



LEVY OR ELECTION
INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

E22.00
Revised
MAY 1985
Page 1 of 2

PROCEDURE

Introduction

The purpose of this procedure is to present and interpret the state law that controls the distribution of information about levy elections to the public.

Identification

RCW 28A.58.610 states that:

The board of directors of any school district shall have authority to authorize the expenditure of funds for the purpose of preparing and distributing information to the general public to explain the instructional program, operation, and maintenance of the schools of the district: Provided, that nothing contained herein shall be construed to authorize preparation and distribution of information to the general public for the purpose of influencing the outcome of a school district election.

Procedure

1. The school can send information to parents or to the general public that discusses the school instructional program, operation, and maintenance of the school. The school may mention the services or programs which would be reduced or eliminated if the levy failed, and may also state the date of the forthcoming election.
2. The levy, other ballot issues, and electoral races can be discussed in the classroom provided that all viewpoints are presented.
3. The school can sponsor assemblies or public meetings during which both sides of a ballot issue are discussed and/or in which the candidates from all parties are given the opportunity to speak.
4. Students, teachers, and administrators may not use school facilities to make or display election propaganda. The levy committees cannot meet in the school unless the anti-levy committees have the same privilege. Signs, memoranda, or the like, stating the reasons why voters should cast their votes for or against a particular ballot issue or candidate cannot be made at school, cannot be made with school materials, and cannot be displayed at school.

Adopted:
Former Code(s): F09.02
Repealed:



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Page 2 of 2

5. If a teacher or school administrator wants to support a ballot issue outside the school, he or she must state that he or she is doing so as an individual. It is permissible to allow the press to say, "The following individuals, who are teachers at Muir, support the levy." Teachers should not permit the press to say, "The teachers at Muir support the levy." A school employee cannot devote school time to conduct or participate in political activities.
6. PTSA notices printed on school paper or sent home with students cannot urge support for the levy. They may, however, announce the date of the forthcoming election.
7. If the PTSA takes a position on a ballot issue and/or indicates a position for or against a particular candidate, information regarding that position may not be disseminated by the school.