



Proposition No. 1
Submitted by Tacoma School District No. 10
SCHOOL FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$450,000,000



Official Ballot Title:

The Board of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution #1608 concerning this proposition. This proposition authorizes the District to build two elementary schools, a middle school and a high school, modernize and upgrade existing school facilities, make technology improvements to school facilities, purchase school sites and make other capital improvements, to issue \$450,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years, and to levy property taxes annually, in addition to regular property tax levies to repay such bonds, all as provided in Resolution #1608. Shall this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement:

Passage of proposition No. 1 will authorize Tacoma School District No. 10 to borrow \$450,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds to fund the next phase of the District’s long-range capital facilities plan.

The bonds will pay for constructing a new Mt. Tahoma High School at the District’s Flett Dairy site, a new Gray Middle School at the current Mt. Tahoma site, a middle school at the Seward Elementary site, and elementary schools at 92nd and Alaska and Cirque and Alameda streets. Schools to be modernized and expanded are Foss, Lincoln, Stadium, and Wilson high schools, Meeker and Gault middle schools, and Fern Hill, Geiger, Mann and Whitman elementary schools. Bonds will also fund acquiring land and making small capital improvements at all schools, such as replacing roofs, heating and electrical systems, upgrading safety features and accessibility for the disabled, and providing technology.

If Proposition 1 is approved by the voters, the tax rate for all District purposes is expected to be approximately \$7.49 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This tax rate is expected to remain the same or decrease over the life of the proposed bonds, because the District will have paid off previously authorized capital projects levies and bonds.

Statement For:

Tacoma Public Schools have a long and proud history of educational success. Our schools need modernized facilities, up-to-date labs, adequate wiring for technology and improved safety features. Proposition I will allow our District to continue its 30-year facilities improvement plan as recommended by a citizens’ committee. And, school tax rates will not increase. All funds will be used to build, improve, maintain or repair school buildings and classrooms. Our students are an important link to our future, and their education is vital to the continued success of our local economy. Up-to-date schools provide an environment that encourages students to learn. Support our children and classrooms by voting “yes” for schools on February 6.

Statement Against:

Tacoma’s Financial Report Card

- Fact #1.** Washington State has the 9th highest per capita tax burden in the Nation.
- Fact #2.** Tacoma’s property tax rate is the highest in Washington.

Why?

Fact #3. Former Tacoma Mayor/New Bates Technical College President Brian Ebersole says, “...*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 **\$7.91 per \$1000.00** assessed value on their property. The average rate across the state is only **\$4.33**. This means that taxpayers are **already paying twice what taxpayers in Seattle and Bellevue pay!**

Fact #5. *\$450 million* is the *largest bond in Tacoma’s history!*

For More Information: www.piercecountyinsider.com

Statement prepared by: Betty Drost, Kurt Miller, and Jim Washam

Statement prepared by: Will Baker, Curt Mehlhaff, and Tony Riccobono

Rebuttal of Statement Against:

As we strengthen our schools, we strengthen our neighborhoods.

Voting yes continues implementation of the citizens’ committee 30-year plan of replacing, remodeling or upgrading every school in the district. Passage of the bond means the **property tax rate will not increase, but will drop 42¢ per \$1,000 assessed valuation, and drop an additional 61¢ per \$1,000 in 2007.** Let’s preserve our tradition and build for the future, in schools that support our growing needs.

Rebuttal of Statement For:

Tacoma’s “*long and proud history of educational success*”?

Wilson High School’s 1998-99 WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) test results show that **only 49% of its students met state requirements in reading, 38% in writing and 28% in math.** (Tacoma Reporter, 8/17/2000)

Question: Why do you think Tacoma School Board President Kathy Orlando sent her kid to Bellarmine?
Remember, \$450 million is more than all school bond’s - combined - that passed in Washington State last year!

Statement prepared by: Will Baker, Curt Mehlhaff, and Tony Riccobono

Statement prepared by: Betty Drost, Kurt Miller, and Jim Washam



Proposition No. 1
Submitted by Bethel School District No. 403
BETHEL SCHOOLS FACILITY IMPROVEMENT
GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS - \$83,525,000



Official Ballot Title:

The Board of the Bethel School District #403 passed Resolution #8 (00-01) concerning this proposition. This proposition authorizes the District to construct and equip a junior high school and a senior high school, rebuild Kapowsin Elementary, modernize Thompson Elementary and Spanaway Junior High School, acquire sites, make heating/ventilation, safety, roofing and other improvements, issue \$83,525,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years, and levy property taxes annually, in addition to regular tax levies to repay such bonds, all as provided in Resolution #8 (00-01). Shall this proposition be approved or rejected?

Explanatory Statement:

Bethel School District is requesting approval of a capital improvement bond measure for construction and equipping of a new high school, a new junior high and rebuilding Kapowsin Elementary. Bonds totaling \$83.525 million would be issued and repaid from annual tax levies over 20 years at an estimated rate of \$0.61 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. State matching funds will generate an additional \$31 million to pay a portion of the costs of these projects. The bond revenues and state matching funds for the new schools would fund the major modernization of Spanaway Junior High and Thompson Elementary. They would also pay for heating, ventilation, plumbing and electrical systems; roof and carpet replacement, and school safety improvements at schools throughout the district. In addition, they would pay for the purchase of future school sites. Design and rebuilding of Kapowsin and the new schools would begin immediately.

Statement For:

Our Priorities: Health, Safety, a Decent Learning Environment for Children

The highest priority issues facing our children: safety, health, overcrowding, and an adequate learning environment require improvements to our aging schools. A bond hasn't passed since 1990 but the needed patching and repairing continues and we've fallen way behind. Some schools are now beyond economical repair and need replacement. We also have grown the equivalent of eight schools and need to catch up.

A Wise Investment

The State will provide an additional \$31 million in matching funds. Qualified senior citizens are exempt from taxes from this bond.

Community Input

Many citizens were involved in recommending this bond. Although recommended by a committee of citizens only, employees strongly support the recommendation.

Good Schools Mean Good Communities

Please support our children with the safe and healthy schools they deserve. It's about kids and it is time for us to support them. Please vote "yes" on February 6.

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.

Statement prepared by: John Briehl Sr., Sue Gallagher, and Randy Bohannon