



TO: Elizabeth Pauli, City Manager
FROM: City Council Member Conor McCarthy
COPY: City Council and City Clerk
SUBJECT: **Resolution Expressing Support for the Passage of Tacoma School District No. 10's Proposition No. 1 – January 7, 2020**
DATE: 12/31/2019

SUMMARY & PURPOSE:

A resolution expressing support for the passage of Proposition No. 1 submitted by the Tacoma Public school District No. 10 at the February 11, 2020 Special Election, which reads as follows:

SPECIAL ELECTION – PROPOSITION NO. 1
 SUBMITTED BY TACOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10
 NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS AND SAFETY UPGRADES

The Board of Directors of Tacoma School District No. 10 adopted Resolution No. 2065 concerning a proposition to finance capital improvements to neighborhood schools districtwide. If approved, Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to replace or renovate eight deteriorating neighborhood schools across Tacoma; implement health, safety, security and seismic upgrades: repair roofs, alarm/sprinkler systems, and HVAC/plumbing systems for clean water and safe air; improve playground/athletic facilities; and make other capital improvements; issue \$535,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum 25 years to finance these capital improvements; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds all as provided in Resolution No. 2065. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Yes ___
 No ___

COUNCIL SPONSORS:

Mayor Victoria Woodards; Council Members Conor McCarthy and Catherine Ushka.

BACKGROUND:

This Council Member's Recommendation is Based On:

Tacoma's neighborhood schools are improving and closing gaps with graduation rates reaching a record high 89% and surpassing the state average. Prop. 1 will invest in what's working for Tacoma kids with needed school improvements that provide safe and challenging learning environments so all students achieve their potential, regardless of background.

Prop. 1 will renew our commitment to a quality education for every child and provide students and teachers with the best possible environments for teaching and learning. Prop. 1 will replace or renovate eight more aging neighborhood schools across Tacoma, in addition to the 13 schools that have had major improvements since 2013 as part of the Neighborhood Schools Improvement Plan.



Eight Neighborhood Schools in Prop. 1 would get rebuilt or replaced: Lowell Elementary, Downing Elementary, Bryant Montessori, Fawcett Elementary, Skyline Elementary, Whittier Elementary, Hunt Middle School Phase II and Oakland High School.

Prop. 1 will make needed improvements and/or safety upgrades to all neighborhood schools across Tacoma, including replacement of aged and deteriorating roofs; retrofitting buildings for earthquake safety; updating fire alarm, sprinkler, and intercom systems used in emergencies; improvements on playgrounds, playfields and athletic facilities to meet safety standards; up-to-date technology infrastructure; Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility improvements; and heating, ventilation and plumbing upgrades for clean air and safe water.

Prop. 1 invests in strong neighborhood schools across Tacoma that benefit our entire community with dedicated community meeting space for PTAs and other organization and access to playfields for youth and adult sports and youth partnerships with organizations like the YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, Metro Parks, Tacoma Creates and others for recreation, summer and after-school programs.

Prop. 1 is a \$535 million bond measure. If Prop. 1 passes, the cost for the average Tacoma home will increase \$6.79 per month (\$81.48 annually) for Tacoma schools.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Tacoma Public Schools has led a robust community outreach effort to gather feedback from community members on what the needs of the school district are and to educate the community about the upcoming bond.

2025 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

Equity and Accessibility:

The District prioritizes investing in schools and kids in every neighborhood so Tacoma can continue to move towards a public school district where every child regardless of background or economic circumstances has a school that provides a safe and challenging learning environment. Investments in schools benefit the entire community by providing dedicated community meetings spaces, access to playing fields for youth and adult sports, and partnerships.

Economy/Workforce: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase positive public perception related to the Tacoma economy.

Education: *Equity Index Score:* Moderate Opportunity
Increase the number of quality out of school time learning opportunities distributed equitably across the city. Demonstrate community support for education by increasing support for school levies and bonds; volunteering and mentoring youth.



ALTERNATIVES:

Presumably your recommendation is not the only potential course of action; please discuss other alternatives actions for council or staff to take. Please use table below.

Alternative	Positive Impacts	Negative Impacts
1. City Council could choose to do nothing.	N/A. Voters will seek information from other sources.	Less information will be available to the public regarding this school bond.
2. City Council could choose to endorse against this measure.	If the bond failed, funds that would otherwise go towards property tax could potentially be used for other positive purposes.	Community members may be less likely to vote in favor of the bond, and the bond could potentially fail, leading to our school district being unable to serve the needs of the community.

EVALUATIONS AND FOLLOW UP:

At the next joint City Council and Tacoma Public School Board meeting, Council should request an update on whether the bond passed and, if appropriate, how work is being implemented.

COUNCIL MEMBER RECOMMENDATION:

The recommendation is that the City Council approve the resolution to support Tacoma School District's Proposition No. 1 to show the Council's commitment for funding of core education needs at neighborhood schools and to provide every student an opportunity to succeed.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact in the adoption of this resolution.