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Councilmember Tim Burgess / Alex Pedersen
RES School Levies
December 26, 2012
Version # 2

CITY OF SEATTLE
RESOLUTION 31423

A RESOLUTION declaring the support of the Seattle City Council for passage of the Seattle School District's Proposition 1 Operations Levy and Proposition 2 Building Excellence IV Capital Levy, on the February 12, 2013 ballot.

WHEREAS, the Seattle School District's Proposition 1: Operations Levy and Proposition 2: Building Excellence IV Capital Levy ("BEX IV") will be presented to the voters of Seattle at a special election on February 12, 2013; and

WHEREAS, education is the key to opportunity in this country; and

WHEREAS, an educated citizenry is a cornerstone to a participatory democracy and is a foundation for communities to grow and prosper; and

WHEREAS, a strong public school system is essential to sustain the economic health and vitality of the City by providing an educated and skilled workforce; and

WHEREAS, Seattle's children are its future and the quality of that future depends on providing all students equal access to a high quality education; and

WHEREAS, an educated population will be actively engaged in Seattle's civic life and contribute to the economic and social well-being of the city; and

WHEREAS, by 2018, it is projected that 67% of all jobs in Washington state will require a post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, in order to maintain its competitiveness, keep existing employers and attract new family-wage jobs and economically viable industries, Seattle needs to provide a well-educated and trained workforce with the advanced skills and abilities needed to compete in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, a strong public school system contributes to the desirability and attractiveness of Seattle as a place to live; and

WHEREAS, State funding of the Seattle School District will be insufficient to enable the District to pay for necessary educational programs and operations and to properly meet the educational needs of the students attending District schools; and

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WHEREAS, Proposition 1, the Seattle School District's three-year Operations Levy totaling $551.9 million will provide necessary funds to pay for basic classroom needs such as teachers, librarians, counselors, bilingual and special education specialists, textbooks and supplies, and a 6th period in high school; and

WHEREAS, the educational facilities of the Seattle School District are in need of earthquake and other safety projects, increased capacity to meet enrollment growth, improvements in building condition for aging structures, technology improvements and major preventive maintenance throughout the District to meet the current and future educational needs of its students; and

WHEREAS, projects funded by Proposition 2, the Seattle School District's six-year BEX IV Capital Levy totaling $694.5 million would include earthquake and other safety projects in 37 schools; renovation, construction, replacement or additions to 11 elementary schools, one middle school and one K-8 school; construction of building condition and infrastructure improvements and major preventive maintenance at 20 schools; and acquisition and installation of technology equipment and implementation of training and other measures throughout the district; and

WHEREAS, both the Operations and BEX IV Capital Levies are renewals of existing operations and capital levies;

WHEREAS, Seattle voters recognize that the Seattle School District must depend on local levy support to provide essential services as State funding is insufficient and have consistently for the past three decades voted to support the Seattle School District's local levies; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

Section 1. In accordance with the requirements of RCW 42.17A.555 and SMC 2.04.300 proper notice was given for a hearing at which members of the public, as well as Councilmembers, were afforded an approximately equal opportunity for the expression of an opposing view. Having considered the views of the public, the Seattle City Council supports the efforts of the Seattle School District to obtain voter approval of two School Levies on February

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12, 2013. The Seattle City Council asks Seattle voters to carefully review these ballot measures and vote "YES" on the Seattle School District's Proposition 1 and Proposition 2, which will provide additional funding of benefit to our children and our City.

Adopted by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2013, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its adoption this_____ day of _____, 2013.

_____

President _____of the City Council

THE MAYOR CONCURRING:

_____

Michael McGinn, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2013.

_____

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

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FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS

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Legislation Title:

A RESOLUTION declaring the support of the Seattle City Council for passage of the Seattle School District's Proposition 1 Operations Levy and Proposition 2 Building Excellence IV Capital Levy on the February 12, 2013 ballot.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation expresses the Seattle City Council's support for the passage of two tax levies to support Seattle public schools:

(1) Proposition 1, the Seattle School District's proposed three-year Operations Levy totaling $551.9 million to provide necessary funds to pay for basic classroom needs such as teachers, librarians, counselors, bilingual and special education specialists, textbooks and supplies, and a 6th period in high school.

The current Operations Levy for the School District is $1.31 per $1,000 in assessed value in 2012. (This includes a Supplemental amount approved by voters.) Originally approved in 2010, the current three-year Levy expires at the end of 2013. The new three-year Operations Levy proposed by the School District for the February 2013 ballot would replace the current Operations Levy and would start at $1.45 per $1,000 of assessed value.

(2) Proposition 2, the Seattle School District's six-year BEX IV Capital Levy totaling $694.5 million to complete earthquake and other safety projects in 37 schools; renovation, construction, replacement or additions to 11 elementary schools, one middle school and one K-8 school; construction of building condition and infrastructure improvements and major preventive maintenance at 20 schools; and acquisition and installation of technology equipment and implementation of training and other measures throughout the district.

The current BEX III Capital measure for the School District is $0.70 per $1,000 in assessed value in 2012. Originally approved in 2007, the current six-year levy expires at the end of 2013. The new six-year Capital Levy (BEX IV) proposed by the School District for the February 2013 ballot would replace the current BEX III Capital Levy and would start at $1.00 per $1,000 of assessed value.

__x__ **This legislation (the City Council Resolution) does not have any financial implications.**

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