

Bond Levy Election Information Sheet

Date of Election-March 12, 2019

New Elementary School.....\$12,500,000

Update and Remodel of senior school facilities

school safety projects (building entrances), the upgrade of security alarm systems, multiple roof projects, asphalt renewal projects, modernization of exterior fascias, the addition of air conditioning at several schools, the resurfacing and addition of middle school tracks, upgrades of electrical and plumbing, and purchase of future school sites.....\$6,500,000

Total.....\$19,000,000

Post Falls School District taxes will not increase as a result of this proposal.

Q. What is the cost to an individual taxpayer?

A. With the approval of this bond, district taxpayers will not see an increase in the school district tax rate. This is possible because the district is paying off the bond levy that paid for construction of Post Falls High School, and due to community growth, more taxpayers are paying for the construction costs of school facilities. The district tax rate will remain \$2.08 per thousand dollars of property value even if the bond and supplemental levies are both approved. This is the lowest tax rate in North Idaho. The district's long term plan has been to layer facility costs in order to not increase the tax burden on our patrons and provide a stable tax environment. The district has not increased taxes in the past 5 years.

Q. Why a new elementary school?

A. Post Falls School District has experienced well documented student enrollment growth. The district grew 180 students this year alone. This growth has resulted in overcrowding in several elementary schools. A new school would also allow the district to move kindergarten students into their neighborhood schools.

Q. Why update and remodel senior school facilities?

A. The district needs to continue to invest and upgrade our senior buildings to ensure the students in those buildings have the same learning opportunities as students in some of our newer facilities. Since the "great recession" the district has made a strong effort to maintain and update our senior buildings. However, there is a backlog of facility needs deferred during the economic downturn. These needed facility remodel projects are too large and expensive to fund with the district's yearly budget. The schools primarily benefiting from the updates are Post Falls Middle, Seltice, Mullan Trail, Ponderosa and Frederick Post.

Q. When will the remodels be completed?

A. The remodels, if approved, will be prioritized over three summers based on safety, health and logistical considerations related to completing projects during a short 2 ½ month period. The district is not able to take any school buildings out of service for students because of the continual increase in the student population.

Q. How was this facility proposal developed?

A. In the spring of 2018, a 30-member committee of citizens, parents and staff members developed a 10 year facility plan that was submitted to the Board of Trustees. This proposal addressed the most pressing facility needs as identified and recommended by the committee.

Q. Why a bond levy?

A. A bond levy is the only method to acquire the revenue to build and remodel facilities in a relatively short timeline without raising taxes. The district will receive \$1,300,000 from the state of Idaho to help pay interest costs over the life of the bonds.

Q. What percentage of voter approval does it take to pass a bond levy?

A. Idaho is one of two states requiring a supermajority (66 2/3%) voter approval rate.

Q. Why does the bond election ballot indicate taxes would increase by a small amount?

A. Idaho Code requires districts to publish information on the ballot using tax information from the previous year. With just 1 ½ % growth in taxable value next year, the district will not increase taxes. The value increased by 9% this fiscal year and an average of 6% over the past 5 years.

Q. How are school districts different than counties and cities regarding how they receive property tax dollars?

A. School districts must have the passage of a voter approved levy election in order to receive local property tax dollars. The levy requests must be for a specific amount of money. The amount of money the district receives does not change based on property value.

Q. How do Post Falls school taxes compare to other Idaho districts?

A. Post Falls School District's tax rate is one of the lowest in the state. The state average tax rate is \$3.22 per thousand of assessed property value. The average for a school district of similar size to Post Falls is \$3.87. The Post Falls School District tax rate is \$2.08.

