

**Proposition No. 1**  
**Submitted by Puyallup School District No. 3**  
**REPLACEMENT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION LEVY**



**Official Ballot Title:**

The Board of Directors of Puyallup School District No. 3 adopted Resolution No. 54 2001-2002, concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational program maintenance and operation expenses:

Levy Year	Collection Year	Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2002	2003	\$3.45	\$24.5 Million
2003	2004	\$3.45	\$26.1 Million
2004	2005	\$3.45	\$27.9 Million
2005	2006	\$3.45	\$30.0 Million

all as provided in Resolution No. 54 2001-2002. Should this proposition be approved?

**Statement For:**

The February 3 levy election failed by the narrowest of margins.

Why is the passage of this levy so critical to our schools and our children? It means continued funding for classroom teachers, textbooks and supplies, and transportation. It means maintaining the investment we have made in our school facilities. It means having and maintaining quality programs, such as speech and debate, music and athletics. These programs have built a solid reputation for our district, and have contributed to the value of living and working in Puyallup. Failure of this levy will negatively impact our children and our community.

This is **not a tax increase!** It will replace the tax rate currently in effect. The tax rate will remain the same. Your yes vote shows support for our youth and our community. Vote yes on April 23.

*Committee Members Include: Lloyd Freudenstein, Greg Heath, Ken Charboneau*

**Rebuttal of Statement Against:**

The Puyallup School District welcomes inquiries about all expenditures. Wages and benefits of all district employees are part of the public record and are accessible to all citizens. To date, no requests for such information have been received. Staffing at all levels compares with other school districts in the area. Passage of this levy continues your present tax rate. Good schools depend on good citizens. Continue the tradition of excellence. Vote yes April 23.

*Committee Members Include: Lloyd Freudenstein, Greg Heath, Ken Charboneau*

**Explanatory Statement:**

Puyallup School District No. 3 seeks voter approval of a replacement educational program maintenance and operation levy that will be collected over four years, commencing in 2003. The replacement maintenance and operation levy will pay a portion of the District's costs for expenses such as textbooks, utilities, insurance, safety, classroom materials, student activities, and salaries.

The replacement maintenance and operation levy will impose an excess property tax levy of approximately \$3.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to provide \$24.5 million to be levied in 2002 to be collected in 2003; an excess tax of approximately \$3.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to provide \$26.1 million to be levied in 2003 to be collected in 2004; an excess tax of approximately \$3.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to provide \$27.9 million to be levied in 2004 to be collected in 2005; and an excess tax of \$3.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation to provide \$30.0 million to be levied in 2005 to be collected in 2006.

The maintenance and operations levy will replace the District's current maintenance and operation levy that expires in the year 2002.

**Statement Against:**

**Saying "No to higher taxes" does not mean no to a quality education!** More of our tax dollars can be spent in the classroom.

**The Puyallup School District needs to stop waste and reduce excessive management costs.** An example is paying for this election on a levy that we already voted No on just two months ago?

**Even district employees are voting against this levy!**

**60% of your property tax goes to schools now!**

**Meaningful, rather than manipulative information needs to be provided by the Puyallup district. For example:**

1. Total cost per student for Puyallup and other Pierce county districts.
2. Comparisons of teacher and non teacher staff with all other Pierce County districts.
3. A list of all jobs and pay including benefits.

**Please vote "No" on waste, so we can reduce our rental and home ownership costs.** Your "no vote" will provide you with lower taxes.

*Committee Members Include: Gary Vertrees, Mary Bennett, Harold Daskam, Citizens Against Waste*

**Rebuttal of Statement For:**

**It's time we demand Integrity and Accountability from the Puyallup school district!**

**We want to support our children's education, not Waste.**

**This Is a New and Increased Tax!** Phone 798-6111 to verify that the Puyallup school district's current M&O rate is \$3.22, Not the \$3.45 they say is the same! Even worse, their proposed collections **increase 22%** over the following three years!

**Please hold the school district Accountable. Vote No to Stop the Waste.**

*Committee Members Include: Gary Vertrees, Mary Bennett, Harold Daskam, Citizens Against Waste*

**Proposition No. 1**  
**Submitted by Dieringer School District No. 343**  
**SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT BONDS - \$11,200,000**



**Official Ballot Title:**

The Board of Directors of Dieringer School District No. 343 adopted Resolution No. 07-01-02, concerning a proposition to finance, construct and improve school facilities. This proposition would authorize the District to construct and equip new school facilities, modernize and improve existing school facilities and to carry out other capital purposes to enhance educational opportunities for students; issue no more than \$11,200,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20 years; and levy annual excess property taxes to pay and retire such bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 07-01-02. Should this proposition be approved or rejected?

**Explanatory Statement:**

If approved by the voters, this Proposition would authorize Dieringer School District No. 343, Pierce County, Washington, to issue up to \$11,200,000 of general obligation bonds to pay costs of replacing Lake Tapps Elementary School by constructing and equipping a modern new school on the existing site.

The School Board has found that there is an urgent need for the replacement of the existing Lake Tapps Elementary School because of the present condition of that facility and the institution of new educational programs for students.

Without voter authorization, there will be no funds to construct and equip a new Lake Tapps Elementary School to better serve students.

The bonds would mature within 20 years after issuance and would be paid by annual property tax levies made throughout the District in excess of regular property taxes.

Exemptions from taxes for the bonds may be available to homeowners who are 61 years of age or older, or disabled, and who meet income requirements set by state law.

**Statement For:**

**Lake Tapps Elementary repairs are draining our educational dollars.**

The school's deteriorating condition creates a costly burden to taxpayers. Money earmarked for books, teachers, etc., instead must pay for fixes on a constantly leaky roof, failing plumbing, decaying electrical wiring and other system failures.

**Why rebuild and not just remodel?**

Remodeling is almost as costly as rebuilding. Plus, the outdoor layout of the school is considered dangerous today. Earthquake and handicapped codes are not current. A remodel could not adequately address these issues.

**We just built Dieringer Heights!**

Yes, because a second elementary was needed. Studies show smaller elementaries are important for better learning. A single school would have to serve 700-800 elementary children, a situation our community decided it didn't want.

*Failing to support this bond won't make the problems disappear. They will persist, draining our educational dollars and prolonging an unsafe environment for our children. **Please vote Yes.***

**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.*

*Committee Members Include: Lauri McLeod, Sue Bradner, Janis Suznevich*

**Proposition No. 1**  
**Submitted by Orting School District No. 344**  
**EDUCATIONAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS LEVY**



**Official Ballot Title:**

The Board of Directors has approved a replacement education levy. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following taxes, in excess of regular tax levies and in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support the District's educational programs, maintenance and operations, as specified in District Resolution No. 5.01-02:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2003	\$3.41	\$1,972,000
2004	\$3.35	\$2,090,000

Should this proposition be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$1,972,000 in property taxes within Orting School District for collection in 2003 and the levy of \$2,090,000 in taxes for collection in 2004. In accordance with Resolution No. 5.01-02 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the Orting School District's General Fund to pay part 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 \$3.41 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2003 and \$3.35 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2004.

**Statement For:**

The Orting School District Maintenance and Operation Levy **replaces** our current levy ending in 2002. The state does **not** adequately fund basic education. Levy funds account for 15% of the basic operating budget; providing critical, and otherwise un-funded support for textbooks, lower class size, replacing aging buses, student transportation, safety staff for playground and highway monitors, technology, keeping up grounds and facilities.

**Replacement Levy Rate Will Be Less**

Due to tremendous growth in our community, cost to taxpayers for this replacement levy of \$3.41 for 2003 and \$3.35 in 2004 is less than the past rate of \$3.60 per \$1,000. State equalization funds provide \$400,000 to the district, but only with the passage of the levy.

**Levy Passage Crucial For Students**

The Levy Committee is pleased with the progress made district wide. It would be devastating to make the cuts required without a levy. **Levy passage is absolutely crucial** to properly maintain our schools and continue effective progress in academic achievement.

*Committee Members Include: J.R. Inman, Rena Shawver, David Keers*

**Statement Against:**

No statement was submitted against this issue.

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**Proposition No. 1**  
**Submitted by Franklin Pierce School District No. 402**  
**REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LEVY**



**Official Ballot Title:**

The Board of Directors of Franklin Pierce School District No. 402 adopted Resolution No. 02-R-02 concerning a replacement proposition to finance educational programs and operations expenses. This replacement proposition authorizes the District to collect taxes to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District, for support of the General Fund educational programs and operations expenses:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2003	\$4.15	\$8,360,000
2004	\$4.15	\$8,860,000
2005	\$4.15	\$9,390,000
2006	\$4.15	\$9,960,000

as specified in Resolution No. 02-R-02. Should this proposition be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:**

Franklin Pierce School District seeks voter approval of a replacement educational programs and operations levy. These local funds support educational programs not fully funded by the state. The replacement levy will pay a portion of the District's costs for expenses such as classroom teachers; safety personnel; nurses, librarians and counselors; transportation of our students; programs for special needs students like gifted, remedial, handicapped; and essential books and supplies for Franklin Pierce students.

The replacement educational programs and operations levy will continue in the amount of \$8.36 million for the 2003 collection, \$8.86 million for the 2004 collection, \$9.39 million for the 2005 collection and \$9.96 million for the 2006 collection. The approximate cost per \$1,000 assessed value is \$4.15 for 2003, \$4.15 for 2004, \$4.15 for 2005 and \$4.15 for 2006.

The educational programs and operations levy will replace the District's current levy that expires in the year 2002.

**Statement For:**

The Franklin Pierce Kids and Schools Committee requests that you **Vote Yes** on the **Replacement Levy**. **This is not an additional tax**; this levy replaces a tax we are currently paying. The state formula does not fully fund basic education for our children and we need local levy dollars! The proposed **Replacement Levy** rate is **29 cents less** per \$1,000 of assessed property value than the rate of the expiring levy.

**The Replacement Educational Programs and Operations** dollars provide over 14% of our district's budget. The passage of this levy is critical, as it will provide essential funding for expenses such as classroom teachers, safety personnel, transportation of our students, programs for special needs students, and essential books and supplies for Franklin Pierce students. If this levy fails there will be major program reductions.

Your vote is important. **Support our students by Voting Yes!**

**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.*

*Committee Members Include: Faith Collins, Bernie Kingston, Janet Detering*



**Proposition No. 1**  
**Submitted by Bethel School District No. 403**  
**SCHOOL PROGRAM OPERATIONS LEVIES**



**Official Ballot Title:**

The Board of Directors of Bethel School District No. 403 adopted Resolution 18 (01-02) concerning a replacement levy for partial funding of educational programs. This proposition would finance, through the General Fund, educational programs and school operations, and authorize the following excess levies to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the district:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2003	\$3.53	\$17,400,000
2004	\$3.53	\$18,440,000
2005	\$3.53	\$19,550,000
2006	\$3.53	\$20,720,000

Should this proposition be approved?

**Explanatory Statement:**

Bethel School District is requesting voters to approve a four-year maintenance and operations levy proposition to replace the existing levy, which will expire at the end of this calendar year. This proposition authorizes the collection of taxes to provide \$17,400,000 in 2003, \$18,440,000 in 2004, \$19,550,000 in 2005, and \$20,720,000 in 2006 to pay for a portion of the general fund operations of the school district. The four one-year levies would pay for existing programs throughout the district that are not fully funded by the state and are deemed to be essential by the school board.

Specifically, the levy dollars would pay a portion of the costs of a variety of district programs including transportation, special education, gifted, athletic, music and art. In addition, the levy funds would pay a portion of the funds needed to employ staff and support the purchase of instructional materials and supplies, as well as computer software and provide staff training. The fixed dollar amounts to be collected in each of the four calendar years beginning in 2003 will be obtained by an annual tax levy rate of approximately \$3.53 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

**Statement For:**

Bethel Schools need your support on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. The three year levy approved by voters in 1999 is expiring and needs to be renewed. This levy provides 20% of the funding needed for Bethel's educational programs and operations. This is *not* a new tax.

Your **yes vote** will enable Bethel Schools to continue supporting reduced class size, updated textbooks and classroom supplies, bus transportation, campus security, special needs of students (including honor programs, music, arts, special education), driver's education, student athletics, Bethel Rec, custodial, maintenance, summer school, technology to improve student learning, staff training and other areas beyond minimal state funding.

Your **yes vote** helps assure safe, quality education, preparing our Bethel children for the future. Strong schools provide the foundation for a strong community.

**Your vote counts. Make it count for the Bethel community. Make it count for Bethel schools. Make it count for Bethel kids.**  
[www.bethelkids.com](http://www.bethelkids.com)

*Committee Members Include: Jennifer Harrison, Eddie Mason, Jennifer Barnstien*

**Rebuttal of Statement Against:**

The facts: 61% of our students attend college. There has been a 716% increase in Advanced Placement participation. OSPI reports that Bethel has the lowest drop-out rate in Pierce County and is much lower than the state average. We have graduates attending Harvard and West Point. Bethel District does a great job of providing a quality education to all of its students. **Vote Yes for Bethel Schools** – you're voting yes for our children's future.

*Committee Members Include: Jennifer Harrison, Eddie Mason, Jennifer Barnstien*

**Statement Against:**

About 17 percent of public high school students do not graduate.

Many who do graduate are ill-prepared for further education, or even to begin their lives as ordinary citizens. More than a third will need to take remedial high school courses if they do go on to college. Student performance in the State tests has gone down instead of improving. The public schools are failing to fulfill their purpose and must not be allowed to continue that way.

You can get a good education for your kids but you are not likely to if you vote for this levy! Start by voting 'no' again, on this one. Good education could begin in September, but you need to tell them about it right now. The schools will not fix the problems until they are made to. Until **you** insist!

Demand the real public education the kids are entitled to.

*Committee Members Include: Fergie Byars and Ron Morehouse, Committee for Excellence in Education*

**Rebuttal of Statement For:**

It is vital that the public support its schools, but that does not mean that we should blindly dump money on them. Furthermore, **the public has had it with constantly increasing taxes!**

**Because the concept of education is corrupted, we must not encourage the schools to continue as they are.**

Let us first insist that the schools become an Establishment of Education - and nothing else. Make them prove it.

**Vote 'no' on this levy.**

*Committee Members Include: Fergie Byars and Ron Morehouse, Committee for Excellence in Education*