

Current Realities and Future Facilities

Why does this bond look so different?

After three near-miss bond attempts in 2007 and 2008, it was time for a different approach that more voters might be more willing to support.

The realities of our school district and region have changed since the last election in March of 2008:

- New housing construction has slowed significantly.
- Enrollment growth has slowed (to 2% from 6-7%).
- There is growing uncertainty around the recession.
- And, we have yet to know impact that Washington State's budget deficit will have on education funding.

With sensitivity toward the current financial pressures facing our community, this bond works to reduce costs significantly. The slower enrollment growth surprisingly created an opportunity by providing a bit more time before new schools are necessary. This allows for a stepped-approach to facilities planning, starting with this first step, short-term solution to ensure the bare necessities for our schools.

What is the long-term Facilities Plan?

The current bond is clearly a short-term solution. It was approved by the School Board with a strong commitment to continue research and analysis efforts and engage the community in our district's long-term facilities strategy. We hope, too, that in the next 6-9 months we might have more clarity around the other uncertainties affecting our schools.

Our student population is still growing and we still anticipate needing extra building capacity as projected in earlier bonds...just not as quickly. With the "gift" of time that our current enrollment rate has created, we will re-visit several options and re-assess their feasibility in light of our evolving realities.

The goal of this careful planning and renewed research process will be to define the best, most appropriate long-term direction for our students, schools and growing community.

A LOWER COST for Taxpayers!

Good News about the net tax rate of this bond...

- Due to old school bonds expiring after 2008, there will be a \$.54 per \$1000 rate **decrease** in 2009 school taxes.
- If this bond proposition is approved, collection would begin in 2010 with an estimated increase of \$.35 per \$1000.
- **Net impact for taxpayers will be... LESS than in 2008** by \$.19 per \$1000 assessed value starting in 2010.

BOND Election Validation Requirements:

Our State Constitution requires:

- a 60 percent "super-majority" approval to pass school **bond** elections. (*The simple-majority 50% requirement applies to levies only.*)
- plus, a total voter turn-out that is 40 percent of the ballots cast in the last General Election.

Since our school district had an 84% voter turn-out response in the November election, this means approx. **7,254 registered voters** must participate in the March 10 election, for the election to be valid. And of those voters, **4,353 will need to vote yes** for the bond to pass with the 60% supermajority requirement.

Every vote counts.



Are You Registered to VOTE?

The deadline to register is **February 7, 2009** for the mail-in only March 10 election.

Simply go online to... vote.wa.gov

You can check your status by clicking on "MyVote".

If you are new to King County, you can register online. If you need to make a address change to your current King County registration, call the King County Elections Office 206-296-VOTE (**206-296-8683**) and tell them your new address. For other changes, you must fill out a form (available online) and mail it in. Registration forms must be postmarked 30 days prior to an election. You can also register in person up to 15 days before an election at the King County Elections Office.



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Valley Schools:
www.svsd410.org