Proposition No. 1

General obligation new high school bonds

$54,000,000

Proposition No. 1 asks voters to authorize the issuance of $54,000,000 in general obligation bond debt for the purpose of constructing and equipping a new High School in the Mendenhall Valley. The project qualifies for 70% State reimbursement under the State’s School Construction Bond Debt Reimbursement Program. Total annual debt service cost after State reimbursement, assuming an interest rate of 4.6% and the State Legislature fully funding the Reimbursement Program, will be $1,518,000.

Why is a 2nd high school before the voters again?

In October 1999, Juneau voters approved a general obligation bond authorization for two purposes: $49.9 million to build a high school at Dimond Park, and $13 million to renovate the Juneau Douglas High School. In June 2003, voters approved an additional $12.6 million bond issue for the Dimond Park school, bringing the total funding for the new school to $62.5 million. The Dimond Park school project, as designed at that time, qualified for 60% state reimbursement.

In May 2004, voters approved a ballot initiative prohibiting the CBJ from awarding bids from 1999 bond funds for a new high school until three criteria were met (regarding student population, school operating funds, and school design). That voter decision effectively cancelled the high school project, which at that point had been fully designed.

In the past several months the School Board, Assembly, and citizens have been meeting to evaluate how to address the existing high school overcrowding problem. Two options were considered: a smaller school at Dimond Park, or the expansion of existing facilities at JDHS (including renovation of Marie Drake Middle School). These projects would both qualify for 70% state reimbursement. The School Board recommended and the Assembly agreed to pursue a smaller, $54 million, school at Dimond Park, which is Proposition No. 1.

Proposition No. 2 on this ballot asks voters to redirect 1999 school bond funds left over from the cancelled high school project to school maintenance projects throughout the District.

The State’s reimbursement program authorized by voters statewide in 2002, expires December 31, 2004. In order to have the high school and other school projects qualify for this state reimbursement program, bonds must be approved this year.
What would the new high school facility provide?

School Size: The size of the proposed new high school at Dimond Park would be approximately 166,400 square feet, and is sized to be eligible for 70% state reimbursement. (For reference, the previous $62.5 million design was 218,000 square feet and qualified for 60% reimbursement.) The student capacity would be 838 students with a total of 52 teaching stations. Core spaces, such as the commons, specialized classrooms, and corridors, would be designed for 1012 students. The Alaska Department of Education and Early Development allows increases in core spaces so that the school could be economically expanded in the future.

Site Features: Besides the change in building size and shape, very few changes to the previous site layout would be necessary. As previously designed, two new entrances and exits to the high school campus would be constructed along Riverside Drive. To accommodate full attendance at community events, the project would construct several parking lots adjacent to the school. A trail connection along the north end of the school is planned to connect Riverside Drive and the Mendenhall River footbridge. The project also includes plans to construct a new soccer/football field and a track, if funding allows. Landscaping, sidewalks, and lighting would complement the completed site work.

School Features: The proposed high school, if approved by the voters, will be significantly smaller than the previous design. The reduction in building size by 52,000 square feet will require substantial changes in program space. Although no design work has been done for the proposed smaller school, an analysis of the space available has allowed the School Board to develop recommendations about what the new facility should include. The recommendations call for 28 regular classrooms, with the other 24 teaching stations distributed to special education, science, visual arts, performing arts, business, family/consumer science, technology, and athletics. Additionally, the School Board recommended a gymnasium (~1000 seating), a small auditorium, a full kitchen and commons, and if space allows, an auxiliary gymnasium and/or a small engines classroom.

A separately funded street reconstruction project, Riverside Drive Reconstruction, will be necessary to provide improvements to the nearby roadway to accommodate traffic associated with a new school. The main entrance to the new high school is planned for Riverwood Drive. This intersection must be widened to accommodate turning lanes and a traffic signal. Additionally, a traffic study has predicted that the projected increase in traffic, specifically in the morning peak, will warrant a signalized intersection at Stephen Richards and Riverside Drive. Improvements to roadway lighting and crosswalk/school signage would be needed, and the 20 mph school zone would be expanded to Rivercourt Way. The sidewalks and bike paths would be retained throughout the length of the roadway improvements.
What educational program does the Juneau School District plan to provide in the 2nd high school if Proposition No. 1 passes?

The course offerings at JDHS and the proposed new high school are guided by the School Board adopted curriculum. That curriculum reflects the District’s adopted philosophy, educational goals, content standards, and graduation requirements. The proposed course offerings also align with state graduation requirements and standards.

In 2000, educational program plans for two high schools were prepared by DeJong and Associates following input and involvement of a large number of parents, teachers, administrators, public officials and interested citizens. The resulting plan called for comparable programs at the two schools, with the exception that large, costly vocational shops would be available only at the existing high school in conjunction with the University facilities. The Board, however, plans to offer vocational classes including business, technology and a power mechanics class at the new high school.

This summer, the District further refined proposed course offerings for two schools based on this work from 2000 and the current course offerings at JDHS. Additional refinements will be necessary as the projected 2008 opening date approaches.

Course offerings for both schools would fulfill graduation requirements. Differences in program would be in elective courses. The facility and course design would be adaptable to change. For example, either JDHS or the new school could accommodate 9th-grade teams, interdisciplinary teams, department groupings, or other instructional arrangements.

Faculties would be able to organize into school-within-school configurations, or offer special electives based on student request. Within these configurations the course content would meet District and state standards.

Another aspect of the school program is student activities. The activity program for both schools would include over forty offerings including student council, yearbook, academic decathlon, pep band, and sports.
How does the school district plan to pay for the additional operating costs of the proposed new high school?

Based on the District's expected student enrollment in 2008, the net increase in operating cost for adding a new high school is estimated to be $1.2 million. This would be paid from the School District's annual operating budget. The School District anticipates that having two high schools would qualify the District for approximately $1 million in additional State Foundation formula funding. Additionally, the District plans to save money currently being paid for rental space for the alternative high school, and may realize additional savings from alternate uses of the Marie Drake School, which currently houses some high school programs. The additional state funding would also allow the District to request $237,000 more local funding annually from the Assembly. The Assembly may or may not provide the additional funding in any given year, depending on competing community needs.

If Proposition No. 1 is approved, when will the new school open?

The preliminary design and construction schedule for the new high school calls for opening in August 2008.

If Proposition No. 1 is approved, how will it affect property taxes in Juneau?

If Proposition No. 1 is approved, a mil levy increase of .51 will be required to pay the local share of the debt. This assumes the State of Alaska will fully fund its 70% share every year of the 15-year term of the bonds. The Legislature appropriates money annually to the school debt reimbursement program. State lawmakers have fully funded the program for each of the past 12 years, although there is no guarantee that they will continue to do so. The City and Borough of Juneau is responsible for the full payment of the debt on the bonds, regardless of whether the Legislature "assists" with a 70% share. Under these terms, and assuming full state reimbursement, a property valued at $100,000 would pay annual taxes of $51 for 15 years to pay for this high school project.
Proposition No. 2:  
Use of the estimated $18,250,000 in unexpended bond proceeds

Proposition No. 2 asks voters to authorize redirecting the use of the unexpended estimated $18,250,000 general obligation school bond proceeds authorized in October, 1999.

Why is the City asking voters to "redirect" these bond funds?

The initiative approved by voters in May 2004 precludes spending 1999 school bond funds on a new high school. Proposition No. 2 would redirect the remaining $18.25 million of 1999 high school bond funds to school maintenance projects District-wide. These projects qualify for 70% state reimbursement. Most of the bonds approved by voters in 1999 have not been sold, and will simply be cancelled. However, $20 million worth of bonds were sold. Some of the money has already been spent on planning and design of the previous high school project, but an estimated $18,250,000 remains unexpended. Any alternative use of these remaining funds must receive voter approval.

What projects would be funded?

The School District has identified a priority list of school major maintenance projects as well as repairs needed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in some of the older District facilities. Major items include a roof replacement for Harborview Elementary and a new gymnasium floor at Auke Bay Elementary. New exterior windows, exterior doors, and interior floor coverings are planned for Auke Bay, Gastineau, and Glacier Valley Elementaries, and other District facilities where needed. New lighting fixtures as well as new interior flooring and window replacement is planned for the Marie Drake building. Painting and repair of interior and exterior walls is planned for other District facilities. The District-wide ADA upgrades would improve building accessibility for students with special needs.
Will these projects increase the operating costs of the school district?

The School District has not identified any increased operating cost associated with these projects. In fact, the District expects a decrease in operating costs because of lower maintenance and fuel expenses. Currently, the School District has high maintenance expenses for repairs of leaking roofs, patched carpet and walls, and high energy costs for buildings with older windows, doors, and lighting fixtures.

If Proposition No. 2 is approved, how will it affect property taxes in Juneau?

The City has already sold these bonds, as previously approved by the voters. However, due to timing of bond debt payments, property owners have not yet seen the increase in tax on their tax bills. If Proposition No. 2 is approved, and the funds are spent on these school maintenance and repair projects, a mil levy increase of .18 will be required to pay the local share of the debt. This assumes the State of Alaska will fully fund its 70% share every year of the 15-year life of the bonds. State lawmakers have fully funded the program for each of the past 12 years, although there is no guarantee that they will continue to do so. The City and Borough of Juneau is responsible for the full payment of the debt on the bonds, regardless of whether the Legislature "assists" with a 70% share. Assuming full state reimbursement, a property valued at $100,000 would pay annual taxes of $18 for 15 years to pay for these maintenance projects.

What happens to the school projects if Proposition No. 2 is not approved?

The School District has identified these projects as essential maintenance and repair that cannot be delayed indefinitely. If Proposition No. 2 is not approved, the District will submit the projects to the Department of Education for possible future 70% state reimbursement and, assuming the projects qualify at that time, ask the Assembly to submit them again to the voters. Due to inflation, the estimated cost of projects included in Proposition No. 2 is expected to increase over time if they are deferred.
What happens to the bond funds if Proposition No. 2 is not approved?

If voters do not approve redirection of these previously approved bonds, the bonds may be used only to pay off the bonded debt. The bond issue included a provision that prevents the CBJ from paying off the bonds until October 1, 2013. To keep its promises to bond holders, the City would place the unspent $18.25 million in bond proceeds into a trust that would be used to pay off the bond debt as it occurs in future years. Costs associated with these transactions total approximately $500,000 (including fees to administer the trust and repayments to the State of Alaska for reimbursements for a now-defunct school project). Property owners would not see an additional .18 mils added to their property taxes.

MUNICIPAL ELECTION ~ October 5, 2004

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<th>Precinct Name</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Douglas</td>
<td>Douglas Library</td>
<td>1016 Third Street, Douglas</td>
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<td>03 310</td>
<td>Juneau No. 1</td>
<td>Assembly Chambers</td>
<td>155 S. Seward Street</td>
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<td>03 320</td>
<td>Juneau No. 2</td>
<td>Holy Trinity Church</td>
<td>325 Gold Street</td>
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<td>Juneau Senior Center</td>
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<td>Cedar Park</td>
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<td>Salmon Creek</td>
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The polls are open 7:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. If you have questions regarding the October 5, 2004 Regular Election, please contact the Municipal Clerk’s Office at 586-5278.

If you don’t know where your polling place is, you can call the STATE OF ALASKA POLLING PLACE LOCATOR at 1-888-383-8683, enter your Social Security Number or your voter number when prompted, and you will be told where your polling place is located.
Municipal Election
October 5, 2004