

North Mason Schools - ***BUILDING the PRIDE!***

BOND & LEVY VOTER FACTS

January 2009

Dear North Mason Voters,

Two important school issues will appear on the February 3, 2009 ballot - a Construction Bond and the Replacement Levy.

Our schools have reached a turning point. Many of our buildings leak, are structurally compromised, outdated and are chronically overcrowded.

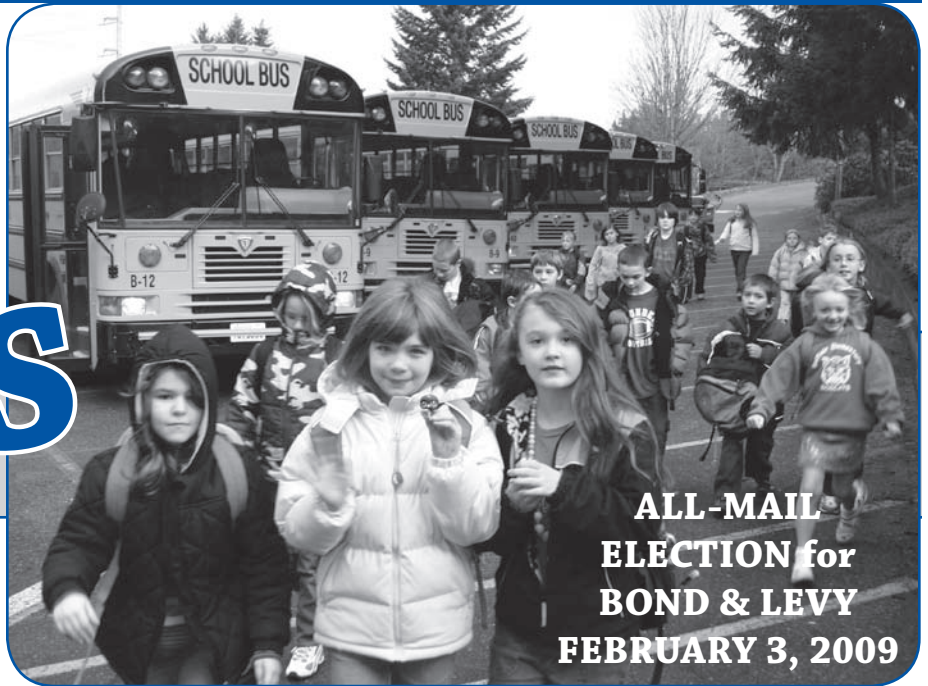
The unsafe traffic conditions on State Route 3 at Belfair Elementary are visible to us all.

A \$54.6 million dollar construction bond will buy a new middle school, a new gym, renovate existing high school classrooms, provide a new cafeteria and commons area and address the traffic safety issues at Belfair Elementary.

Why act now?

Because contractors are looking for projects, and bonds such as ours are a solid investment. Taxes for the project will not begin until 2010. If we act now our financial savings will be huge. School construction costs are going up 8 to 10% per year.

The replacement levy supports school busses, instructional materials, special education, gifted programs, staff development and general maintenance.



**ALL-MAIL
ELECTION for
BOND & LEVY
FEBRUARY 3, 2009**

Voter approval of both the School Bond and Replacement Levy will still keep North Mason among the lowest taxed school districts in the area. Our total tax rate (levy @ \$1.76 and bond @ \$1.62) will be \$3.38 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (APV).

This total compares to \$4.88 in Elma, \$5.83 in Shelton, \$3.19 in Bremerton, and \$3.22 in Central Kitsap. These comparisons do not include future increases in these districts.

Our schools prepare our children for future jobs, advanced technical training, higher education and satisfying and productive lives.

We urge you to make an informed decision on February 3, 2009 for the North Mason Schools Bond and Replacement Levy.

Sincerely,

Jeff Werdall, President

John Campbell

Art Wightman

Laura Boad

Mike Gaudio

*We believe that
schools are for children and the
schools belong to the community.*

*We invite you to take a closer
look at your*

North Mason Schools.

**See the
BOND VIDEO**

On our Web Site at

www.nmsd.wednet.edu, or
Search "North Mason Schools"

On YOU-TUBE, or

Watch it at home, or

Share it with a group!

DVDs AVAILABLE AT:

- Any North Mason School
- NM District Office
- Belfair Library
- Theler Center
- Chamber of Commerce

Call the District Office at 277-2300
if you need assistance obtaining a DVD.



www.nmsd.wednet.edu

The BOND: BUILDING the PRIDE



Why is NOW the RIGHT TIME?

Shouldn't we wait for the economy to turn around?

If we approve the project on February 3, 2009, each taxpayer will save money over 30 years of bond payments. *Here's why:*

1. **Contractors and construction materials are at the best prices in years.** It's a great time for competitive bids. Because of the strong bid environment, the school district may be able to fund the project at a lower cost than what is estimated. For example, recently accepted bids on an extensive remodel of the Oak Harbor School District came in \$5 million dollars under budget! It is a great time to get MORE for much LESS on projects like ours.
2. **Bond interest rates are LOW.** The interest rate on bonds is very good right now, again keeping down the overall taxes.
3. **The school district does not have to sell all approved bonds.** If we don't need the full bond amount, we don't have to sell all approved bonds – directly reducing the cost to the taxpayer.
4. **Taxes don't begin until April 2010.** Experts say the current downturn may last through 2009 or into 2010. While this is a tough time to ask for taxes, these bond taxes won't begin for nearly 1 1/2 years. The last construction bond was approved in 1989. We currently are making NO bond payments.
5. **North Mason Schools are overcrowded, outdated, outlived.** Our schools' systems (heat, septic, electrical) are beyond their useful life. Our secondary school enrollment has more than doubled since 1983, when the high school was opened. We are spending more and more money trying to keep our buildings working.
6. **Waiting isn't working.** In 2002 and again in 2006, North Mason voters did not approve a \$34 million school bond. As our schools have grown more crowded, more rundown and more inadequate, construction costs have continued to rise by 8–10% per year. Now, in 2009, the cost is \$54 million for essentially, the

SAME PROJECT. While this is not a good time to ask for a tax increase, it is the BEST time to get the BEST project for the LOWEST possible cost. The needs and the costs of the solutions only increase as we wait.

To calculate your 2010 cost for the Bond, divide your APV by 1,000 and multiply by \$1.62:

Local funding of \$54,580,000 will result in a tax rate of \$1.62 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for the first 15 years of the 30-year term. If your house is assessed at \$200,000, your Bond tax will be \$324/year or \$27/month. For the last 15 years, it will drop down to an estimated \$254/year or \$21/month.

Other funding sources include:

1. **The State of Washington** will match up to approximately \$7.8 million of the project because of the age of our buildings and the extensive overcrowding at the high school.
2. **Grapeview School District** is required to contribute \$1.93 million to the project to help pay for the high school expansion and modernization, since NMSD is the designated district for Grapeview's high school students.
3. **Boys & Girls Club** will contribute approximately \$1.5 to \$2 million to renovate the existing Hawkins Middle School gym to a Teen Center and Community Activity Center. The Boys & Girls Club project is NOT funded by local taxes.

Schools send an important message: "We value our children."

Schools show a community's commitment to education and send an important message to our children: "You are a vital part of our community. We want you to feel safe, comfortable, challenged, inspired and proud— we believe in you and your future." The quality of facilities can also influence citizen perceptions of schools and can serve as a point of community pride and increased support for public education.

K-12 school facilities have been shown to affect student behavior and performance.

An improved physical environment can positively affect the social climate of the school and learning. Researchers in Tennessee published a correlation between the adequacy of school facilities and student behavior and performance: *School facility factors such as building age and condition, quality of maintenance, temperature, lighting, noise, color and air quality can affect student health, safety, sense of self and psychological state. In general, students attending school in newer, better facilities score five to 17 points higher on standardized tests than those attending in substandard buildings.* (Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2003)

CONSIDER THIS:

Imagine you own your house free and clear. It was your parents' house and now it is yours. The roof needs to be replaced, the wiring must be redone, you need to replace the furnace, there are several leaks in the pipes, water seeps through the walls, the insulation is ancient and the foundation needs repairs. When you moved in, it was just you.

Now you are married with two kids. Because of the current economic situation, a larger and newly remodeled house is available at an incredibly good price. Right now, you can get a tremendous interest rate. On top of that, there is no down payment and your first payment will not be due until April 2010.

If the economy hasn't turned around by April 2010, the payments could be tough for a year or so, but manageable and you'll be getting a great bargain - maybe a once-in-a-lifetime deal. Would you buy the house?

It's the same scenario when we substitute "School Facilities" for "House."



The North Mason High School and Hawkins Middle School libraries have woefully inadequate electrical systems for computer use.



Need more information?

Visit the North Mason School District web site and select "Bond and Levy Information" or call the District Office at 360.277.2300.

The REPLACEMENT LEVY

Local levy money makes up 14.9% of the North Mason School District's annual budget and fills the gap created by inadequate state funding.

The Replacement Levy provides continued support for school busses, instructional materials, special education, gifted programs, staff development and general maintenance. The Levy will also replace aging textbooks and technology.



The Replacement Levy will collect \$1.76 per \$1,000 assessed property value (APV) for a three-year term, with an average annual collection of \$3,536,096. This levy replaces the expiring levy, which

was passed three years ago at \$2.24 per \$1,000 APV.

To calculate your 2010 cost for the Levy, divide your APV by 1,000 and multiply by \$1.76:

Example: If your APV is \$200,000, your Replacement Levy tax will be \$352/year or \$29.33/month.

To calculate your 2010 cost for the Bond & Levy, divide your APV by 1,000 and multiply by \$3.38:

Example: If your APV is \$200,000, your Bond and Replacement Levy tax will be \$676/year or \$56.33/month.

Will my Bond & Levy taxes go up over time, when property values increase?

NO.

When voters vote "yes," they are authorizing a specific and limited total dollar amount to be collected. As property values increase, the tax rate decreases. You may have noticed that the actual dollar amount of your local school levy went down this year, and the tax rate on your house has dropped from \$2.24/\$1,000 in 2007 to approximately \$1.62/\$1,000 right now.

Collection Years	Rate/\$1,000 APV	Amount
2010	\$1.76	\$3,365,040
2011	\$1.76	\$3,533,292
2012	\$1.76	\$3,709,957

North Mason Schools - ***BUILDING the PRIDE!***

Students from Ms. Price's History class exit a portable classroom on campus at North Mason High School. Fourteen portable classrooms are in daily use throughout the district due to overcrowding.



The Bond would build a new Middle School, freeing up existing classroom space at Hawkins to be remodeled for high school use. Existing classrooms at the high school would also be remodeled and brought up to code. More

information is available at www.nmsd.wednet.edu or call the District Office at 277.2300.

Contact Us

North Mason Schools
71 E Campus Dr
Belfair, WA 98528

District Office 277.2300
Belfair Elem..... 277.2233
Sand Hill Elem 277.2330
Hawkins Middle School... 277.2302
North Mason HS 277.2303
Pace Academy 277.2210
Home Link..... 277.2329
Bus Garage 277.2301
Boys & Girls Club
Teen Center 362.1855
Sand Hill 277.2388

Tax Exemptions for Disabled and Senior Citizens

If you are a disabled or senior citizen, Washington state has a program that may help you to pay your property taxes and special assessments, including school taxes.

Applicants must be at least 61 years of age or unable to work because of a physical disability. Proof of disability is required by submittal of a doctor's statement with the application. Your household income must not exceed \$35,000. The tax exemption applies to your principal residence and up to one acre.

For more information concerning the Senior/Disability Exemption, contact the Mason County exemption clerk at 360.275.4467, ext. 499.

PLEASE VOTE by
FEBRUARY 3, 2009



To visit any of our schools online, just go to our web site and click on **SCHOOLS**.

In Closing,

Whenever we mail you information about the North Mason School District, we face the challenge of "information squeeze." There's never enough room to tell you as much as we'd like you to know. That's why we hope you will visit our website to find more expanded and in-depth information. As always, we welcome your comments.

Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

David Peterson, Superintendent – dpeterson@nmsd.wednet.edu – 360.277.2300

Volunteer School Board:

Jeff Werdall, President	jwerdall@nmsd.wednet.edu	360.277.0470
John Campbell	jcampbell@nmsd.wednet.edu	360.275.0443
Art Wightman	awightman@nmsd.wednet.edu	360.275.6396
Laura Boad	lboad@nmsd.wednet.edu	360.275.3301
Mike Gaudio	mgaudio@nmsd.wednet.edu	360.275.3295

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North Mason Schools
71 E Campus Drive
Belfair, WA 98528

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