

# PIERCE COUNTY'S OFFICIAL LOCAL VOTERS' PAMPHLET

## April 25, 2006 Special Election

Five school districts have measures on the ballot.



# Letter from the Auditor

---



**Pierce County**  
Auditor's Office

---

Dear Voter,

Greetings! My election team and I are working through a busy spring election season. We are phasing in a new touch screen voting system and implementing the new statewide voter registration database. We also worked through an active legislative session that included the passage of a new primary bill. Beginning next year, Washington State will have an August Primary which will allow more time for our military voters to receive and return their ballot.

You may have noticed you received a larger voters' pamphlet for this April 25, 2006 Special Election, as opposed to the brochure format we've sent in the past. The style is similar to the pamphlets for the Primary and General Elections. We used this format in February and received positive feedback. Keeping the same format for all elections saves time and money. It's also more user-friendly.

For many of you, this election will be conducted entirely by mail at the request of your school district. Sumner, Bethel and White River School District have opted to conduct this election by mail, while in Tacoma and Dieringer, the polls will be open.

Check out page 5 of this pamphlet to find our new Express Booth locations. Two of these sites will be open for this election only. Express Booths are convenient and you don't have to pay postage.

You may find you have but one issue to vote on in this election. Don't let that stop you. Your vote is your voice. It's important that you're heard loud and clear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat McCarthy".

Pat McCarthy  
Pierce County Auditor

# Tacoma School District No. 10



Special Election - Proposition No. 1  
Submitted by Tacoma School District No. 10  
REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LEVY

**Official Ballot Title:** The Board of Directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution No. 1784 concerning educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District to support the District's educational programs, maintenance and operations:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2007	\$3.88	\$71,002,000
2008	\$3.71	\$70,946,000
2009	\$3.62	\$73,075,000
2010	\$3.53	\$75,268,000

Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:** Tacoma School District is asking voters to approve a Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy that will continue to help fund teachers, librarians, counselors, nurses, substitutes; custodians, maintenance personnel, office professionals, technical professionals, para educators, and technology specialists; classroom instructional supplies and textbooks; campus security and administrative support; athletics, music and extra-curricular activities; advanced classes for high-achieving students; transportation, special education, crossing guards, and playground supervisors supported by the expiring levy. It pays approximately 22% of the general fund, including mandated programs not funded by the state.

Passage of this proposition would authorize the levy of \$71,002,000 in property taxes for collection in 2007, \$70,946,000 for 2008, \$73,075,000 for 2009 and \$75,268,000 in 2010. If authorized, these property taxes would be collected at an estimated rate of \$3.69 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in each of the four years of collection.

**If this Levy Measure passes, the overall tax rate for the District, including previous voter-approved construction bonds, is expected to decline through 2010. The District's overall tax rate of \$6.55/\$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2006 is estimated to decline to \$4.82/\$1,000 in 2010.**

### Statement For:

Your *yes* vote will maintain current funding for Tacoma Public Schools.

**The state does not fully fund education;** this levy provides 22% of the district's general fund.

**Our schools rely on local levy dollars for the basics:** teachers, textbooks, sports, music and the arts. Levy money also provides safe transportation for students, and supports programs for our community's advanced and special education students.

**This levy is not a new tax.** It will replace the existing levy which expires this year. As house values rise, school tax rates go down; the school district tax rate will decrease from \$6.55 per thousand in 2006 to \$4.82 in 2010.

**We have a long history of supporting our schools.** Your *yes* vote is urgently needed; if this levy fails, our schools will not receive any local levy funding in 2007.

**Maintain quality education for Tacoma's children by voting *yes* on the replacement school levy!**

Statement Prepared By: Victoria Woodards, Dan Barkley, Kurt Miller

### Statement Against:

#### Tacoma's Financial Report Card

**Fact:** Washington State has the 9<sup>th</sup> highest per capita tax burden in America.

**Fact:** Tacoma's property tax rate is the highest in Washington. **Why?**

**Fact:** 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:** Currently, taxpayers who live in the Tacoma School District pay **\$7.28 per \$1000.00** assessed value on their property. The average rate across the state is only **\$3.85**. This means taxpayers are **already paying more than 3 times what taxpayers in Seattle and Bellevue pay!**

#### 5 Years Ago

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

**More Information? [www.thetruthrocks.com](http://www.thetruthrocks.com)**

Statement Prepared By: Tony Riccobono, Will Baker, Dave Dugan, The Taxes Rangers

### Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Your *yes* vote will maintain current funding critical to basic education. Without it, schools will lose teachers, bus routes, support for arts, athletics, special education, highly capable and other important programs. Tacoma's current school tax rate is \$6.55 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, and will continue to decline to an estimated \$4.82 in 2010. Tacoma's children need your support. **Renew the levy. Vote *yes* on Proposition 1.**

Statement Prepared By: Victoria Woodards, Dan Barkley, Kurt Miller

### 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*. Now, the school board *wants voters to pass another \$290 million school levy! (That would be almost \$1 billion in new property taxes in barely 5 years!)* Remember, everybody pays property taxes (*either in property taxes or in rent increases*)! Also, the school board and the "Tribune" *can't be trusted!* **Visit [www.thetruthrocks.com](http://www.thetruthrocks.com)**

Statement Prepared By: Tony Riccobono, Will Baker, Dave Dugan, The Taxes Rangers

# Sumner School District No. 320



Special Election - Proposition No. 1  
Submitted by Sumner School District No. 320  
REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION LEVY

**Official Ballot Title:** The Board of Directors of Sumner School District No. 320 adopted Resolution No. 9/05-06 concerning a proposition to finance educational programs, maintenance and operation. This proposition authorizes the District to meet the educational needs of its students by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District for support of the District's General Fund educational programs, maintenance and operation expenses:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2007	\$2.8535	\$16,000,000
2008	\$2.8141	\$18,000,000
2009	\$2.7752	\$20,250,000
2010	\$2.7368	\$22,800,000

Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:** Passage of Proposition 1 would allow Sumner School District to replace an existing educational programs, maintenance and operations levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2006.

The taxes collected by this levy will be deposited in the District's General Fund and used to meet the educational needs of students and pay general expenses of educational programs, maintenance and operation that are not fully funded by the State. These expenses include, but are not limited to, additional teachers and classroom aides to maintain smaller class sizes, computers and technology, transportation services, all athletic and extracurricular activity programs, special education, textbooks and other instructional supplies, state-mandated programs, and other general education-related costs. The taxes collected by this levy provide approximately 20% of the District's General Fund budget.

The proposed four-year replacement educational programs, maintenance and operations levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$16,000,000 in 2007, \$18,000,000 in 2008, \$20,250,000 in 2009 and \$22,800,000 in 2010. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2007, dropping to an estimated \$2.74 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2010.

### Statement For:

Please join Citizens for Education in voting yes!

**Your support is vital.**

The levy makes up 20 percent of the district's annual budget. It covers the basics of educating our kids, including teacher and paraeducator salaries; textbooks and basic teaching materials; all computers; transportation; school safety personnel; all athletic and after school programs.

**The levy doesn't fund "extras."**

Without your support, the district will be forced to impose huge cutbacks, including laying off staff, increasing class size, imposing fees for athletics, and reducing student transportation by half.

**This is not a new tax.**

Voting yes doesn't add a new tax. This is a renewal of the existing levy that has supported our kids and our schools for years.

**Your yes vote ensures quality education and safe schools.**

Voting yes means keeping education programs and services our children currently receive and deserve. Outstanding schools benefit our kids and our community.

Statement Prepared By: Brian McDermott, Mark Evers, Linda Brenner

### Statement Against:

**22% Higher Taxes by Voting For This Levy.**

Do not be deceived! The levy tax rate will only decrease by 4.1% over the last 3 years, with your assessed value increasing 26.5%. Taxes are figured by rate times the assessed value. Taxpayers don't get a 22% raise over 3 years. As the schools employer, the taxpayer needs to say *no* to this drastic increase.

**How Can We Have Affordable Housing With Sky-Rocketing Taxes?**

The percent of school funds paid for by the local taxpayer in the Sumner School District is already 12% higher on average than similar school districts. The average home owner pays \$4,200 a year in property taxes with \$2,500 going to schools.

**Local Funding, Like This Levy, is for Extras.**

Adequate school funding is provided per Washington State law. If all money was spent more wisely we would only need a small levy. [brianbernecker@hotmail.com](mailto:brianbernecker@hotmail.com)

Statement Prepared By: Brian Bernecker

### Rebuttal of Statement Against:

**The proposed levy rate is among the lowest in our area.** Voting yes continues a long-standing tradition of community support for our schools. The levy rate will drop from the current rate of \$3.13 per \$1000 to an estimated \$2.85 in 2007 and declines each year. Approving this levy will not increase your school taxes. Let's continue providing quality education for our kids. **Failure to pass this levy doesn't cut "extras," it cuts the basics!**

Statement Prepared By: Brian McDermott, Mark Evers, Linda Brenner

### Rebuttal of Statement For:

**Don't Support Tantrums.** Their message is, "Give me the \$79,000,000 or I will punish you." They don't have to cut important programs. There is plenty of waste. The State provides funds for 20 students per teacher. **The Problem is Spending, Not Income.** The School's Budget in 2005-2006 is \$65,000,000 and only \$38,000,000 is going to Basic Education. All money is not being used wisely. It is time to say "Lower the taxes, spend more wisely."

Statement Prepared By: Brian Bernecker

## Vote by Mail Express Booths

# VOTING IS EASY

**Drop your absentee ballot in the mail  
or drop it off at a booth.  
Open 7a.m. - 8p.m. April 21st - April 25th**

Voting by mail couldn't be easier. All you have to do is read the voters' pamphlet, mark your ballot, then drop it off postage-free at any of the drive-up Vote By Mail Express booths located throughout Pierce County.

Or, just add a stamp and return your ballot through the U.S. Mail. The choice is yours.



### **Town Center at Browns Point**

1000 Town Center, Tacoma

### **Rite Aid**

1912 N Pearl Street, Tacoma

### **Sprinker Recreation Center**

14824 S 'C' St, Tacoma

### **Pierce County Airport - Thun Field**

16715 Meridian East, Puyallup

### **Pierce County Annex**

2401 S 35th St, Tacoma

### **Century 21 - Swarthout Realty**

19413 Highway 410 East, Bonney Lake

### **Oasis of Hope**

1926 S 'G' Street, Tacoma

### **County City Building (Drop Box)**

Limited hours: 7:30am - 5:00pm

930 Tacoma Ave South, 2nd Floor, Tacoma

### **Rite Aid**

22311 Mountain Hwy East, Spanaway

### **Pierce County Library - Buckley**

**\*this election only\***

123 S River Ave, Buckley

### **Fred Meyer - Sumner**

**\*this election only\***

1201 Valley Ave, Sumner



Vote By Mail Express booth is not for regular mail delivery.

# Dieringer School District No. 343



Special Election - Proposition No. 1  
Submitted by Dieringer School District No. 343  
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION AND TECHNOLOGY

**Official Ballot Title:** The Board of Directors of Dieringer School District No. 343 adopted Resolution No. 06-05-06 concerning a proposition to finance expansion, modernization and technology. This proposition authorizes the District to expand and modernize North Tapps Middle School, construct additional classrooms at Dieringer Heights Elementary School, and make required road improvements relating to both schools; make District-wide technology additions and upgrades; issue up to \$10,025,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years; and levy annually an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District to retire the bonds. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:** Proposition 1 would authorize Dieringer School District to issue \$10,025,000 of general obligation bonds to expand and modernize North Tapps Middle School (including construct a new addition with science classrooms/labs, auxiliary gymnasium and health/fitness classroom, and reconfigure existing science classrooms and voc-ed shop) and construct additional classrooms at Dieringer Heights Elementary School. The bonds will also pay for county required road improvements at North Tapps and Dieringer Heights and District-wide technology additions and upgrades.

The School Board found that there is an urgent need for expansion and modernization of school facilities due to continued rapid community growth, and the desire to preserve existing programs and educate students in permanent facilities. Further, the District's existing technology infrastructure and equipment require upgrades to support student learning.

The bonds will be repaid from annual property tax levies over a period of 20 years. The District estimates the tax rate to repay the bonds will be approximately 45¢ per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$135 per year for a \$300,000 home. Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For more information, call the Pierce County Assessor (253) 798-7114.

## Statement For:

### The Challenge

The Dieringer community is growing rapidly. Over the next 5 years, construction will result in an estimated 400 new students – 30% growth. To continue to provide quality education in a safe, cost-effective environment, we must expand our schools *now*. **Seven new classrooms at North Tapps Middle School** – including 4 science labs, expanded PE facilities and **five new Dieringer Heights Elementary classrooms** will provide quality learning spaces. The technology funds from previous bonds are gone. **Replacement technology funds** are needed to provide students continued access to technology to support learning for their future.

### The Solution

With the passage of this important bond, rapid community growth allows tax rates to only increase \$0.08 from the current \$2.59/\$1000. The **majority** of Dieringer's community voted to support our students in November and again in February. With your support, we can reach the **required 60% super majority**. **Vote Yes on April 25<sup>th</sup>** and preserve Dieringer's educational quality!

Statement Prepared By: Chris Burton, Kelly Baker, Barb Rodseth

## Statement Against:

No statement was submitted  
against this issue.

*This space is available each election  
for citizens and/or committees opposing measures  
to publish a Statement Against. For information,  
contact the Pierce County Auditor's Office at  
(253) 798-7430.*

# Election Information

---

## QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND OR LEVY?

---

### Tacoma School District No. 10

www.tacoma.k12.wa.us..... 253-571-1000

### Sumner School District No. 320

www.sumner.wednet.edu .....253-891-6000

### Dieringer School District No. 343

www.dieringer.wednet.edu.....253-862-2537

### Bethel School District No. 403

www.bethelsd.org .....253-683-6000

### White River School District No. 416

www.whiteriver.wednet.edu.....360-829-3814

## IMPORTANT POLLING PLACE INFORMATION

---

These polling places will be open on April 25, 2006 for Tacoma School District No. 10 and Dieringer School District No. 343. Polls are open 7:00 a.m - 8:00 p.m.

Pt Defiance Village ..... 6414 N Park Way, Tacoma  
Skyline Presbyterian Church..... 6301 N Westgate Blvd, Tacoma  
Gonyea Boys and Girls Club ..... 5136 N 26th St, Tacoma  
St Luke's Parish Hall .....3615 N Gove St, Tacoma  
Mason United Methodist Church .....2710 N Madison St, Tacoma  
Grant Elementary..... 1018 N Prospect St, Tacoma  
Landmark Convention Center..... 47 St Helens Ave, Tacoma  
UPS Student Union Bldg ..... 1500 N Lawrence St, Tacoma  
Zion Lutheran Church ..... 3410 6th Ave, Tacoma  
Immanuel Presbyterian Church ..... 901 N J St, Tacoma  
First Christian Church..... 602 N Orchard St, Tacoma  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church..... 3315 S 19th St, Tacoma  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church ..... 101 E 38th St, Tacoma  
Olympic View Friends Church..... 201 Browns Pt Blvd NE, Tacoma  
Browns Point Elementary.....1526 51st St NE, Tacoma

Sacred Heart Parish Hall ..... 4530 E McKinley Ave, Tacoma  
Waller Road Grange..... 2708 64th St E, Tacoma  
Browns Pt Clubhouse..... 201 Ton A Wan Da Ave NE, Tacoma  
UP Primary School ..... 2708 Grandview Dr W, University Place  
Redeemer Lutheran Church ..... 1001 Princeton Ave, Fircrest  
Praise Covenant Church..... 3501 S Orchard St, Tacoma  
Madison Elementary .....3102 S 43rd St, Tacoma  
Reed Elementary ..... 1802 S 36th St, Tacoma  
Calvary Baptist Church ..... 6511 S C St, Tacoma  
Hope Lutheran Church ..... 7209 S Puget Sound Ave, Tacoma  
Baker Middle School..... 8320 S I St, Tacoma  
McKinley Park Free Methodist Church ..... 611 E 82nd St, Tacoma  
Lake Tapps Elementary..... 1320 178th Ave E, Sumner  
FPD #22 - Stn 02 - Lake Tapps ..... 1605 210th Ave E, Sumner

# Bethel

## School District No. 403



Special Election - Proposition No. 1  
 Submitted by Bethel School District No. 403  
 EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS LEVY

**Official Ballot Title:** The Board of Directors of Bethel School District No. 403 adopted Resolution No. 13-(05/06) concerning educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following additional taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District to support the District's educational maintenance and operations:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2007	\$3.18	\$22,480,000
2008	\$3.18	\$23,600,000
2009	\$3.18	\$24,780,000
2010	\$3.18	\$26,000,000

Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:** The Bethel School District provides educational services to nearly 18,000 students of the community in grades K-12. Passage of this proposition would allow for the replacement of the existing maintenance and operations levy that is expiring. The proposed four-year levy would provide funding for years 2006-2007, 2007-2008, 2008-2009, and 2009-2010.

The taxes under this proposition are estimated to be no more than \$3.18 per \$1,000 assessed value collected in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. That compares to a voter-approved tax rate of \$3.53 per thousand for the expiring four-year levy. Levy funds support the operation of 24 schools. The local levy represents 15 percent of the District's budget. The state matches those funds, adding another \$5 million annually to the District's budget.

Without the levy, the district will face widespread cuts in transportation, athletics, teaching staff, support staff, Bethel Recreation and other areas not funded by the state.

### Statement For:

#### Absolutely vital

Our children can't afford to lose transportation, athletics, Bethel Rec, textbooks, technology, and arts programs. Levy dollars also help keep the lid on class sizes.

#### Replaces expiring levy

The current levy ends this year. Passage of the April 25 levy replaces the expiring levy at a *lower rate*.

#### Winning record

Passage of a levy in 2002 allowed the district to make dramatic improvements. In the last four years, WASL reading scores have increased 18 points in fourth grade, 23 points in seventh grade, and 22 points in tenth grade. We are an award-winning district.

#### Building the Bethel community

Investing in good schools improves the quality of life for the entire community. Bethel schools have made striking improvements because of local support. Bethel voters will make a difference in children's lives and in the community itself by voting *yes* on April 25. [www.bethelkids.com](http://www.bethelkids.com)

Statement Prepared By: Marilyn Rasmussen, Don Meyer, Jennifer Barnstien

### Statement Against:

#### Excess Levy=Excess Money Bethel Threats

Instead of improving education and reducing excess staff, we get threats against our children. Why do we have **20% excess staff?** Accounts for \$21 million a year. Why did we not buy books for every student out of the last 100 million?

#### Cost:

Bethel is in **Top 10 districts for cost per student**.

#### Quality:

**Bottom 50 districts for education.** Federal failing list 3 out of 4 years. 65% of all graduates must take remedial Math and English to go to college. Superintendent believes this is success, and received pay raise for each year Bethel was failing.

#### Solution:

Reduce excess staff (saves \$21 million). Merit pay for good teachers. Books for all students. Delay WASL until proven valid. Provide **real discipline**. Fire Superintendent. **We want quality not quantity.** Make a difference **Vote No.**

Statement Prepared By: Rocky Carroll, Alice Kuenzli, Ron Morehouse

### Rebuttal of Statement Against:

Don't be swayed by half-truths and incomplete information. Check out the facts on the State Superintendent's website: [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us). Bethel's per-pupil spending is \$7,221 compared to the state average of \$7,658. WASL scores have **improved every year** for the last five years. The number of Advanced Placement students has **quadrupled** since 2002. The district earned a **national technology award** last year. With community support, our schools will continue to make tremendous progress. **Vote yes.**

Statement Prepared By: Marilyn Rasmussen, Don Meyer, Jennifer Barnstien

### Rebuttal of Statement For:

**Threats:** Are You going to put up with being **Black-mailed again?** Activity/sport fees increased after being told would not. Why are we not told how much is going to each department? **What is the school-board hiding,** (\$21 million+ for excess staff)? **Quality?** Fact: **65% of students take remedial Math and English to go to college? 28% fail graduation on time.** No money spent on books, transportation, sports 2002. **Solution:** Reduce excess staff, fully fund books, buses.

Statement Prepared By: Rocky Carroll, Alice Kuenzli, Ron Morehouse



# Bethel

## School District No. 403



Special Election - Proposition No. 2  
 Submitted by Bethel School District No. 403  
 SCHOOL RENOVATION AND CONSTRUCTION GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$175,000,000

**Official Ballot Title:** The Board of Directors of Bethel School District No. 403 adopted Resolution No. 14-(05/06) concerning issuance of general obligation bonds for school renovation and construction. This proposition authorizes the District to construct and equip four schools, modernize two schools, and replace two others; build a transportation facility and provide facility improvements at every school; issue up to \$175,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years; and levy annually additional property taxes on all taxable property within the District to retire the bonds. Should Proposition No. 2 be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:** Passage of this proposition will authorize Bethel School District to issue \$175,000,000 in general obligation bonds to address overcrowding and intense growth. The bonds will pay for constructing and equipping two elementary schools, a junior high, a north-end transportation facility, a professional-technical skills center, modernization of Spanaway Lake High and Shining Mountain elementary schools, replacement of Spanaway and Clover Creek elementary schools, purchase of land for future schools, and improvements to existing facilities district-wide. Improvements include: classrooms, safety systems, playfields, parking lots, libraries, and cafeterias.

The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a 20-year period. The District estimates a total tax rate (including the existing rate) of no more than \$1.81 per \$1,000 of assessed value for the term of the bonds. That compares to a tax rate of \$2.09 per thousand approved by voters in 2001.

### Statement For:

Bethel faces a critical shortage in housing students. Facilities built for 14,037 students now house 17,748. Core buildings lack sufficient classrooms, cafeterias, and libraries. Space for more portables is disappearing.

#### Good financial sense

Land prices are increasing, while available acreage disappears. Interest rates remain low. Passing the bond will bring in \$62 million in state matching funds. Investing in schools now saves money in the long run.

#### Lower tax rate than 2001

Increased growth has lowered the *overall* bond tax rate to no more than \$1.81 per \$1,000. That's lower than the rate voters approved in 2001. Bethel has the third lowest bond tax rate of 17 school districts in Pierce County.

#### Accountability and achievement

All 2001 bond projects – from building new schools to remodeling and repairing older facilities – have been on-time and on-budget. Student achievement is at an all-time high. Vote *yes* to keep our children on a winning track.

[www.bethelkids.com](http://www.bethelkids.com)

*Statement Prepared By: Marilyn Rasmussen, Don Meyer, Jennifer Barnstien*

### Statement Against:

#### Financial Sense:

Does it make sense to continue to build schools too small? Why spend \$millions on portables when for same price you could build a larger school? Why is administration not placed in portables and students in a proper school building?

#### Tax Rate:

This looks good except property value **tax base** in Bethel has more than doubled since 2001. If they want the same bond then **it should be closer to 1.05 per thousand**. Taxes will rise on owners and renters approximately \$400 to **\$700 per year** for next 20 years and they will request more again in 4 years. **This tax is in addition to the 2001 tax.**

#### Accountability:

If they saved millions as claimed where is the proof and money? Students are not doing better, 3 years on federal failing list is proof.

*Statement Prepared By: Rocky Carroll, Alice Kuenzli, Ron Morehouse*

### Rebuttal of Statement Against:

The facts speak for themselves. **Fact:** Bethel is one of the fastest growing districts in the state, according to a recent demographic survey. **Fact:** The total tax rate – including the 2001 tax – will not exceed \$1.81 per thousand. That's 28 cents lower. **Fact:** Bethel has one of the lowest bond rates in Pierce County, according to the assessor's office. **Fact:** Intense overcrowding hurts student learning. **Fact:** Our community regularly uses school facilities.

*Statement Prepared By: Marilyn Rasmussen, Don Meyer, Jennifer Barnstien*

### Rebuttal of Statement For:

**New Bond: Rate 300% over 2001**, Revenue requests **4 times as much**. **Bond is addition** to 2001 bond. **Building:** We want schools built for the future. No more portables. **We want to know where the millions saved are!** District doesn't know. We want schools that can be expanded up and out instead of buying new property. **Quality: We want open discussion and debate on problems in district.** We want safe, quality schools not quantity.

*Statement Prepared By: Rocky Carroll, Alice Kuenzli, Ron Morehouse*

# White River School District No. 416



Special Election - Proposition No. 1  
Submitted by White River School District No. 416  
REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS LEVY

**Official Ballot Title:** The Board of Directors of White River School District No. 416 adopted Resolution No. 06-02 concerning educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District to support the District's educational maintenance and operations:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2007	\$3.49	\$7,000,000
2008	\$3.49	\$7,300,000
2009	\$3.49	\$7,700,000
2010	\$3.49	\$8,200,000

Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:** Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$7,000,000 in property taxes within White River School District for collection in 2007, the levy of \$7,300,000 for collection in 2008, the levy of \$7,700,000 for collection in 2009, and the levy of \$8,200,000 for collection in 2010. This levy replaces an existing levy that expires this year. In accordance with Resolution No. 06-02 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the White River School District's General Fund to pay approximately 18% of the general expenses of operating the District. General expenses of the District include employee costs (such as salaries), instructional materials, special programs, activities and sports, technology systems operation, transportation costs, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District schools. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$3.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2007, \$3.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2008, \$3.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2009 and \$3.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2010.

### Statement For:

The White River School District students need the voter's help to maintain current programs and staff by voting yes on the Maintenance and Operations levy. This is a renewal of the existing levy which voters passed in 2002. **This is not an additional tax.** In fact, approving this levy will reduce the amount of tax per \$1000 of home valuation. Even if your home's value has increased, the amount of money going to the school district does not. The district must go to voters to renew the levy to keep the district operating. The levy funds cover a shortfall in state funding and help pay for basic educational needs for our students, including: teachers, secretaries, school counselors, music and athletic programs and transportation. Funding levies has been a strong tradition in our community. Let's continue to give our students the support they deserve by voting **yes** on Proposition 1.

Statement Prepared By: Carolyn Norris, Denise Vogel, Jodi Green

### Statement Against:

In February the voters made it clear **they want a two year levy.** When the new school is built this 4 year levy will not be able to support it. Why should our current schools suffer? Why is it OK to cut staff, delay book upgrades and reduce bus transportation while they collect our increased tax dollars? Knowing a two year levy would most likely pass – **even with the high tax** they want to continue to impose on us – the School Board instead chose to use our tax dollars to **rerun the exact levy that lost in February!** **This is the exact type of waste that the voters said no to in February!** Our kids deserve better – Help keep our schools strong. **Please vote no to a four year levy.**

Statement Prepared By: James Findley, Sue Stevens, JeriLyn Sawyer

### Rebuttal of Statement Against:

A majority of districts in the state run 4-year levies. It has proven to be more effective for budget planning. The amount asked for per year would be the same whether we run a 2- or 4-year levy, yet District costs would increase due to running two separate levies. There are currently **no plans or funds** to build a new school. Our schools can't stay strong without levy dollars. **Please vote yes – support our kids!**

Statement Prepared By: Carolyn Norris, Denise Vogel, Jodi Green

### Rebuttal of Statement For:

Both sides agree property values are going up and your taxes will increase more each year, yet we're told..."the amount of money going to the school district does not (increase)." **Then where is your money going? Should we continue to pay but not get what we're paying for?** Let's choose an affordable levy that will work without taking any more away from our kids. Please vote for accountability by voting **no** to this levy.

Statement Prepared By: James Findley, Sue Stevens, JeriLyn Sawyer

# VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT



To become a permanent absentee voter, fill out one of the forms on this page and mail it to the Pierce County Auditor's Office. You may also contact the office from 8:30am-4:30pm by:

- Calling (253) 798-7430 or 1-800-446-4979
- Going to the Pierce County Auditor's Office at: 2401 S. 35th Street Room 200, in Tacoma

Registered absentee voters should receive their ballots in the mail 15-20 days before an election. Once the ballot is voted, it may be returned (postmarked no later than election day) in any of the following ways:

- Mailing it to the Pierce County Auditor's Office
- Taking it to a Pierce County polling place
- Taking it to the Pierce County Auditor's Office
- Taking it to a Vote By Mail Express booth



## If you are already a permanent (ongoing) absentee voter you do NOT need to fill out a new request form for each election.

If you currently vote at the polls, and would like to vote by absentee ballot for this election only, you may fill out one of the forms to the side (or contact the Pierce County Auditor's Office) as early as 45 days prior to that election. However, absentee ballots are not issued on election day (except to hospitalized voters).

For more information about these subjects, contact:

Pierce County Elections Department  
2401 South 35th Street, Room 200  
Tacoma, WA 98409

8:30am-4:30pm, Monday-Friday

(253) 798-7430  
or

1-800-446-4979

[www.piercecountywa.org/auditor](http://www.piercecountywa.org/auditor)

### PIERCE COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

Check One:  Permanent  One time request for this date only: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Election

Print Name as Registered

Print Street Address Where You Live

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Year-Round Mailing Address (required if different from address where you live)

( ) - ( ) - ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )  
Date of Birth Home Phone Number

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date

### PIERCE COUNTY ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST FORM

Check One:  Permanent  One time request for this date only: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Election

Print Name as Registered

Print Street Address Where You Live

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Year-Round Mailing Address (required if different from address where you live)

( ) - ( ) - ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )  
Date of Birth Home Phone Number

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date