

***Voting to raise student fees: Examining undergraduate student's decisions to fund an athletic complex***

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In May of 2009, Bowling Green State University held an election on whether or not to fund the Stroh Center, the University's designed 4,700-seat convocation center. The university stated that the \$36 million Stroh Center would "be funded through a combination of debt service and private gift support. The private fund-raising goal for the Stroh Center is \$14 million. \$22 million will be borrowed for the project" (BGSU, 2009, ¶ 4). After the university announced plans to raise student fees approximately \$60 a semester, students held an online election to uphold or reverse the Undergraduate Student Government's support of a student fee to assist in the funding of the Stroh Center. The results of the election were overwhelmingly in support of funding the Center: 69% to 31%.

The purpose of this study was to examine undergraduate students' feelings about the new Stroh Center and why upperclassmen voted for or against funding the Center. Through a random sampling of undergraduate courses, students completed a survey that assessed what factors caused participants to vote the way they did in the Stroh Center election, freshmen students feelings about not having a say in the additional fees they will have to pay, and if students believed the new Stroh Center will benefit them? The results showed that students had differing opinions on why they voted for or against funding the Stroh Center.