

File a Formal Complaint - Brett Gibbs

Dear Public Disclosure Commission:

I have concerns about a mailing that I received from the Bellevue School District in regards to the Bellevue School District tax levy measures that are on the ballot in February 2018.

1. The mailing has the appearance of being a political campaign mailing, and also appears to be an official communication from the School District. I am concerned that the mailing may be illegal in regards to using taxpayer funds -- in this case, school district funds -- to engage in political activities.
2. The mailing does not disclose the additional funding that the Bellevue School District will receive under recent State of Washington action to increase property taxes to fund public school districts. I am particularly concerned about the bar chart on the inside of the mailing. The bar chart does not show money inflows to the Bellevue School District from State funding sources, and a statement next to the bar chart says "If these three levies are passed, property tax rates will decline over a four-year period." Based on my understanding of the situation, I believe that this statement and the bar chart may be intentionally and materially false and deceptive.
3. The mailing says that local funding from these levies would fund expenses such as new school buses and "carpeting, roofs, and heating and cooling systems". My understanding is that all of these costs should be fully covered by the State of Washington, because they appear to be essential services that the State of Washington is obligated to fund under the McCleary ruling, so I do not understand how the School District can legitimately attempt to request local levy funding for those same expenses. Perhaps there is a simple misunderstanding or incomplete information in the mailing, or perhaps there is an intent to deceive taxpayers into paying for expenses at the local level that will be funded through the State and therefore do not need to be funded at the local level.

I request that the funding of the mailing, the use of official School District resources to create and/or send and/or endorse the mailing, and the elements of the mailing that appear to be incomplete, intentionally and materially false and/or deceptive, be investigated for possible violations of Washington State laws.

Regards,

Brett Gibbs

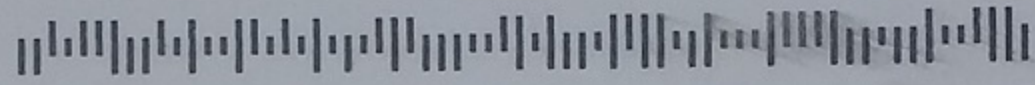


**Bellevue
School District**

PO Box 90010
Bellevue, WA 98009

Election Day: February 13, 2018

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SEATTLE, WA
PERMIT #1445



Resident Voters
14009 SE 4th St Apt B
Bellevue WA 98007-6612

Three levies will be on the February 13, 2018 ballot. Passing these levies allow Bellevue School District to maintain the high quality programs and services students currently receive.

LEVY INFORMATION

**Bellevue
School District**



1. Educational Programs & Operations Levy



- Renews an expiring levy
- Accounts for 22% of the district programs and operations budget
- Significantly funds special education and gifted programs
- Pays for additional nurses, counselors, and security
- Allows students to participate in:
 - 7th period classes and tutorial at middle schools and high schools
 - Orchestra, band, music, and art in elementary schools
 - World languages in middle schools
 - Athletics and after school activities

AMOUNT: Averages \$76 million a year for four years, a total of \$304 million

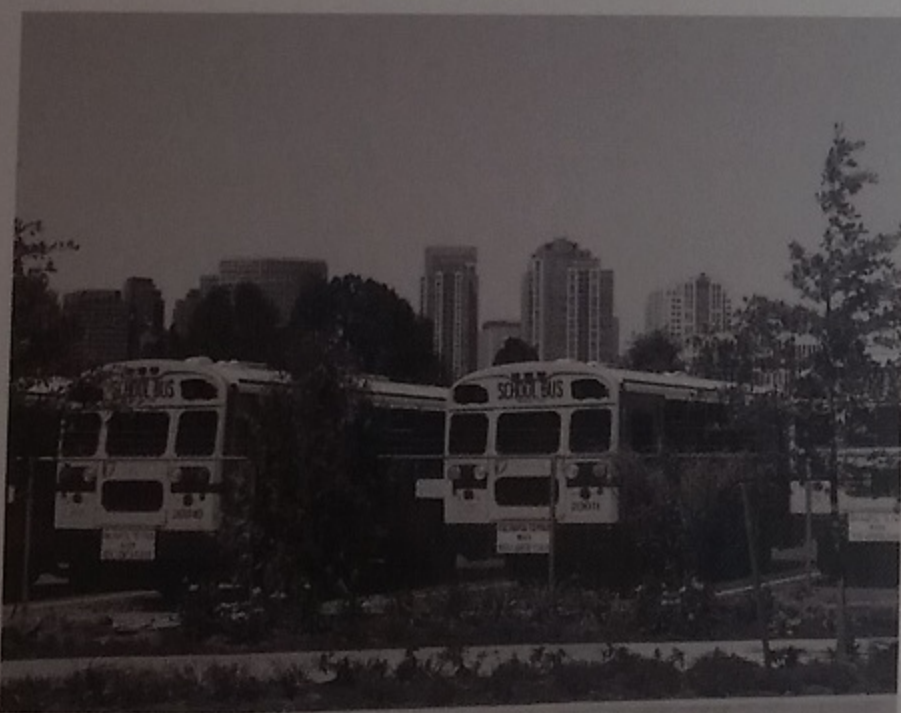
2. Technology & Capital Projects Levy



- Renews an expiring levy
- Pays for classroom technology, training for teachers, and laptops for middle school and high school students
- Funds large scale school improvements like the carpeting, roofs, and heating and cooling systems
- Provides all students with:
 - Integrated digital curriculum
 - Collaborative STEM learning
 - Access to new technologies that support their learning

AMOUNT: Averages \$40.75 million a year for four years, a total of \$163 million

3. School Bus Levy



- One year levy
- Enrollment has grown by nearly 5,000 students in the last 15 years, requiring more bus capacity
- Funds will be used over 7-10 years to purchase new school buses
- Students and families will benefit from:
 - Less crowded buses
 - Increased convenience with more bus routes
 - Reduced traffic congestion around schools
 - Continued safe travel for field trips and extracurricular activities

AMOUNT: \$8 million for one year, a total of \$8 million

Cost to Homeowners

If these three levies are passed, property tax rates will decline over the four-year period. The local school tax rate will decrease from \$2.93 in 2017 to \$2.58 in 2022. This amount includes the cost of bonds previously approved by voters for the construction of new buildings.

