

# **WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WCSD-1**

(The School Renewal Question On November 4 Ballot)

## **What is WCSD-1?**

WCSD-1 is a measure on the November 4 general election ballot to fund revitalization and renewal projects in the Washoe County School District.

The ballot measure reflects the work of the bipartisan and broadly-based Washoe County School Construction and Revitalization Advisory Committee set up by Senate Bill 154 in 2007. After meeting for eight months, the 15-member committee voted unanimously that the funds were needed and concluded that sales tax and government services tax were the best sources of funding.

## **What taxes will be raised to fund these projects?**

WCSD-1 seeks a 1/4 percent increase in the sales tax rate and a 1/2 percent increase of taxable value in the Government Services Tax (vehicle registrations). WCSD-1 is projected to generate about \$23.5 million annually.

This amount will be used to back \$393 million in bonds between now and 2014 (to be used exclusively for renewal, repairs, and revitalization).

An average household can expect to pay an additional \$25 per year if it spends \$10,000 on taxable items in one year, and, on average, an additional \$14.68 per year on vehicle registration.

## **What will that money be used for?**

Of our 92 schools, 19 are over 50 years old and nearly half are over 40 years. 100% of the funds raised by WCSD-1 will go toward critical repairs, revitalization, and technology upgrades in our schools:

- Repairing leaky roofs and broken asphalt
- Asbestos abatement
- Replacing obsolete boilers, incinerators and hot-water heaters
- Installing energy efficient windows
- Replacing damaged carpets and desks, old windows, toilet fixtures and sinks
- Updating wiring for computers and new technology
- Modernizing school safety
- Updating fire alarm and classroom phone systems
- Repairing doors and locks (in some schools the doors cannot be locked from the inside in case of an emergency).

Also, several district schools are facing structural problems. Older ones lack the technology infrastructure available at newer schools.

## **How can I find out what will be done at my child's school?**

A list of schools and projected projects at each one is on the website [www.YesonWCSD1.com](http://www.YesonWCSD1.com)\* From the homepage, click on Schools and find your school listed.

\* An independent and privately-funded website to promote passage of WCSD-1, the ballot question.

## **Who will be accountable for how WCSD-1 funds are spent?**

There will be three layers of accountability and oversight to ensure that the funds are used judiciously and are directed towards the schools with the most critical needs:

1. All projects must be approved by the Washoe County School District Board of Trustees.
2. The Board's recommendations are then reviewed and must be approved by the Oversight Panel on School Facilities, a group of city and county elected officials and citizens.
3. Finally, before bonds may be sold, the sale must be approved by the Debt Management Commission to ensure

responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

### **What happens if WCSD-1 does not pass?**

The Board of Trustees will be faced with the daunting task of allocating limited resources from the rollover bonds, and deciding how much to spend on new school construction and how much for older school needs. New school construction may have to be put on hold, forcing more schools onto multi-track calendars or double sessions.

### **What has the district done with the money from the rollover bonds?**

All of the promises made to the voters in 2002 have been kept. Four new schools have been built, two high schools were enlarged and \$99 million was invested in improving older schools. See a complete accounting on the WCSD website, [www.washoe.k12.nv.us/district/bonds](http://www.washoe.k12.nv.us/district/bonds).

For more information, visit [www.YesonWCSD1.com](http://www.YesonWCSD1.com)

### **Call to arrange a “See For Yourself” Tour**

Nothing is better than a first-hand experience. It can help you understand the teaching and learning conditions in our older schools, and we’re pleased to offer an opportunity for you to do that.

Just call Terry Bartek at 348-0371 or Vickie Bailey at 348-0381 to register. We’ll be arranging several tours before the November 4 election.