

Statements For and Against

Statement For

Referendum 52: Healthy Schools for Washington

Our kids deserve safe, healthy learning environments. But too many of our school buildings are aging and dilapidated. Many are riddled with mold, lead, asbestos and other toxins.

Referendum 52 will change that by creating \$505 million in bonding capacity dedicated to repairing public schools, community colleges and university buildings across the state. Taxpayers will save an estimated \$130 million annually in energy costs.

Making Our Schools Safe for Learning

Referendum 52 will protect our kids by helping to remove asbestos, mold and other toxic substances from contaminated public school buildings. It will repair heating and air conditioning systems and replace deteriorating windows so our schools provide a healthy environment where kids can focus on learning. Our kids should not be put at risk by going to school -- Referendum 52 will make our schools safer.

Creating Jobs Across the State

New improvements mean new jobs. Last year over 105,000 jobs were lost in Washington State. Repairing our aging school buildings will create 30,000 new construction jobs. Every school district will benefit, which will bring new employment opportunities to every community across Washington State.

Saving Energy and Money

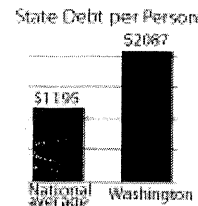
Referendum 52 will save taxpayers money. It requires that only projects with energy cost savings greater than the cost of the project can receive funding. All spending will be subject to audits, and must be fully publicly disclosed.

Referendum 52 means safer schools, more jobs, and lower costs over time.

Statement Against

Vote No on Referendum 52: More Debt and Taxes Aren't the Answer

Already, State Government's Debt Per Person is Nearly Twice the National Average



Debt Service has Grown Faster than Education Spending; R-52 Exacerbates the Problem

Debt expenses consume 84% more taxpayer dollars now than 12 years ago, reaching \$1.8 billion in the 2010 budget.

Debt service costs more than the Department of Corrections, UW, WSU, or state parks.

Olympia should be reducing debt; higher debt costs mean less for core services.

R-52 Sidesteps Constitutional Debt Limit that Protects Taxpayers

R-52 authorizes debt outside the Article 8, Section 1 constitutional limit. This is unwise and unnecessary. Lottery proceeds should go to school construction, but they and other funds (nearly \$1 billion total) are being diverted. Trading huge long-term debt and a permanent bottled-water tax for short-term jobs doesn't add up.

More debt? More taxes? Please vote no on R-52.

Vote yes on Referendum 52.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

R-52 *will reduce* State debt: Contrary to the opponents' claims, R-52 will lower state debt over time. Repairing existing schools will extend the life of school buildings. Less new building construction means less new debt – saving an estimated \$600 million in new school construction bonds over the next eight years. R-52 will save energy and money, create jobs and make schools healthy places for our kids to learn. Approve R-52!

Statement Prepared By

Ralph Munro, former Republican Secretary of State; **Sharon Ness**, Pierce County Nurse; **Patrick Nicholson**, Head Custodian Kitsap School District, Washington Education Association; **Rick Schrader**, Spokane small business Pro-Heating and Air Conditioning; **Joan Crooks**, Executive Director Washington Environmental Council; **Eric Martinson**, Sheet Metal Workers Local 66.

For more information:

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Rebuttal of Statement For

Schools? Only 5% is guaranteed to K-12. Most funds will go to universities.

Jobs? The state's economists estimate 5,700 short-term construction jobs, not 30,000. The nearly \$1 billion cost of repaying R-52 costs taxpayers \$162,000 per job.

Health? For 40 years, state law has required healthy schools. R-52 criteria make no mention of asbestos, mold, or school health. This is "bait-and-switch."

Washingtonians already bear more government debt per person than Californians. Vote *no*.

Statement Prepared By

Joseph Zarelli, State Senator, Ranking Member, Ways and Means Committee; **Judy Warnick**, State Representative, Ranking Member, Capital Budget Committee; **Rodney Tom**, State Senator, Vice-Chair, Ways and Means Committee.

For more information:

No information submitted