

Resolution Advising Rejection of 2020 Port Angeles School District Levy

Whereas Port Angeles School District seeks a 175% local school levy property tax increase, a \$52 million capital levy *requiring only simple majority approval* to needlessly demolish and replace some Stevens Middle School buildings; and

Whereas the Clallam County Republican Party believes the Port Angeles School District should:

- demonstrate due diligence by carefully considering our local economic situation and taxpayer affordability,
- provide “life safety” by first seismically retrofitting buildings where needed,
- use the least costly solution by replacing only worn out heating, plumbing, and electrical systems and other essential systems if needed,
- if possibly needed, use modular construction’s cost and efficiency benefits.

Whereas our local economy differs significantly from wealthier areas in our state demonstrated by

- 34% higher unemployment than state’s average and 133% higher unemployment than Seattle/King County’s,
- Clallam County’s median income of \$22,500 less than our state’s median,
- Clallam County’s *family income* decline of \$5,525 since its 2011 peak,
- 54.6% of renters in Clallam County) identified as “cost-burdened,” using over 30% of household income for housing; and

Whereas PUD rates will increase 25% in the next five years, local taxes continue to increase yearly, 2019 county property valuations increased approximately 20%-25% or more, causing significant tax increases; and

Whereas PASD planners ask voters’ approval to wasteful demolition of usable buildings when common sense tells us we would not demolish or own homes to replace worn out heating, electrical, and plumbing systems; and

Whereas PASD intends to pay \$475 taxpayer dollars per sq. ft. for new construction., \$381 for Stevens remodeling, and intentionally ignores a minimum of 35% modular construction cost savings; and

Whereas Washington Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction Facilities Administrator Tom Carver advises, “*remodeling always costs less than new construction*”; and

Whereas PASD plans to move sixth-graders

- by adding 18 new Stevens classrooms but no definitive study finds sixth grade benefits when moved to middle schools,
- the PASD school board has failed to provide requested research for such benefits,
- PASD enrollment is 1266 less students than peak 1990 enrollment and now remains flat; and

Whereas PASD has wasted approximately \$130,000 for two failed special elections in 2016 and 2018 instead of placing their proposals on the November ballot; and

Whereas five times voters passed initiatives requiring a two-thirds vote for legislative tax increases, PASD diminishes voters' inherent right to control taxation amounts by placing capital levies requiring simple majority approval on the ballot; and

Whereas, PASD's superintendent stated this \$52 million plan “. . . *honoring the previous work of community members and their recommendations over the past decade*” overrides common sense solutions;

Therefore, the Clallam County Republican Party Central Committee recommends that voters reject the 2020 PASD capital levy proposal.

Passed by the Clallam County Central Committee at their regular meeting on January 2, 2020.