overcoming this negative effect.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose overcoming this negative effect.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

Question 14:	Now, thinking of all seven potential steps the district may have to take due to financial challenges, which one would you consider to be the most important to avoid?	CODE  <i>[Rotate Responses]</i>
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PRESS # for Increasing Class Sizes.	#
PRESS # for Reducing Program Offerings.	#
PRESS # for Reducing Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Offerings.	#
PRESS # for Shortening School Days.	#
PRESS # for Decreasing Staff	#
PRESS # for Closing School Buildings.	#
PRESS # for Increasing Fees.	#

Question 15:	<p>If we can solve these challenges together, Unit 5 will be able to carry on our strong tradition of excellence. All our students will continue to enjoy opportunities for growth and have the necessary supports to achieve personal excellence. Teachers and staff will be empowered and excited to create, innovate, and collaborate. And homeowners will continue to see their home values increase.</p>	CODE
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Some members of the community have expressed a desire to also see improvements to our schools as part of this process. The next 10 questions are regarding potential opportunities, which would only be pursued after the district's financial challenges are overcome.

Do you support or oppose lowering class sizes? This would provide increased individual and small group instruction time for students, more support for each individual's social emotional needs, and ability to grow curriculum to include more engaging student activities, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$1.95 million a year.

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

Question 16:	Do you support or oppose expanding program offerings? This would provide even more opportunities for students through increased course offerings, electives, and specials, but it cannot be funded until current financial	CODE
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challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$1 million a year.

PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5
<b>Question 17:</b> Do you support or oppose increasing student resources and supports? This would provide more support for students, including improved special education, leading to healthier students with stronger social and emotional skills, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$1 million a year.	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5
<b>Question 18:</b> Do you support or oppose implementing accelerated education programs? This would provide new accelerated education programs for gifted students, tailoring our curriculum to the academic readiness of each child, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$500,000 a year.	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5
<b>Question 19:</b> Do you support or oppose enhancing 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Learning? This would provide modernized classrooms and 21 <sup>st</sup> century learning spaces with modern features to effectively implement current and future curriculum, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$750,000 a year.	<b>CODE</b>
PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1

PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 20:**      **Do you support or oppose improving student pick up and drop off? This would provide safer and more efficient traffic flow, improved drop off and pick up, and decreased traffic on neighborhood streets, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$250,000 a year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 21:**      **Do you support or oppose improving safety and security? This would provide a more secure environment for students and teachers including secure vestibules at each school, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$300,000 a year.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 22:**      **Do you support or oppose increasing space in buildings? This would provide more space for student health and movement, and larger open spaces to facilitate collaboration and allow for more individual and small group instruction, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost up to \$12 million.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.	4

PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.

5

**Question 23:**      **Do you support or oppose installing turf at athletic fields? This would provide new turf fields at high school athletic fields, allowing for more consistent use and providing students more opportunities, but it cannot be funded until current financial challenges are overcome. This has been estimated to cost \$2.5 million.**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this opportunity.

1

PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this opportunity.

2

PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this opportunity.

3

PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this opportunity.

4

PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.

5

**Question 24:**      **Now, thinking of all nine potential opportunities discussed in this survey, which one would you consider to be the most important?**      **CODE**

*[Rotate  
Responses]*

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PRESS # for Lowering Class Sizes.

#

PRESS # for Expanding Program Offerings.

#

PRESS # for Increasing Student Resources & Supports.

#

PRESS # for Implementing Accelerated Education Programs.

#

PRESS # for Enhancing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning.

#

PRESS # for Improving Student Pick Up & Drop Off.

#

PRESS # for Improving Safety & Security.

#

PRESS # for Increasing Space in Buildings.

#

PRESS # for Installing Turf at Athletic Fields.

#

**Question 25:**      **The final five questions are regarding funding for the projects discussed in this survey.**      **CODE**

The first hypothetical funding level is the Minimum Funding Level, providing approximately \$11 million a year in additional funding for the school and resulting in a tax increase of approximately \$284 per year for a \$180,000 home. This funding level would overcome some but not all of the district's financial challenges. Do you support or oppose this funding level?

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this level.

1

PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this level.

2



PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this level.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this level.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 26:**      **The second hypothetical funding level is the Base Funding Level, providing approximately \$13 million a year in additional funding for the school and resulting in a tax increase of approximately \$336 per year for a \$180,000 home. This funding level would overcome all the district's financial challenges. Do you support or oppose this funding level?**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this level.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this level.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this level.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this level.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 27:**      **The third hypothetical funding level is the Medium Funding Level, providing approximately \$17 million a year in additional funding for the school and resulting in a tax increase of approximately \$439 per year for a \$180,000 home. This funding level would overcome all the district's financial challenges and fund some improvements to our schools. Do you support or oppose this funding level?**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this level.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this level.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this level.	3
PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this level.	4
PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion.	5

**Question 28:**      **The fourth hypothetical funding level is the High Funding Level, providing approximately \$21 million a year in additional funding for the school and resulting in a tax increase of approximately \$543 per year for a \$180,000 home. This funding level would overcome all the district's financial challenges and fund many improvements to our schools. Do you support or oppose this funding level?**      **CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you strongly support this level.	1
PRESS 2 if you somewhat support this level.	2
PRESS 3 if you somewhat oppose this level.	3

PRESS 4 if you strongly oppose this level. 4

PRESS 5 if you are unsure or have no opinion. 5

**Question 29:      After hearing these four potential funding levels, which do you most prefer?      CODE**

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PRESS 1 if you prefer the Minimum Funding Level. 1

PRESS 2 if you prefer the Base Funding Level. 2

PRESS 3 if you prefer the Medium Funding Level. 3

PRESS 4 if you prefer the High Funding Level 4

PRESS 5 if you do not support additional funding for Unit 5. 5

PRESS 6 if you are unsure or have no opinion. 6

That concludes our survey. Thank you for your time and opinions, goodbye.

McLean County Unit 5 Menu Survey | EOSullivan Consulting | Field Dates: Tuesday, May 24 – Saturday, May 28

Age	
≤ 29	18%
30 - 44	22%
45 - 64	28%
65 +	32%

Gender	
Male	47%
Female	53%

Ethnicity	
White	68%
Hispanic	9%
African American	13%
Asian	6%
Another Ethnicity	4%

Ideology	
Conservative	37%
Moderate	35%
Liberal	28%

District 5 Connection	
Currently	35%
Previously	28%
No Connection	37%

District 5 Opinion	
Very Favorable	33%
Somewhat Favorable	39%
Somewhat Unfavorable	14%
Very Unfavorable	9%
Unsure / No Opinion	5%

Potential Negative Effects	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure / No Opinion		%	Rank
Increase Class Sizes	45%	23%	9%	16%	7%		19%	1
Reduce Program Offerings	42%	25%	11%	17%	5%		12%	7
Reduce Extracurricular Offerings	48%	21%	11%	16%	3%		13%	5
Shorten School Days	43%	22%	12%	18%	4%		13%	4
Decrease Staff	47%	23%	8%	18%	4%		18%	2
Close School Buildings	45%	22%	10%	17%	6%		12%	6
Increase Fees	35%	25%	16%	20%	5%		13%	3

Potential Opportunities	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure / No Opinion		%	Rank
Lower Class Sizes	42%	26%	12%	14%	7%		18%	2
Expand Program Offerings	34%	29%	16%	17%	5%		7%	6
Increase Resources & Supports	44%	27%	11%	14%	5%		14%	3
Implement Acc Ed Programs	41%	29%	13%	13%	4%		12%	4
Enhance 21st Century Learning	34%	30%	14%	16%	5%		7%	5
Improve Pick Up & Drop Off	31%	27%	16%	21%	5%		2%	9
Improve Safety & Security	62%	21%	5%	8%	4%		32%	1
Increase Space in Buildings	22%	24%	22%	25%	8%		4%	7
Install Turf at Athletic Fields	16%	18%	23%	36%	7%		3%	8

Potential Funding Levels	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure / No Opinion		%	Rank
Minimum	31%	28%	12%	23%	7%		23%	2
Base	29%	24%	13%	27%	7%		24%	1
Medium	20%	23%	18%	33%	6%		18%	4
High	17%	17%	17%	44%	5%		11%	5
No Additional Funding							19%	3
Unsure / No Opinion							5%	6