

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 23rd. 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

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