



## News Release

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### **Freeman Construction Bond Addresses Urgent Needs *Community Invited to Tour Schools on April 10, 17, 19 and 24***

**Rockford, Wash.** – Freeman School District #358 voters will be asked to consider a \$19.5 million capital improvements bond on the May 20 ballot. The proposed 20-year bond addresses the district's most urgent needs, upgrading aging building infrastructure and improving security to provide a safe, healthy learning environment for the district's 900 students. At least 60 percent of voters must approve the bond for it to pass.

The capital improvements bond would renovate and expand the district's existing elementary and high school buildings and make campus-wide safety improvements. The bond proposal reflects the recommendations of the recently-completed *Study and Survey*, a six-month process conducted by a team of outside experts to evaluate the condition of district buildings and gather input from community members, parents and staff.

"Each year the district spends more money from a limited budget to maintain our deteriorating infrastructure," explained superintendent Sergio Hernandez, "The proposed capital improvements plan addresses our most urgent needs, is fiscally conservative and will serve our community for the next 30 to 40 years."

The total project cost is \$30 million. Due to the age and condition of Freeman's school buildings, the state will fund approximately \$10.5 million, leaving a balance of \$19.5 million to be funded by local taxpayers. If the bond is approved, the net impact to Freeman taxpayers would be an increase of \$1.59 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, beginning in 2009.

Community members are invited to tour the schools during several upcoming events. Informal tours will be given by Superintendent Hernandez on **April 10, 17 and 24 from 2-3:30 p.m.** On **Saturday, April 19**, bond supporters will host a "Tour and Car Wash" from **2 – 4 p.m.** This event includes a free car wash and student musical performances.

Detailed bond information is posted online at [www.freemansd.org](http://www.freemansd.org).

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