VOTER INFORMATION
Special Municipal Election
May 25, 2004

Full Text of Proposition No. 1

Shall the following ordinance be adopted:

Section 1. The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly shall refrain from inviting or awarding bids to construct a new high school, associated site work, or both, funded in whole or in part by bonds approved by the voters through adoption of Proposition 2 in the October 5, 1999 general municipal election until:

A) The number of enrolled high school students reported to the State of Alaska (Department of Education and Early Development) exceeds the student population estimate of 2,100 stated in the 1999 municipal voters' information pamphlet for Proposition 2 published by the City and Borough of Juneau; and

B) The Juneau Board of Education has identified by formal action, funds for the first year of the new high school's operation in an amount not less than the operating cost estimate of $1,668,000 as stated on the October 5, 1999 municipal ballot; and

C) The final design of the school shall be consistent with the school described in the 1999 municipal voter's information pamphlet for Proposition 2 published by the City and Borough, including the student capacity, number of classrooms, athletic track, and facilities necessary to support all the programs of a "comprehensive high school" as described in the voter information pamphlet for the October 5, 1999 election.

Ordinance - Yes .............. ? ?
Ordinance - No .............. ? ?

Ballot Measure Summary
Prepared by City Manager’s Office

This initiative prohibits the Assembly from inviting or awarding bids for a new high school until three criteria are met: high school student enrollment must reach 2100, first year operating funds of at least $1,668,000 must be identified for the new school, and the design must include the classrooms and features described in the voter information for the 1999 ballot measure. Previous voter information pamphlets are available at www.juneau.org.

The current total project budget for the proposed new high school at Dimond Park is $62.7 million. This initiative restricts only the $49.9 million in bond funds approved by voters in 1999.

At the direction of the City and Borough Assembly, advocates for and against Proposition No. 1 have been provided the opportunity to submit the following 500 word statements for and against the ballot measure. These position statements represent the views of the two advocacy groups and not necessarily those of the City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ). The CBJ has not verified the content of these advocacy statements nor edited them in any way.
STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE INITIATIVE

Yes, high school students must have hopes and dreams. But they count on us for more. They need real teachers, real programs, and real money to keep it all going. The case for the valley high school is built on hopes and dreams and not much more. If we build it now, we build on sand.

We Don’t Need It.

The original 1999 premise for the new school was that by 2004 Juneau would have 2,100 students. We’re not even close. Only 1,533 students actually occupy JDHS, and the trend is down. Since 1998 there has been a 5.2% decline in enrollment. There are 9 vacant classrooms at the JDHS-Marie Drake campus; 30 more if teachers are moved to the Valley.

We Can’t Afford to Run Another Big School.

Some people argue that even if we don’t have the students, we should grab free state money while we can. There is no free money. State reimbursement may cover 60% of construction. The rest comes out of your pocket. Nobody knows how much it will be. In 1999 we were told the school would cost $50 million. Now we are told it is $64.5 million. In 1999 we were told the new school would cost $1.6 million to operate. Now we are told the state will give us $822,500 to operate it. There is no money for new teachers, technical support or maintenance. This won’t work. At 224,000 square feet the new school is larger than JDHS. It needs a realistic budget, not one built on credit.

The New School will Dilute Programs and Divide Students.

$85,000 in District athletic funding at JDHS will drop to $50,000 at each of the two schools. More students will be fundraising. Vocational education students will be bussed between schools. We will lose arts, language, and advanced placement classes. Maintenance and technology crews will have their workload doubled while their staff and budgets stay the same.

But there is more at stake here than money. When the School District, to its credit, responded to campus racism by convening a “Day of Listening”, it heard something unexpected. Students overwhelmingly, without prompting, sent their most important message. They said that splitting up the student body will be divisive. They said to keep the school community together. Maybe we should listen to them.

It’s not too late. We can meet educational needs with something better than trendy architecture and additional administrators. We could combine JDHS and Marie Drake into a higher quality campus. Or we could redesign the valley school. If we act soon we can qualify for state reimbursement.

Yes, we all want our dreams to come true. But hoping won’t make it so. Building a $64 million school will not increase our enrollment or generate maintenance money.

The second high school will send a message. The message is, “A huge round building instead of comprehensive, quality education.”

Yes, we can do better.

More information at www.juneaustudentsfirst.com

Vote YES on May 25.

Clay Good        Ken Koelsch
Dave Hanna       Dave Palmer
STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION TO THE INITIATIVE

Vote NO on Proposition No. 1; Build the New High School Now

Juneau has voted repeatedly to build a new high school. Juneau must plan to effectively educate future generations. Things to consider when voting NO:

**Juneau-Douglas High School is currently 500 students over capacity.**
To cope with overcrowding at current enrollment, JDHS utilizes the Marie Drake middle school building as a high school annex, and rents space off campus. Marie Drake does not work well as a high school, and it is needed to relieve overcrowding at DZ and Floyd Dryden.

**Research shows that smaller schools are better for kids.**
Students at smaller schools have better attendance, lower dropout rates, and higher GPA’s. Also, there is less violence, vandalism, substance abuse, and teen sexual activity. Smaller schools also allow more opportunities for students to be involved in sports and extracurricular activities; more parental involvement, and improved staff morale.

**Over 60% of our Alaska Native students and over 30% of all of our entering freshmen drop out before graduating.**
This is an intolerable means of dealing with overcrowding. All students benefit by attending smaller schools. Teachers and administrators will have more contact with our kids.

**Building the school now makes good economic sense.**
Right now, the State will pay 60% of total costs, or $38 million. Bonds are cheaper now; meaning less local tax money is needed. In fact, projected property taxes are 1/3 less than first approved in 1999 ($89 per $100,000 now vs. $121 in 1999).

**We must act now. State funding for the new school will disappear at the end of this year.**
This is a one-time opportunity providing $38 million in state money that will expire December 31, 2004. If we vote to stop the school now, there is no chance we could plan, design, and get approval from both the state and Juneau voters for a different school by this end-of-year deadline.

**Increased operating costs for the new school will be mostly covered by State funding.**
The State provides more money for two smaller schools than for one larger one. The district budget for the new school shows that increased state funding, savings from vacating rented space and borough matching funds will cover all costs for operating the new school. No teachers will be cut, nor will class sizes increase, because of the new school construction and operation.

**The new high school will provide an important asset for our community, attract new families, and allow Juneau to grow and prosper.**
It will provide an educational and cultural center for the valley, with much-needed gym space, a new theatre/auditorium, and meeting space for the community.

**Vote for our children and our future.** All three of Juneau legislators will vote NO on the initiative to stop progress on Juneau's second high school, and encourage you to do the same. **VOTE NO ON BALLOT PROPOSITION NO. 1.**

Build It Now Committee, More information at - www.juneaubuilditnow.org
Bill Peters & Jeff Bush, Co-chairs
The polls are open 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. If you have questions regarding the May 25, 2004 Municipal Election, please contact the Municipal Clerk's Office at 586-5278.