

Frequently Asked Questions



2006 Bond and Voted Leeway

What is a bond election?

A bond election is the process where a public entity asks voters for permission to borrow money for improving or constructing new facilities.

What is a voted leeway?

A voted leeway is the process where a public entity asks voters for an increase in the tax rate levy.

When will the bond/leeway election take place?

Voters will go to the polls on Tuesday, June 27th, 2006 in conjunction with the general primary election.

What will be on the ballot?

There will be two items on the ballot. The first is to approve a bond of \$150 million dollars for construction of new schools in the Washington County School District. The second will be a voted leeway.

What will the \$150 million dollar bond pay for?

- Four new elementary schools
- Complete Desert Hills High School
- Complete Desert Hills Intermediate School
- Hurricane High School Additions or new building
- Enterprise school growth
- Pine View Middle School Expansion
- Hurricane Preschool
- New Middle School
- Hurricane Middle School addition
- New Intermediate School (planning for 2012)
- New High School (planning for 2012)



What will the voted leeway funds pay for?

- Fully support Reading Intervention and Comprehensive Gifted & Talented programs in all schools.
- Increase Teacher Compensation by providing better training opportunities, create a competitive salary for entry-level teachers, and develop incentives for participation in programs designed to improve the quality of instruction and thereby student achievement.
- Restore two days to the Teacher Salary Schedule
- Provide a growth formula. Because of the scarcity of resources available for education, it is critical the District ensure appropriate and efficient checks and balances are established to meet accountability standards for student success.

What will be the cost?

The cost to homeowners will be \$55 a year, or \$4.59 a month for a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 for the voted leeway. The bonding for the construction will not require any tax increase.

How much does the tax levy increase?

The 2006 Voted Leeway does not result in a tax levy rate increase from 2004. Washington County residents will pay the same rate as 2004. With budget cuts in the Basic State Levy and in the general obligation debt, the overall tax liability decreased .000544, from 0.006675 in 2004 to 0.006131 in 2005. The proposed increase in the Voted Leeway will once again bring the total tax rate liability back to the previous level of 0.006675.

What is the per-pupil funding for public education in Utah?

Utah is 51st in the nation in per-pupil school funding at \$5,008 compared to the national average of \$8,280 and a high of \$12,981 in New Jersey. The next worst state in the ranking is Idaho at \$6,028 per pupil.

Why is the voted leeway tax increase necessary?

The voted leeway funds will be used to meet the additional mandates for education, from national, state, and local levels to provide all the necessary, required services for students within the district.

How many new teachers are needed to keep up with growth?

At least 160 new teachers will be needed for this next school year 2006-07. With a number of current teachers retiring and those not expected to renew their contracts, the number of openings for new teachers will increase to an estimated 300.

Is the School District able to hire enough teachers?

The 2005/2006 Washington County School District entry level teacher salary schedule was one of the lowest in the State. High student growth, escalating housing costs, and an increased demand for highly qualified teachers demand a more competitive salary schedule.

What will happen if the bond/leeway is not passed?

Without more buildings available, the School Board has three alternatives to work with in order to accommodate the growth:

- Year-round school
- Split/double sessions
- More portable classrooms

When conditions become even more serious, increasing the number of students per classroom may be necessary. We believe our community would prefer bonding and approving the voted leeway to the above alternatives as reflected in the strong support that previous bond elections have enjoyed.