



Special Election - Proposition No. 1

Submitted by Tacoma School District No. 10

General Obligation Bonds - \$300,000,000



Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution #1831 concerning a proposition to finance capital improvements. This proposition authorizes the District to modernize or replace three middle schools, modernize or replace and upgrade facilities of Wilson High School, and make other capital improvements to District facilities, to finance these projects by issuing \$300,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years, and to levy property taxes annually in addition to regular property taxes to repay the bonds, all as provided in Resolution #1831. Shall Proposition No. 1 be approved or rejected?

Statement For:

Historically voters have shown an ongoing commitment to our children and our district's future by passing bonds to modernize and replace Tacoma Public Schools' aging school buildings. Three middle schools and one high school remain on a list of those needing major renovation and structural updates.

Passing the bond will allow construction to begin, **providing local jobs and stimulating the economy**. Additionally we will gain classrooms designed to better meet the needs of today's teachers and students, including healthy and reliable ventilation systems, updated technology, energy efficiency and improved fire and safety systems district-wide.

Every child deserves an opportunity for access to a quality educational environment.

Voting **Yes** continues our commitment of preserving the investments of our parents and grandparents, building on a history of strong foundations for generations to come.

Committee Members: Kim Golding, Marilyn Strickland and Ryan Mello, 253-376-3774, www.TacomaCitizens.org

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

We built our history on strong foundations. **It's time to build the future**. Voting **Yes** continues our commitment to replace aging school buildings and update classrooms. The collection rate was designed with taxpayers and the economy in mind, and is lower than the last bond's. **We can provide jobs to families today and educate our next generation of students**. Every child deserves an opportunity for a quality educational environment. **Vote Yes for schools**.

Committee Members: Kim Golding, Marilyn Strickland and Ryan Mello, 253-376-3774, www.TacomaCitizens.org

Explanatory Statement:

As part of its "Tacoma Renewal & Excellence Program" (T-REX), Tacoma School District is asking voters to approve a bond measure to: modernize or replace Stewart, Hunt and Baker middle schools; complete Phase II construction at Wilson High School; replace or upgrade athletic fields at Lincoln and Stadium high schools; and replace or upgrade roofs, flooring, plumbing, playground equipment, lighting and mechanical systems, and make other capital improvements to District facilities, as provided in District Resolution No. 1831.

Passage of this bond proposition would authorize the District to borrow \$300,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. The bonds will be repaid from annual property tax levies not to exceed 20 years. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold.

The District's tax rate has declined from \$6.56 in 2006 to \$4.80 in 2009. If this bond measure passes, the District's overall rate of \$4.80/\$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2009 is estimated to increase to \$5.55/\$1,000 in 2010. In 2011 and beyond, tax rates are estimated to remain level.

Statement Against:

Tacoma's Financial Report Card

Fact # 1. Washington State has the 9th highest per capita tax burden in America.

Fact # 2. Tacoma's property tax rate is the highest in Washington.

Why?

Fact # 3. Former Tacoma Mayor/former Bates Technical College President Brian Ebersole stated, **"...because the schools have historically relied on such a huge share of the local property tax, Tacoma's overall property tax rate is the highest of any city in the state. That's not a positive distinction for individual homeowners or our business community."** (The News Tribune, 5/14/2000)

Fact # 4. Currently, taxpayers who live in the Tacoma School District pay **\$4.77 per \$1000.00** assessed value on their property. The average rate across the state is only **\$3.16**. This means taxpayers are **already paying more than double what taxpayers in Seattle and Bellevue pay!**

8 Years Ago

Fact # 5. On Tuesday, February 6, 2001, voters **passed a \$450 million school bond (the largest bond in Tacoma's history!)**

More Information? www.TheTruthRocks.com

Committee Members: Will Baker and Dave Dugan, The Taxes Rangers, 253-627-1317, willpower76@hotmail.com

Rebuttal of Statement For:

On February 6, 2001, voters **passed a \$450 million school bond**.

On February 5, 2002, voters **passed a \$258.7 million school levy**.

On April 25, 2006, voters **passed a \$290 million school levy**.

Now, the school board **wants voters to pass another \$300 million school bond! (That would be almost \$1.3 billion in new property taxes in barely 8 years!)**

Remember, everybody pays property taxes **(either in property taxes or in rent increases)!**

Visit www.TheTruthRocks.com

Committee Members: Will Baker and Dave Dugan, The Taxes Rangers, 253-627-1317, willpower76@hotmail.com