

Fire Protection District No. 21 (Graham Fire & Rescue)

Special Election - Proposition No. 1 Excess Property Tax Levy for Maintenance and Operation Expenses

See complete resolution text at
PierceCountyElections.org

Ballot Title The Board of Fire Commissioners of Pierce County Fire Protection District No. 21 (Graham Fire & Rescue) adopted Resolution No. 891 concerning a replacement levy for maintenance and operations expenses. If approved, Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to levy, without regard to the dollar rate and percentage limitations imposed by Chapter 84.52 RCW, the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District, for maintenance and operations and to maintain current levels of fire and emergency medical services:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2019	\$0.60	\$4,300,000
2020	\$0.56	\$4,300,000
2021	\$0.54	\$4,300,000
2022	\$0.51	\$4,300,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 891. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Explanatory Statement Graham Fire & Rescue is placing a maintenance and operations excess levy proposition on the February 13, 2018 ballot. This proposition will authorize the fire district to collect \$4.3 million annually for four years, at an approximate rate of \$0.60 to \$0.51 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, starting in 2019 and ending in 2022. The actual rate should decrease every year due to growth in the total assessed valuation. This proposition reauthorizes the same initial rate approved by the voters on November 4, 2014.

The fire district has seen significant growth in population (19% in the last ten years) with a greater increase in incident response demand (41% in the last ten years). Current staffing levels are inadequate to sustain the current response times due to this increase in demand for service. Ability to meet future service demands will be compromised without increased staffing levels. Graham Fire & Rescue responded to 6545 incidents in 2016.

Approval of this proposition would maintain the current level of services, by allowing an increase in staffing levels to meet current demand, provide for replacement of aging medical transport units and fire trucks, critical lifesaving equipment replacement, while maintaining District reserves.

Statement For **Not A New Tax** Proposition No. 1 is not a new tax. It reauthorizes the Fire Department to collect property taxes previously approved by voters. The proposed rate of \$0.60 per \$1,000.00 on a home valued at \$300,000.00 would cost \$180.00 annually - less than \$0.50 a day.

Increasing Populations With Limited Resources Graham Fire receives two dimes out of every dollar collected in property taxes but provides emergency medical, life and property protection, as well as fire suppression and prevention services to more than 60,000 residents and growing.

To provide these essential, lifesaving services, professionally and accountably to an increasing population, this maintenance and operation measure must pass. Without your support, station closures, increased response times, and a reduction in first responders is inevitable.

Supported by Firefighters and Fire Commissioners Professional Firefighters and the Board of Fire Commissioners determined this measure to be both necessary and essential for the protection of life and property. Thank you in advance for reauthorizing Proposition No. 1.

Rebuttal of Statement Against The Fire Chief and Board of Fire Commissioners proposed *reauthorization* of the maintenance and operation levy previously approved by voters. The protection of life and property are the only special interest this measure serves. The opponents of Proposition No. 1 were either removed from the Board of Fire Commissioners by the voting public, or have drawn challenges seeking their removal from public office. Protect our community. This is *your* Fire Department. Yes on Proposition One!

Committee Members: Gina Blanchard-Reed, Ryan Portmann, and Lukas Wahl, YesGrahamFire@gmail.com
Yes Graham Fire

Statement Against Do not be fooled by misinformation, this union backed issue will increase your taxes! The call volume is incorrect, they have included mutual aid calls, they are not required to respond to. The idea that they are required or need to have more fire fighters on a engine is not based on facts or law. The National Fire Protection Association only requires that your Fire department meet the intent of the regulation.

Your new Board of Fire Commissioners and new Fire Chief wants to add up to 30 or more fire fighters based on new taxes, do not be fooled, make your Fire District live within the current 17 million dollar budget, which is supporting the current manpower levels.

When you hear about layoffs it's not based on the facts. This is your fire department, you control how it is run and funded not unions, or special interest. Vote no

Rebuttal of Statement For 2014 your taxes to support the fire department were \$9,320,000. 2018 total will be \$17,150,000. It will have gone up more than \$7,830,000 in taxes and fees in just four short years. They want a M & O tax of \$4,300,000 a year, before knowing what the evaluation will have gone up. For 2018 new taxes and GEMT will bring in \$1,608,000 more. The average homeowner makes \$48,000. Now they want \$17,200,000 more. Vote no no.

Committee Members: Gerald Gustafson, quaysplace@hotmail.com, Robert Skaggs, and Terry Kindle
Citizens Against Unreasonable Taxation

Bethel School District No. 403 & Fire Protection District No. 21 Special Election - February 13, 2018

BALLOT DROP BOXES OPEN 24/7 JAN. 26 - FEB. 13

ANDERSON ISLAND - Anderson Island Park and Ride, Yoman Rd (near Villa Beach Rd)

BONNEY LAKE - Bonney Lake (South) Park and Ride, Sky Island Dr E & 184th Ave E

BROWNS POINT/NORTHEAST TACOMA - NE Police Substation, 4731 Norpoint Way NE

BUCKLEY - Buckley Library, 123 S River Rd

DUPONT - DuPont Ross Plaza, 1500 Wilmington Dr

EATONVILLE - Barney's Corner, 40512 Meridian E

EDGEWOOD - Edgewood City Hall, 2224 104th Ave E

FIFE - Fife City Hall, 5411 23rd St E

GRAHAM - Graham Fire & Rescue Station 91, 10012 187th St E

LAKEWOOD - Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW * Lakewood (SR 512) Park and Ride, 10417 South Tacoma Way

ORTING - Orting Public Safety Building, 401 Washington Ave SE

PARKLAND/SPANAWAY - Parkland/Spanaway Library, 13718 Pacific Ave S * Roy Y Park and Ride, SR 507 & Pacific Ave S

PUYALLUP/SOUTH HILL - Puyallup Library, 324 S Meridian * Skookum Archers, 11209 Shaw Rd E *South Hill Library, 15420 Meridian E

ROY - Roy City Hall, 216 McNaught Rd S

STEILACOOM - Steilacoom Library, 2950 Steilacoom Blvd

SUMMIT - Summit Library, 5107 112th St E

SUMNER - Sumner Library, 1116 Fryer Ave

TACOMA - 72nd Street Transit Center, 1319 E 72nd St * Central District, 902 S L St * Community Health Care at Salishan, 1708 E 44th St * Kandle Park Police Substation (parking lot), 5140 N 26th St * Pierce County Annex, 2401 S 35th St * Tacoma Area Coalition of Individuals with Disabilities, 6315 S 19th St * Tacoma Dome Park and Ride, 610 Puyallup Ave E * Wapato Park, 1501 S 72nd St

TILlicum - Tillicum Community Center, 14916 Washington Ave SW

UNIVERSITY PLACE - West Pierce Fire & Rescue, 3631 Drexler Dr W

VOTING CENTERS OPEN FEB. 13, 7 AM - 8 PM

PIERCE COUNTY ELECTION CENTER, 2501 S 35th St, Ste C, Tacoma

PUYALLUP LIBRARY - 324 S Meridian, Puyallup

TACOMA AREA COALITION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

(TACID) - 6315 S 19th St, Tacoma

Services available:

- Accessible voting using a touch screen marking tool — Large font, color contrast, and audible ballot options available.
- Replacement ballots — Lost, damaged, or miss-marked ballot replacements provided.
- Ballot drop off — In addition to our ballot drop boxes, all voting centers have a secure ballot deposit box available.
- Helpful election workers to assist you.
- Provisional ballots.

Using a Drop Box?
(No stamp required)
Drop off ballot by 8 PM
Feb. 13, 2018.



Mailing your ballot?
(Stamp required)
Must be postmarked by
February 13, 2018.



We recommend mailing no later than February 10, 2018 to ensure postmark.

NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

You must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day.
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

How to register:

- Online - PierceCountyElections.org
- In person - Pierce County Election Center.
- By mail - Call to request a form.

Registration deadline:

In person deadline (new Washington voters only) is February 5, 2018.

QUESTIONS?

NEED A REPLACEMENT BALLOT?

PierceCountyElections.org
pcelections@co.pierce.wa.us
(253) 798-VOTE (8683) or (800) 446-4979



Official Local Voter's Pamphlet published by the Pierce County Auditor's Office

Bethel School District No. 403 - Special Elections

Proposition 1 - Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

Ballot Title The Board of Directors of Bethel School District No. 403 adopted Resolution No. 03 (17-18) concerning replacement of an expiring levy for educational programs and operations. If approved, Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District to fund educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Amount
2019	\$1.50	\$25,500,000
2020	\$1.50	\$29,500,000
2021	\$1.50	\$34,000,000
2022	\$1.50	\$39,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 03 (17-18). Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No.1 would allow the District to renew an expiring levy for education and operations by levying \$25,500,000 in 2018 for collection in 2019, \$29,500,000 in 2019 for collection in 2020, \$34,000,000 in 2020 for collection in 2021, and \$39,000,000 in 2021 for collection in 2022. In accordance with Resolution No. 03 (17-18) these taxes would be used to pay for the District's eligible educational programs and operations expenses that are not funded by the state, including but not limited to teacher salaries, athletics, arts, music, special education, buildings and transportation. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be levied at a rate estimated to be \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021.

Committee Statement Information for Proposition No. 1

For Committee: Sandy Williamson and Tim Garber, www.yesbethelkids.com
Bethel Citizens Committee for School Support

Against Committee:
Victoria Watson, (253) 531-1163

Statement For

20,000 Bethel Kids need your support

Keep our schools vital and strong! Vote *Yes* and renew the expiring Education and Operations levy.

By approving this levy you will be helping us protect the important services and programs our students need and our families expect.

Levies bridge the gap between what the state funds and what it actually costs to educate students. The levy pays for additional teachers, support staff, transportation, and other materials necessary to help our students be college and career ready. This levy is not a new tax - it is money well spent. Without it, our children will suffer - teachers and staff would be laid off, class sizes increased, student safety will be at risk, and important programs eliminated.

Our Bethel kids need your support now more than ever. Please don't let our children fall behind. Vote yes on the school education and operations levy.

Statement Against

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will renew our taxes. The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will renew our taxes \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 per assessed value. Even though we have been paying this tax forever do we need to pay \$1.50 for special education and busses?

Rebuttal of Statement Against

The Bethel School District is over 200 square miles. The state does not provide adequate funding to transport the district's students to and from school. This levy will help bridge the gap in funding. The same is true for special education funding as well as athletics, the arts, and many other programs important to our community that the state fails to fund. Without this levy these programs would be cut.

Rebuttal of Statement For

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will renew our taxes \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 per assessed value. Now that we are recovering from the housing crisis our property values are rising again, that means the taxes will too. Even though we have been paying this tax forever do we need to pay \$1.50 for special education, smaller class sizes, and buses?

Proposition 2 - Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy

Ballot Title The Board of Directors of Bethel School District No. 403 adopted Resolution No. 04 (17-18) concerning a replacement technology levy. If approved, Proposition No. 2 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District to acquire technology and equipment, including classroom computers:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Amount
2019	\$0.46	\$5,500,000
2020	\$0.43	\$5,500,000
2021	\$0.40	\$5,500,000
2022	\$0.37	\$5,500,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 04 (17-18). Should Proposition No. 2 be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the district to renew an expiring levy for school technology by levying \$5,500,000 in 2018 for collection in 2019, \$5,500,000 in 2019 for collection in 2020, \$5,500,000 in 2020 for collection in 2021, and \$5,500,000 in 2021 for collection in 2022. In accordance with Resolution No. 04 (17-18) these taxes would be deposited to the District's Capital Projects Fund and used to pay for technology improvements and equipment for its educational programs and services. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be levied at a rate estimated to be \$0.46 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2018, \$0.43 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2019, \$0.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2020, and \$0.37 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2021.

Committee Statement Information for Proposition No. 2

For Committee: Sandy Williamson and Tim Garber, www.yesbethelkids.com
Bethel Citizens Committee for School Support

Against Committee:
Victoria Watson, (253) 531-1163

Statement For

Opportunity - Your Yes vote will continue to give Bethel kids current technological tools and skills that are essential for college and the workforce. The Bethel School District has developed an award winning technology-rich environment and is giving our kids new strategies to compete in today's job market. In fact, Apple has recently recognized Bethel as an Apple Distinguished District for the high quality work they are doing with their students. Bethel is being used as an example for other districts in the area and around the country.

Access - This levy renewal directs funding to classrooms to support the infrastructure needed to provide all students with unprecedented access to computers, tablets, and curriculum.

Learning - Currently, every student has access to a device and staff members throughout the district are finding innovative ways to integrate technology.

Support - Vote Yes to continue giving our students the essential tools and skills they need to be successful.

Statement Against

The district is planning to renew the taxes we pay for the technology levy. The district is planning to renew the taxes we pay for the technology levy. That is for 23,500 devices, license agreements, software and internet access. This tax has been adjusted for inflation, and now must accommodate more students in our growing district.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

This levy gives students in our community access to technology that will allow them to be contributing members in a technologically rich society. All students are now accessing curriculum and completing assignments on their iPads. Teachers are able to provide students with more meaningful learning opportunities because of the incredible access to technology. Vote Yes and help Bethel continue to be a leader in the state and country in student technology

Rebuttal of Statement For

The district is planning to renew the taxes we pay for the technology levy. The district plans to continue supplying all students with I pads and access to the internet. There are 20,000 students and the numbers keep growing. That is a lot of devices, license agreements, software, and time to teach both the students and the teachers how to use the I Pads.

Proposition 3 - General Obligation Bonds - \$443,000,000

Ballot Title The Board of Directors of Bethel School District No. 403 adopted Resolution No. 06 (17-18) concerning a proposition to finance construction and renovation of schools. If approved, Proposition No. 3 will authorize the District to: construct one new high school and two new elementary schools; replace Challenger High; renovate Bethel High; renovate and expand Cedarcrest Middle, Evergreen Elementary, Naches Trail Elementary and Elk Plain K-8; make District-wide health, safety, security and other capital improvements; issue no more than \$443,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 06 (17-18). Should Proposition No. 3 be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement

Passage of this proposition would authorize Bethel School District to issue \$443,000,000 of bonds to: construct one new high school and two new elementary schools, replace Challenger High, renovate Bethel High, renovate and expand Cedarcrest Middle, Evergreen Elementary, Naches Trail Elementary and Elk Plain K-8; and make District-wide health, safety, security and other capital improvements. The School Board determined overcrowding, deteriorating and educationally outdated schools and student safety and security made these projects necessary. Approximately \$127,100,000 in State match is anticipated to help complete these projects.

The bonds will be repaid from annual excess property taxes over a period of 21 years. The District estimates a tax rate for this bond of approximately \$1.54 per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$12.83 per month for a \$100,000 home.

Based on recent changes to state law that reduce the District's educational programs and operations levy, overall tax rates for combined District levies will decrease starting in 2019. Even with passage of this new bond proposition, the District anticipates a combined tax rate decrease from \$5.92 in 2018 to \$4.89 in 2019. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Pierce County Assessor at 253.798.2169.

Committee Statement Information for Proposition No. 3

For Committee: Sandy Williamson and Tim Garber, www.yesbethelkids.com
Bethel Citizens Committee for School Support

Against Committee:
Victoria Watson, (253) 531-1163

Statement For

Local Property Tax rates for schools will not increase

- Voting yes will address overcrowding, renew our worst facilities, and improve student safety, as recommended by the 35 bipartisan community member Task Force that studied the facility needs in a comprehensive 6-month process. This is due to the Legislature's change in education funding model lowering local taxes in lower cost areas like ours, compensated by higher school taxes in King County. Therefore some of what we now pay towards local operating costs would go towards the cost of new buildings.

The new and upgraded facilities will add significant value to our community - Since 2009, the district has grown by nearly 2,000 students and 450 in the last year alone. We are overcrowded. The bond will build a new High School, 2 new Elementary Schools and modernize and expand 6 older schools.

The Bethel School District has a great record of building efficiently - The Bethel School District completed the last two bonds ahead of schedule and under budget.

Vote yes for new and improved schools while taxes stay the same - Your Yes vote for this bond will improve our community while taxes stay the same.

Statement Against

On February 13, 2018 the Bethel School District will ask you to vote yes. The \$443 million dollar bond promises to provide additional schools and remodel the old ones. There are 200 hundred portable classrooms in use, but will they go away? No, the portables will be needed again, even though the project will provide classroom space for hundreds of current students it will not be enough space for the future.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

Portable classrooms accommodate fluctuations in enrollment and growth until new buildings can be built. This is a sign of fiscal responsibility. The primary reason for portables, especially at new schools, is that the state-matching model only allows buildings designed for current enrollment. With our rapid growth, during the planning and building time for these schools, more students arrive; requiring portables to accommodate them. Another reason for portables is failure to get 60% yes votes.

Rebuttal of Statement For

If the last bond was completed on time and under budget what was the left over money used for? Will this bond also be on time and under budget? With the tax cut making our taxes less then why not build more schools? We will still need portables at some schools.