



Snoqualmie Valley

Public Schools

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Snoqualmie Valley Tax Rates Will Decrease If School Bond Passes

A Snoqualmie Valley School District bond proposition, currently on ballots due March 10, will address the district's most urgent needs – critical upgrades to systems and buildings at eight schools, and modular classrooms added to Mount Si High School to relieve overcrowding next year.

If the \$27.5 million 20-year bond is approved, the school bond tax rate will *cost less* in 2010 (when collections would begin) than in 2008. While the estimated cost of this bond is \$.35/per \$1000 of assessed property valuation, the bond tax rate will decrease by \$.19 per \$1000 of assessed property valuation in 2010 due to old school bonds retiring (in the amount of \$.54 per \$1000.)

The majority of this bond proposition (about 80%) will provide much-needed system replacements and safety upgrades, to maintain the structural integrity of school buildings throughout the district and ensure student safety. Among these vital improvements are roof replacements, electrical upgrades, heating systems, fire protection panels, new flooring, playground safety and security. These projects will replace systems that have exceeded their normal lifespan, and in some cases, for which parts are no longer available. A cost-savings will also results in the long run, since ongoing repairs to failing systems currently must be paid from the district's day-to-day operating budget, which also supports classrooms and school employees.

This bond will also alleviate overcrowding at Mount Si High School by adding 12 modular classrooms to the high school campus next year. If the bond passes, the new classrooms would be elevated (above flood levels) and placed where the tennis court are currently located. With restrooms, a roof structure connecting the units, a covered walkway and secure areas where lockers could potentially be placed, these modular classrooms could accommodate up to 360 students. The tennis courts will, in turn, be relocated to an adjacent practice field, preserving this physical education 'classroom' and community resource.

Also, if this bond passes, the Snoqualmie Valley School Board has approved a plan to move forward on converting an unused interior courtyard at Mount Si High School into a second lunchroom, adding 6,000 square feet of multi-purpose space. This idea evolved in the aftermath of flooding repairs, as school leaders took a fresh look at ways to ease hallway congestion and crowded common areas.

Student enrollment within the Snoqualmie Valley school district continues to grow, however, the rate of growth has slowed to about 2%, down from 6-7% in recent years. This change allowed the district to present this bond at a significantly reduced amount of \$27.5 million, down from \$189-200 million of three previous near-miss bond attempts in the last two years. Taking into consideration the current economic uncertainties and pressures facing families, this bond addresses only the most urgent facilities needs of Snoqualmie Valley schools. It is a first-step solution to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for students, while research continues regarding the district's long-term facilities plan.

More information is available on the Snoqualmie Valley School District website at www.svsd410.org, including sketches of the proposed expansion to Mount Si High School.

For this mail-in only election, ballots must be post marked March 10 with a \$.42 stamp or deposited in a King County drop box without postage. There is a drop box located at the Fall City Public Library.

The Snoqualmie Valley School District services about 5700 students in East King County of Washington State. Spanning 400 square miles, the school district's ten schools provide K-12 education to students in the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie, and areas of unincorporated King County from Snoqualmie Pass west through Fall City and parts of Redmond and Carnation.

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