



*“Because you can’t have a great city without great schools”*

## **53,000 students are counting on Seattle voters to renew two expiring school levies on Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**

The renewal of the **Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy** provides critical day-to-day programs and staff to operate Seattle Public Schools and fill in the gaps not covered by state funds. The **Building Excellence Capital levy (BEX V)** will improve safety and security, replace aging buildings, add seats, remove portables and enhance classroom technology. These levies are not new taxes; they replace expiring Seattle school levies. All funding from these levies remains in Seattle to support our students, schools and staff.

### **YES votes to renew these two levies will:**

#### **✓ Make Every School Safer for Our Kids**

Vibrant and popular public schools are part of what makes Seattle a great place to live, but we need to provide the funds to build quality, permanent classrooms our students need and deserve. BEX V will modify existing buildings to make them safe for our students and teachers. This includes **investing in every Seattle Public School** to secure entrances and school sites, provide earthquake improvements and upgrade fire alarms.

#### **✓ Replace and Modernize our Aging Schools and Portables**

Eight schools will be replaced or modernized: Alki, John Rogers, Kimball, Mercer, Montlake, Northgate, Rainier Beach, and Viewlands. This levy adds almost 2,000 new seats across the district and removes 76 aging portables. BEX V will provide our students with healthier and safer buildings and improved technology. Seattle Public Schools has a well-deserved reputation of delivering its capital projects on time and under budget.

#### **✓ Renew our Commitment to Help Every Child Succeed**

The renewal of the **Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy** provides critical day-to-day school operations and staffing beyond what the state funds to operate Seattle Public Schools. This levy bridges the funding gap for critical support staff such as nurses, librarians, counselors, family support workers, and more. Levy funding also provides textbooks, instructional materials, and extra help for students who need special education services, as well as programs that help close the opportunity gaps.

# How can you help?

- ✓ **Vote YES on February 12th**
- ✓ **Tell your friends to vote**
- ✓ **Endorse our grassroots campaign to support our schools**
  - You can officially endorse us by going to our website and filling out an endorsement declaration which is found under the “endorse” tab on the left side of the page
  - You can further support us by following us on social media
  - Repost or retweet our posts to help spread the word
    - Find us on Twitter: @SchoolsFirstSea
    - Find us on Facebook: Schools First Coalition
- ✓ **Contribute to help fund these campaign efforts on behalf of our Seattle students**
  - You can do this by going to our website and clicking the “contribute” tab on the left side of the page
- ✓ **Volunteer to help us communicate the critical need in the Feb. 12 election**
  - You can find volunteer opportunities on the “How you can help” tab on the left side of our webpage as well

[www.schoolsfirstseattle.org](http://www.schoolsfirstseattle.org)

*Paid for by Schools First! P.O. Box 2204 Seattle WA, 98111*