



# FEBRUARY 2019 SCHOOL BOND



**Q:** What projects are included in the February 2019 bond proposal?

**A: Projects include:**

- Replace Sumas Elementary ..... \$18,650,000
- Add eight permanent classrooms & modernize Everson Elementary ..... \$6,250,000
- Add four permanent classrooms to Nooksack Elementary ..... \$2,030,000
- Modernize Nooksack Valley High School: auxiliary gym & performing arts center (PAC), upgrade the HVAC mechanical systems, concessions & restrooms.....\$1,270,000
- Plan for future capital needs (such as roofing, parking, etc.).....\$1,500,000

**Total Cost**..... \$29.7 million

**Q:** Why a bond now?



**A:** Nooksack Valley is the fastest-growing school district in our region and enrollment has increased by almost 250 students since our last bond issue in 2015.

- We are out of room at our elementary schools.
- Multiple portables are temporarily being used, but this is not a long-term solution because:
  - a. There is no water or restrooms in the portables
  - b. Portables do not offer the same level of safety and security as traditional classrooms
  - c. They are separated from the infrastructure of the main school, office, library and support services
  - d. The cost of portables comes out of general funds, which are needed for student programs
- These space needs will not go away and our schools are projected to grow.

**Q:** How much will the bond cost local taxpayers?



**A:** Local school taxes are going down, even with the passage of this bond. The total local school taxes on a \$300,000 home in Nooksack Valley are:

- 2017 .....\$155 per month
- 2018 .....\$149 per month
- 2019 .....\$80 per month
- 2020 .....\$114 per month\*

(with passage of this bond) \*\$34 per month of this is for the bond issue. Future tax rates are estimates.

**Q:** Why are local school taxes going down even if the bond passes?



**A:** School tax rates will significantly decrease even after passage of this bond because of a change in *how schools are funded*. With this new structure, our local school operating levy tax rates will go from \$4.00 down to \$1.50 per \$1,000 (starting 2019).

**NOW THE IDEAL TIME TO ADDRESS FACILITIES NEEDS.**

## Q: Why build a new Sumas Elementary School?

**A:** After thorough review of the options, the committee concluded that building a new school was the right long-term solution.

- It will provide everything we need to keep our students safe while they learn in an environment fit for current instructional practices.
- School security and safety will be significantly enhanced.
- A new school will be built out of the flood way, saving us from costly potential repairs.
- There will be significantly improved parking and traffic flow in the front of the new school and improved playfields (drainage, etc.) in the back of the new school.

**A:** Partially renovating a 50-year old school would only be a short-term band aid and would leave big gaps in service to our students.

- A partial remodel would need to be replaced sooner.
- Portables are meant to be temporary; they pose long-term safety and access issues.
- Parking, bus turnaround and parent drop off/pick up would still be a problem.
- A partially renovated Sumas Elementary School will remain in the flood way and could once again be water-damaged when the next substantial flood event occurs.

## Q: Why add four classrooms to Nooksack Elementary School?

**A:** The school is beyond capacity and our enrollment is projected to grow. We've converted the library into a classroom. Portables would need to be added without passage of a bond.

## Q: Why add eight classrooms and renovate Everson Elementary School?

**A:** We have outgrown the space and we need security improvements.

- The current facility does not support student space needs. We're using four portable classrooms as a temporary solution and we're teaching music in a small storage room because we have nowhere else to go.
- The front entrance of Everson Elementary needs to be renovated to have a direct line of sight to the front doors, accessible controls and other important safety precautions.

## Q: Why Modernize Nooksack Valley High School?

**A:** There are still some major maintenance items that need to be addressed that will help staff to maintain it for the next 20 years.

- The auxiliary (rubber) gym needs a new roof, lighting, and other modernizations.
- The Performing Arts Center was built in 1998 and is in need of basic modernizations like lighting and sound systems, etc.
- The football field, concessions and restrooms are in critical need of renovations.
- Some heat/mechanical/ventilation systems need upgrading to be more energy efficient and environmentally conscious.

## Q: What was the planning process that led to this bond issue?

**A:** After almost of year of planning, discussion and prioritization, an 18-member Facilities Committee finalized a recommendation to our school board.

- The board fully endorsed the plan with unanimous support. After studying the facilities needs of the district, (most of which are tied to enrollment growth) the committee began to look at a number of options, cost estimates and tax implications. They determined that this bond plan best addressed the needs in the most responsible way.

*The 18 member committee was comprised of various stakeholders from throughout our communities, including parents, teachers, retirees, school board members and administrators.*

**PLEASE VOTE!**  
Ballots due by  
February 12, 2019



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