



Office of Survey Research

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Bellingham School Bond Survey 1995-Revised 9/ 13/95

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BELLINGHAM SCHOOL BOND SURVEY 1995 - Revised 9/13/95

1. First, we'd like to know how familiar you are with Bellingham schools. Would you say you have

- 1. A great deal of information
- 2. Quite a bit
- 3. Some
- or 4. Very little information about Bellingham schools.

2. If there is a school bond election this Winter, how likely is it that you will vote? Would you say..

- 1. Definitely
- 2. Probably
- 3. Probably Not ==> **Skip to Q. 5, middle of page 2**
- or 4. Definitely Not ==> **Skip to Q. 5, middle of page 2**

Now we have a few questions about possible capital construction projects that would be supported by school bonds.

3. I'll read some projects that have been proposed. For each one, would you please indicate whether, if you were voting today, you would vote yes, vote no, or be undecided.... The first two projects involve high schools. As you may know, Bellingham School District is currently building a new high school, as approved by voters in 1994. The two existing high schools are Bellingham High and Sehome High.

The first proposed project is to ...

| | YES | NO | UNDECIDED |
|---|-----|----|-----------|
| a. Renovate Bellingham high school, for about 22 million dollars. Would you.... vote yes... vote no.. or... be undecided.... | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| b. Second, renovate Bellingham high school and modernize Sehome high school at a combined cost of about 33 million. Would you vote yes, vote no, or be undecided? | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| c. Construct a new elementary school at a cost of about 8 million. (REPEAT SCALE AS NECESSARY) | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| d. Continue to expand and upgrade instructional <u>technology</u> , at a cost of about 4 million. | 1 | 2 | 9 |

4. Now I want to ask about the different total levels of bond issues that could be brought to voters. For each level, please indicate whether you would vote yes or no if the election were held today.... or if you would feel undecided. First . . .

a. Would you vote yes or no for a \$30 million dollar bond, that would add about \$13 per year for 18 years over the tax presently paid on a house assessed at \$100,000?

1. YES

2. NO 9. UNDEC

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>b. Would you vote yes or no on a 35 million bond?</p> <p>1. YES 2. NO 9. UNDEC.</p> | <p>d. Would you vote yes or no on a 25 million bond?</p> <p>1. YES 2. NO 9. UNDEC.</p> |
| <p>c. IF 1: How about a 40 million bond?</p> <p>1. YES 2. NO 9. UNDEC.</p> | <p>e. IF 2 OR 9: How about a 20 million bond?</p> <p>1. YES 2. NO 9. UNDEC.</p> |

Q. 5. Now we have some questions about schools in Bellingham. I will read some statements and ask you to indicate whether you agree or disagree with each one and whether or not you feel strongly about your answer. First...

a. One very important educational goal should be to eliminate overcrowded classrooms and classrooms in temporary buildings. Do you....strongly agree... agree... feel undecided... disagree... or... strongly disagree... with that statement?

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

b. The current equipment in Bellingham schools is well suited to teach modern technology. Do you....strongly agree, agree, feel undecided, disagree, or strongly disagree?

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

c. Population growth in Bellingham will require that we continue building new schools periodically for at least the next five or ten years. (REPEAT SCALE AS NECESSARY)

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

d. One of the most important things for the nation's future is a well educated youth.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

e. Nothing anyone could say about schools would lead me to support higher taxes at this point.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

f. To have children in low quality schools is as bad as not educating them at all.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

g. Education won't be able to prepare our children for the future if buildings and facilities are inadequate.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

h. Teachers and school administrators are paid too much

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

g. the most important rule for capital construction in Bellingham is to follow the master plan approved by the community

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

h. Bellingham high school is so old and run down that it has to be either renovated or torn down.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

i. Compared to schools in other parts of the country, Bellingham spends more of its money on the kids, and less on administration.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

j. The best way to prevent delinquency and related social problems is to keep our schools as strong as possible.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

k. Society is changing so fast that schools need to invest ever more in technology and new ways of learning.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

l. As a tax payer, schools are always one of my highest priorities.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

m. In recent years, the Bellingham school district has been planning well and using its money wisely.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

n. Right now, Bellingham elementary school and high school enrollments are considerably above capacity.

1. strongly agree 2. agree 3. undecided 4 disagree 5 strongly disagree

6. Overall, would you evaluate schools in Bellingham as ... Excellent... Good... Fair... or.. Poor.... or do you feel you have too little information to know?

1. EXC. 2. GOOD 3. FAIR 4. POOR 9. DON'T KNOW

7. Have you ever visited either Shukson, the new middle school, or Fairhaven Middle School which was just renovated?

1. NO - SKIP TO QUESTION 9

2. YES - CONTINUE

8. Would you evaluate these projects as.... .. Excellent... Good... Fair... or.. Poor?

1. EXC. 2. GOOD 3. FAIR 4. POOR 9. DON'T KNOW

Finally, I'd like to ask a few questions about yourself. Our interpretation of the survey is more accurate if we know a little about the group of people we've talked to.

9. Have you had any children enrolled in a Bellingham public school within the last five years or at present?

1. YES 2. NO

10. What category does your age fall into? (BEGIN READING CATEGORIES)

1. Under 20 2. 20's 3. 30's 4. 40's 5. 50's
6. 60's 7. 70s or above

11. Did you attend any public school in Bellingham?

1. YES 2. NO 9. N.A.

12. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

1. Less than high school 2. High school or GED 3. Some college or AA
4. College degree 5. Graduate degree 9. N.A.

13. The last Bellingham school bond election was held in February, 1994. Many of us miss school elections. Did you happen to vote in that one?

1. YES 2. NO 9. DON'T RECALL

14. **IF YES:** If you don't mind, would you indicate whether you voted yes or no in that election?

1. VOTE= YES 2. VOTE= NO 9. DON'T RECALL OR WON'T SAY

Thank you very much. That's all the questions I have.