

## VOTERS TO COUNCIL: MOVE FORWARD WITH AN INDOOR POOL AT SPELLERBERG PARK

*The results of Tuesday's election are clear. It is time for Sioux Falls to move forward with building the indoor pool at Spellerberg Park.*

### ***Voters Support an Indoor Pool at Spellerberg Park.***

More than 70 percent of voters rejected the plan for another outdoor pool. The plan to replace the existing pool at Spellerberg with another outdoor facility was resoundingly rejected 70.63 percent to 29.37 percent. According to the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, "Sioux Falls voters resoundingly rejected a new outdoor pool at Spellerberg Park on Tuesday, paving the way for an indoor aquatics facility at the same location." The article went on to note, "The rejection of the outdoor pool initiated measure now paves the way for the City Council to decide whether to build an indoor pool at Spellerberg. *The city's consultants have identified Spellerberg as the ideal location of an indoor pool...*" (emphasis added). [City of Sioux Falls [election results](#), 4/8/2014, Argus Leader, 4/9/2014]

Every City Council District voted "NO" on Measure 2 by nearly 70 percent. In a post election aggregate data analysis, it was determined that every City Council District voted 'No' on Measure 2 by nearly 70 percent. Results by district outlined below.

District	Percent Yes Average	Percent No Average
North East	31.33	68.67
North West	29.32	70.68
South East	26.74	73.26
South West	29.97	70.03
Central	31.47	68.53
Total	29.77	70.23

[\*Preliminary data analysis of Measure 2 results cross tabulated by vote center and applied to traditional precinct and City Council districts, 4/13/2014]

Every Precinct Adjacent to Spellerberg Voted 'No' by more than 61 percent. In a post election aggregate data analysis, it was determined that every precinct adjacent to Spellerberg Park voted 'No' on Measure 2 by over 61 percent. Results by district outlined below.

Spellerberg Precincts	Percent Yes Average	Percent No Average
102	36.7	63.3
103	35.72	64.28
307	38.73	61.27
308	36.31	63.69
510	35.57	64.43

	514	34.76	65.24
	517	36.91	63.09
<b>Total Average</b>		36.31	63.69

[\*Preliminary data analysis of Measure 2 results cross tabulated by vote center and applied to traditional precinct and City Council districts, 4/13/2014]

### ***Polling Indicates Spellerberg is Preferred Location for Indoor Pool***

**Community Swim 365 found 61 percent support for building a centrally located public indoor pool, with strong support for Spellerberg Park location.** In polling conducted for Community Swim 365 by Clark Research – prior to the start of the campaign -- more than 61 percent of respondents indicated they strongly or somewhat agreed that Sioux Falls should build a centrally located public indoor pool. Even when asked specifically about Spellerberg Park a strong plurality of voters agreed with the location. [Clark Research, February 2014]

**Neilson Brothers Polling found 55 percent support for indoor pool at Spellerberg Park.** Independent polling conducted by Neilson Brothers in March of 2014 determined a clear majority – 55 percent -- of respondents support Spellerberg Park as the location of a public indoor pool. According to NBP, “When asked about replacing the outdoor pool at Spellerberg Park with another outdoor pool, only 28 percent of respondents say they will vote for it, while 55 percent will vote against it, and 17 percent remain undecided. A defeat of the outdoor pool proposal would lead to a new indoor pool at the same location. *NBP asked a follow-up question on whether respondents would prefer an outdoor or indoor pool at that site. 55 percent of respondents would choose an indoor pool (matching the numbers of those opposing an outdoor pool),* while 31 percent said outdoor pool (close to the 28 percent planning to vote for the outdoor pool), and 15 percent remain undecided. Among the respondents initially saying they would vote for an outdoor pool, 19 percent say that they would actually prefer an indoor pool, suggesting they may be unclear about the choices.” (Emphasis added) [Neilson Brothers Polling, March 2014]

### ***Aquatic Facilities Master Plan Determined Spellerberg Park is the right location for the indoor pool.***

**The existing pool at Spellerberg needs to be replaced.** According to the City-Wide Aquatics Facilities Master Plan, traditional pools, such as Spellerberg’s, are physically and functionally obsolete. The audit of existing facilities ranked Spellerberg as the pool in greatest need of renovation. [City-Wide Aquatics Facilities Master Plan, Sioux Falls South Dakota 2013]

**Spellerberg’s central location would allow a single indoor facility to serve all of Sioux Falls.** The service area of a non-central indoor facility would fail to cover all of Sioux Falls, while including areas outside of city boundaries. If placed outside of the center, a minimum of two indoor facilities would be necessary to service all of the city. A large indoor facility would include a 50m competition pool and still cost less than two smaller facilities. Site analysis uncovered limitations with all central locations, except Spellerberg Park, as possible sites for a large indoor facility. [City-Wide Aquatics Facilities Master Plan, Sioux Falls South Dakota 2013]

**Spellerberg is large enough for indoor facility, while keeping current amenities and maintaining park space.** The proposed indoor aquatics facility would minimize the impact on Spellerberg's open space by utilizing as much of the existing footprint as possible. All of Spellerberg's current amenities, including the sledding hill, will remain. Even with the addition of the indoor pool, the expanded parking, and the relocated tennis courts, 14.8 acres of park space will be preserved. [Sioux Falls Aquatics Master Plan Conceptual Drawings, 1/28/2014, Argus Leader 1/28/2014]

**An indoor pool facility will benefit the Spellerberg neighborhood.** The current pool is underutilized, but a new outdoor pool would have greatly increased traffic and parking in the summer months. The additional parking in the proposed indoor plan would increase access to all of Spellerberg's amenities, while distributing the traffic throughout the year. [City-Wide Aquatics Facilities Master Plan, Sioux Falls South Dakota 2013]

**Year-Round Pool Lowers Traffic in Spellerberg Neighborhood.** Previously, concerns about traffic and parking at Spellerberg were raised. However, as reported in the Argus Leader, Kevin Post with Councilman Hunsaker indicated traffic to Spellerberg would actually be less if it were an indoor pool rather than an outdoor facility. "He said if Spellerberg were made into an outdoor family aquatic center, the area could not handle the traffic." [Argus Leader, 3/29/2013]