

## Watchmen Ministry North Idaho Voter Guide for Bonner County Schools

On March 9<sup>th</sup> Bonner County Residents will have the option of voting on whether to maintain levies for their local school districts. Lakeland School District and West Bonner County School District have levy requests for the voters.

- ❖ Lakeland School District, \$9.52 Million per year for a total of \$19.04 Million
- ❖ West Bonner County School District, \$3,432,579 per year for a total of \$6,865,158

<b>Statements For Approval</b>	<b>Statements Against Approval</b>
<p><b>Statement from Lakeland School District</b></p> <p>Instructional Levy Purpose</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports Teaching &amp; Learning for ALL students by providing programs &amp; services to meet student needs</li> <li>• Addresses staff, student, parent and patron priorities</li> <li>• Instructional Levy closes the gap between State funding and the cost of operating our educational program, including small neighborhood schools</li> </ul> <p>State funding mechanism shifted in 2006 to rely on local taxpayer support to fund essential programs, services, and activities.</p> <p>The Levy Helps Fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearly 30% of our yearly budget</li> <li>• Small neighborhood schools and reasonable class sizes</li> <li>• Current staffing levels</li> <li>• School safety and security (Armed Guards, Athletic Trainers)</li> <li>• Technology education &amp; integration (1:1 devices for all students and staff)</li> <li>• <u>All</u> athletic &amp; academic extracurricular activities (athletic teams, band, choir, drama, speech, FFA)</li> <li>• Full day Kindergarten</li> <li>• Advanced Learning Program</li> <li>• All curricular materials, textbooks &amp; resources</li> <li>• Additional School Nurse time</li> </ul> <p>Board Approved Replacement Instructional Levy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintains current programs/services/staffing</li> <li>• Tax rate is not increased. Annual cost to the taxpayer per \$100,000 of taxable assessed value will not change.</li> <li>• Amount increase addresses inflation over 6 year span</li> </ul>	<p><b>Statement from Jim Hollingsworth</b></p> <p>On March 9th there will be a levy election. Everyone needs to vote.</p> <p>Some years back our schools were funded completely by property taxes. Later the state government took over the funding so there was no charge to property taxes. But in time some schools felt they needed more money so they devised levy elections.</p> <p>Since most of the levy funds go to fund teacher salaries voting more money in a levy election enables a school district to pay teachers more than they could make in other professions, with similar training.</p> <p>The job our school districts are doing is not as good as it was many years ago. Someone has asked the question "Is this a time to reward failing education?" Why do mothers with little or no college and who teach their own children at home often do a better job than the public schools? Many of the spelling contests are won by home school children.</p> <p>We cannot control most of what our government spends money on. But, we can control what we spend on schools. Now is the time to vote no on these levy elections. Remember that this money is not for better buses, or pencils and paper, but for higher teacher salaries.</p> <p>When I was interviewed by the teacher's union when I ran for office, everything they wanted me to approve cost more money. But it is time to spend less and expect more. It is the least we can do.</p> <p>Here schools have pretty much had a blank check. It is time for them to learn to live like the rest of us. Schools will beg for passage of the levies. Please vote no for the levies.</p> <p><b>Statement from Bob Shillingstad</b></p> <p>To quote Peter Brimelow, "There is no particular relationship between spending and educational results. Most education spending is actually on salaries and that's allocated according to political muscle". Idaho is flush with cash this legislative session and power players are</p>

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<p data-bbox="110 142 771 174"><b>Statement from West Bonner County School District</b></p> <p data-bbox="110 205 795 384">On March 9, 2021, voters will be asked to renew the current Supplemental Maintenance &amp; Operations Levy, that will be expiring at the end of the 2021 school year. This is not a new tax. This levy is a renewal of a tax currently being paid to fund instructional and support programs for West Bonner County School District.</p> <p data-bbox="110 415 649 447">What does this essential funding help provide:</p> <ul data-bbox="159 451 714 604" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retaining exceptional Teachers and Staff</li> <li>• Continuing All-Day Kindergarten</li> <li>• Keeping schools safe</li> <li>• Rising Achievement Scores and Increasing Graduation Rate</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="110 636 483 667"><b>MAINTAINING &amp; ENHANCING:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="159 672 779 1249" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>CO-CURRICULAR &amp; EXTRACURRICULA</b> <ul data-bbox="251 703 722 787" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased opportunities for students including; Music, Performing Arts, Extracurricular and Athletics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>INSTRUCTIONAL</b> <ul data-bbox="251 829 698 976" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teaching materials and supplies</li> <li>○ Curriculum and staff development</li> <li>○ Special education programs</li> <li>○ Advanced placement programs</li> <li>○ Technology and library updates</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS</b> <ul data-bbox="251 1008 779 1123" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Facility needs including; Heating System Updates, Roof Repairs, Hwy. 57 Crosswalk Lighting, and Gym Siding Repairs at Priest River Elementary</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>KEEPING STUDENTS SAFE</b> <ul data-bbox="251 1165 682 1249" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maintaining Safe Transportation</li> <li>○ Continued support of our School Resource Officer</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p data-bbox="110 1281 787 1375">The projected tax rate is \$1.47 per \$1,000 assessed value, which is the same as the levy expiring at the end of the 2021 school year.</p>	<p data-bbox="824 142 1461 205">ready to grab the money- mainly the teachers' unions, school boards and administrators.</p> <p data-bbox="824 237 1510 604">Here is a statistic that is thrown around a lot and used to shame the voters. Idaho ranks 48th in per pupil spending barely above Utah. Now that may be correct, I haven't all of the facts to check the results, but let's take this the next step and compare results. NYC, Washington D.C., Chicago and other urban areas spend insane amounts of money with abysmal results. Not a fair comparison, but let's look at Wyoming who spends double Idaho on per pupil education. How do we compare? Both Idaho and Utah are in the middle of the pack beating Wyoming more often than not. What will we get for doubling our spending?</p> <p data-bbox="824 636 1510 966">We will be hammered with adding early childhood education and fully funding not only kindergartens but also down to four-year-olds! Studies have shown that at the end of elementary education you cannot tell who were in school prior to first grade or not. A very large Dept. of Education study confirmed and concluded that Head Start was largely a waste of money. The next "solution" is smaller class size and again studies have shown that there is no measurable advantage to this spending. What both of these do accomplish are more dues paying members for the unions and higher taxes.</p> <p data-bbox="824 997 1510 1396">We have most Idaho districts asking for voter approval of a levy in March and we need to do our homework and decide how to vote. How have districts handled the emergency declarations during the COVID scare. We have been lied to all during this last year. If you are under the age of 24 is nearly impossible to find anyone in the country with complications. A UK study and another from Brown University clearly showed that students do not transmit the virus to teachers and even to parents or grandparents. Sweden never closed schools and we have a lot of data to support schools being open and yet across the country the majority of schools have insane policies. How did your district do?</p> <p data-bbox="824 1428 1510 1690">The Coeur d'Alene district is asking for \$40 million over the next two years to fund the district. This is a district that has reacted as if their hair is on fire during the "pandemic" and can't decide how to proceed. Understandably when they opened the doors last fall they realized enrollment down by 8%. Parents had already voted with their feet. They now are saying that they will go to four days a week instruction.....no guarantees if they continue.</p> <p data-bbox="824 1722 1510 1942">The Lakeland School District with Rathdrum and Spirit Lake schools have continued schools as normal all year. Masks are voluntary. Most charter schools and nearly all private and Christian schools have had traditional instruction all year also. Surprisingly, there have been no reports of students dying or transported to the hospital from these schools.</p>

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	<p>When Joe Biden promised to “follow the science” regarding school reopening in the “pandemic era”, we should have realized he was talking about political science rather than good old fashioned science-science. He is basing his “keep em closed” policy, according to Stilton, on the Teachers Unions’ compelling argument that “actual work is for losers who don’t make massive contributions to Democrats.” Jen Psaki has now clarified that defines successful “opening” as 50% of schools offering “one day of in-class teaching a week. Considering that the numbers were already slightly better than that, it’s a low bar that satisfies the donors.</p> <p>There has been an effort to combine school levy and trustee elections to coincide with either primary or general elections to generate turnout. In the past the teachers and spouses can decide most of these elections with their vote alone. It is imperative to have everyone vote! The real solution is to cut off the funding and convince the legislature to allow the free market to dictate education. Vouchers, educational savings accounts or a variety of means to allow the dollars to go to the student much like we do for college costs. Choice is the only answer to so many of the issues of education.</p> <p>The legislative roundtable for Kootenai County was held this past Saturday at The Altar Church and a question was presented to the group about sex education issues in the CDA district and whether a law should be passed requiring parents to “opt-in” if their child should be included in the indoctrination. Rep. Vito Barbieri had an amazing answer that brought down the house when he said, “Take them out of the institutions. You are not going to control this bureaucracy, it is taking a billion and a half dollars now and those that are homeschooling we are double paying.....get them out of the system. They are propagandizing....come on....we recognize this!.....The world has gone crazy, nothing makes sense. Take the kids out.”</p> <p>You can watch the entire session on You Tube. Vote March 9th, make your voice heard and let your legislators know that our vote is more important than the unions.</p>