

The AlaskaPoll



DITTMAN RESEARCH  
& COMMUNICATIONS  
CORPORATION

DRC Building  
8115 Jewel Lake Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Phone: (907) 243-3345

Fax: (907) 243-7172

Email: [dittman@alaska.net](mailto:dittman@alaska.net)

Web: [dittmanresearch.com](http://dittmanresearch.com)



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# OPINIONS AND PERCEPTIONS OF ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS REGARDING BOND ISSUES

December 2009

Prepared for



**Anchorage  
School District**



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    “...Do you feel bonding is or is not a good way to pay  
    for the school district’s major maintenance projects?”

        “*Not a good way*” ..... VC 1 - 17

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**VI. Appendix**





**Methodology**





### **Overview**

During the period November 30 through December 13, 2009, six hundred and ten (n=610) Alaskans residing within Anchorage School District boundaries and over the age of 18 were personally contacted via telephone by professional interviewing employees of the Dittman Research & Communications Corporation (DRC) of Alaska. These Alaskans were called from a list of voters who had voted in the 2008 Municipal Election and/or the 2009 Municipal Election, or had registered to vote since then. In addition, all respondents were screened to be “absolutely certain” or “very likely” to vote in the 2010 Municipal Election.

The sample error associated with a sample of this size in Anchorage is  $\pm 4.0\%$ . The views and opinions of the Anchorage residents were recorded on a strictly confidential basis.

### **Processing the Data**

DRC employees completed coding, editing, data entry and verification, while data processing was completed through the in-house DRC computer system featuring the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) program. The SPSS program is one of the most sophisticated research-oriented data processing and analytical systems available, and is designed specifically for the processing and analysis of survey research data.

### **Weighting Statement**

Results were weighted to equalize gender and to bring political registration into accordance with Anchorage voter registration statistics.

### **Measurement History**

Citizen opinion measurements by the DRC, utilizing the previously described methodology, analytical procedures and data processing systems, have proven to be virtually perfect predictors of political election results in Alaska for the past thirty-nine years.

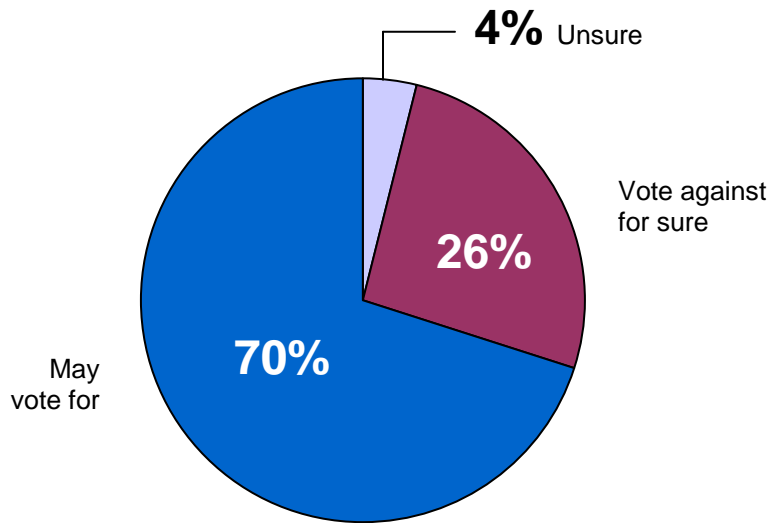
# II Findings





Looking ahead to the April 6, 2010 Municipal election, approximately one-out-of-four (26%) respondents say they would vote against any school bond regardless of the amount, while seven-out-of-ten respondents (70%) say they may vote in favor of a school bond at that time.

*Question: Specifically thinking about the upcoming April 6th election, do you think you'll vote against any school bond regardless of how much it is for, or do you think you might vote in favor of a school bond depending on the dollar amount?*



*“...vote against...might vote in favor...”*

Households with children in ASD schools are most likely to support potential school bonds next year.

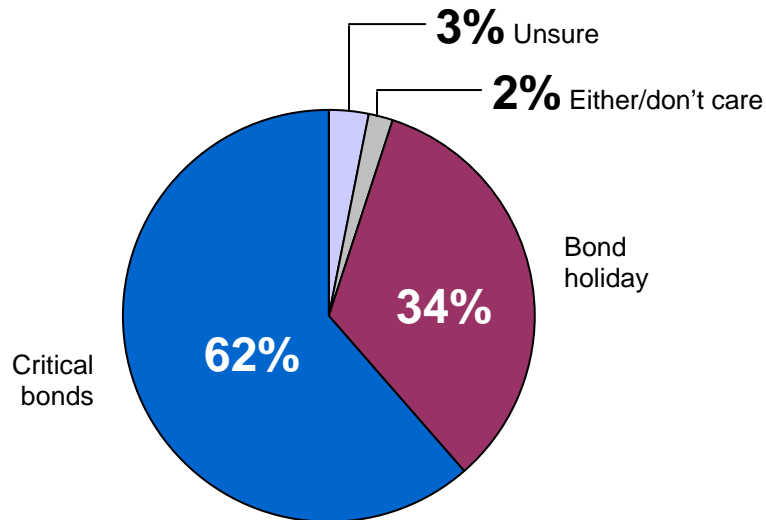
	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
No children.....	66%	29%
No children in ASD .....	66%	29%
Children in ASD schools .....	80%	17%





When the concept of a “bond holiday” is considered, approximately one-out-of-three (34%) respondents say Anchorage taxpayers should have a bond holiday next year, while slightly over six-out-of-ten respondents (62%) say they feel the school district should propose appropriate bonds for the most critical projects.

*Question: Some people think that the school district should not ask for any money this spring to give Anchorage taxpayers a break. Other people say that bonds are necessary because many of the schools are about fifty years old and \$800 million dollars of capital improvements have been identified. What do you think -- should the school district give Anchorage taxpayers a “bond holiday” and not have any school bonds in April 2010, or do you think there are on-going important needs and the school district should propose appropriate bonds for the most critical projects?*



*“...bond holiday/no school bonds...on-going needs/appropriate bonds...”*

Again, households with children attending ASD schools are most likely to support potential school bonds.

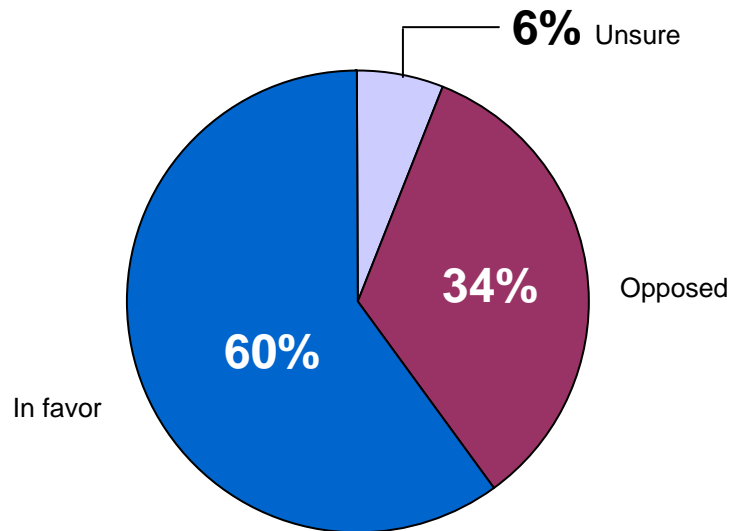
	<u>Critical Bonds</u>	<u>Bond Holiday</u>
No children.....	58%	37%
No children in ASD .....	65%	33%
Children in ASD schools .....	71%	25%





Looking ahead to 2011 -- if there is a bond holiday in 2010 -- three-out-of-five respondents (60%) say they would vote in favor of a \$70 million dollar bond to complete the renovations at Service High School.

*Question: If there are no school bonds on the April 2010 ballot, how would you likely vote in 2011 on a \$70 million dollar bond to complete the renovations at Service High School?*



*"...vote in 2011 on a \$70 million bond to complete...Service High School?"*

In this case, households with children, even if they have not enrolled in ASD schools, report they are likely to vote in favor of completing the Service High renovations.

	<u>In favor</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
No children.....	56%	37%
No children in ASD .....	67%	33%
Children in ASD schools .....	67%	26%



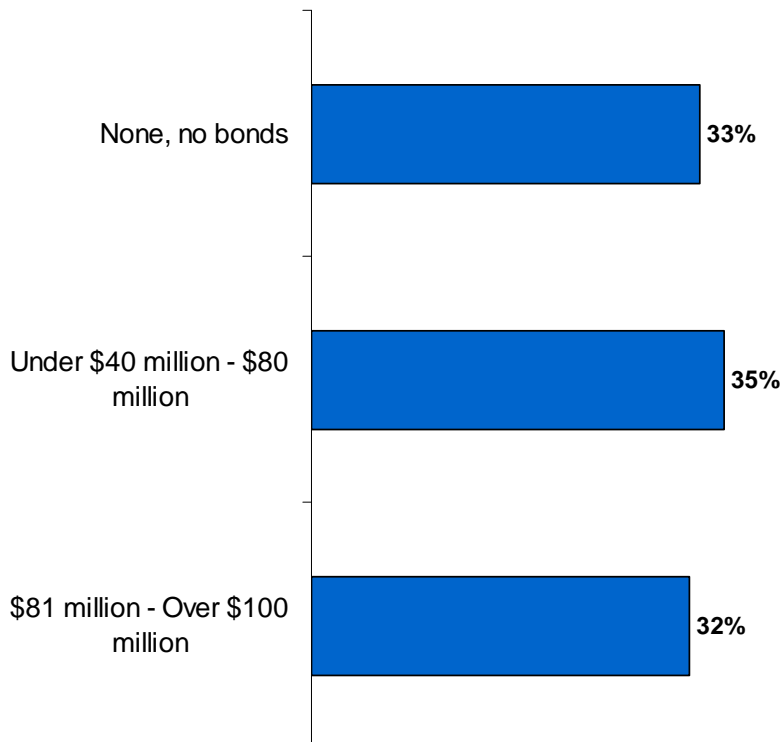


As far as supportable or “reasonable” amounts of Anchorage School District bonds are concerned, it appears the community is separated into approximately equal “thirds” -- 33% at the “zero/no bonds” end, 32% at the \$81-million-and-over end, and 35% in between.

*Question: In the past, the total amount of Anchorage School District bonds on the municipal election ballot has ranged between \$80 and 160 million dollars. Looking ahead to April 2010, what do you think would be a reasonable amount for Anchorage School District bonds?  
(Asked as an open-ended question)*

	33%	None, no bonds
35%	{	5% Under 40 million
		11% \$41-60 million
		19% \$61-80 million
32%	{	18% \$81-100 million
		14% Over \$100 million

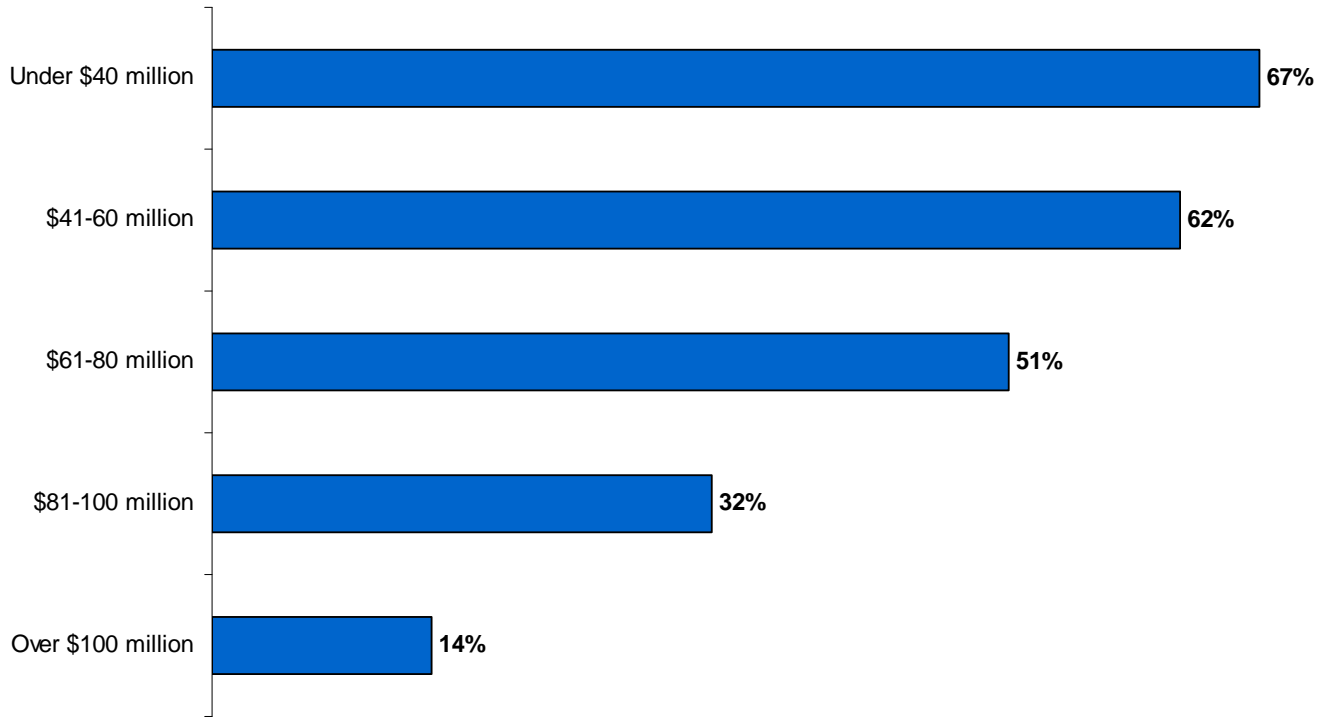
Mean value = \$62,490,000  
Median value = \$75,000,000





In terms of interpreting these results, it appears total bond amounts under \$40,000,000 could be approved (considered “reasonable”) by approximately two-out-of-three voters (67%). The “reasonable” percentage declines to 62% for bond amounts between \$41-60 million and then declines to approximately half (51%) for bond amounts between \$61-80 million. Above that level, likely approval (“reasonableness”) declines substantially (14%).

“Reasonable amount”



Mean value = \$62,490,000  
Median value = \$75,000,000

Note:

Another way to interpret these results is to consider the amounts of the average “arithmetic mean” (\$62,490,000) and the “median” (\$75,000,000). In the case of the “mean,” the average “reasonable” amount for all respondents (\$62,490,000) is the result when all responses are added together, and the sum is then divided by the total number of responses.

In the case of the “median,” the mid-point “reasonable” amount for all discrete responses is \$75,000,000. This amount is the result when all responses are lined up from least to greatest, and the middle number (equal distance from each end) is determined.

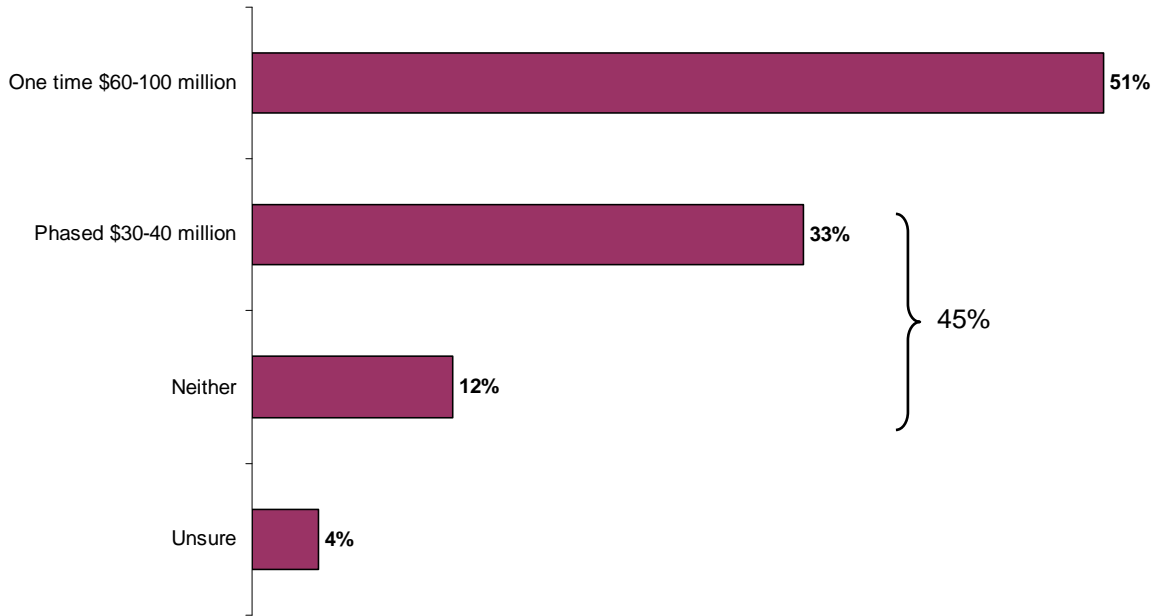
Statistically, the “mean” is generally considered most efficient, while the “median” is less sensitive to outliers.





When considering large projects in the \$60-100 million dollar range, Anchorage voters narrowly report they prefer one-time, one lump-sum bonds (51%). However, approximately one-out-of-three (34%) support a “phased” approach, and 12% volunteered that they wouldn’t support either option -- they would vote “no” either way. When support for the smaller, phased approach is combined with those who would not support any bonds, it becomes a nearly 50/50 (51% - 45%) matter.

*Question: Bond proposals for large projects can be presented as one lump sum which is the most cost-effective way to fund a project. However, these one-time bonds are often for \$60 to 100 million dollars which is a lot of money to approve at one time. Or, large projects can be separated into “phases” of approximately \$30 to 40 million dollars and voted on by voters over several years. The downside of “phasing” is that the total project costs more than if it had all been completed at one time. As a voter, when considering major projects such as a new school, are you more likely to vote for a single large bond of \$60 to 100 million dollars, or for a “phased” project of \$30 to 40 million dollars each year for multiple years?*



*“...more likely to vote for...single large bond...phased project...”*

Households without children are least likely to support ASD bond issues altogether, including one time, lump-sum amounts.

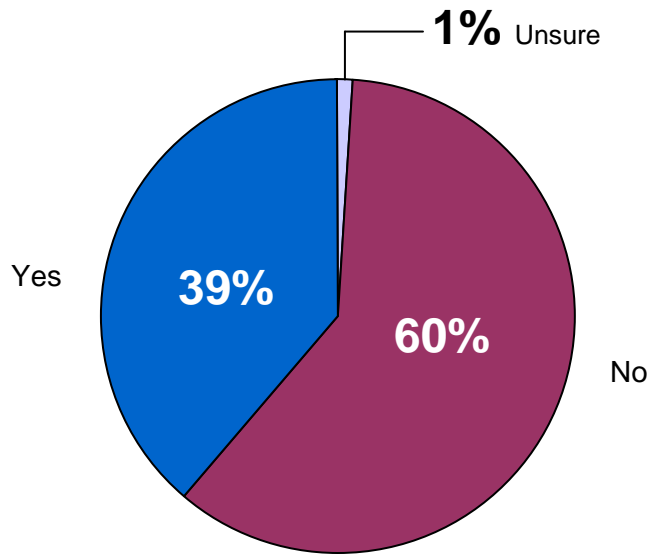
	<u>One-time</u>	<u>Phased</u>	<u>Neither</u>
No children .....	48%	32%	15%
No children in ASD .....	58%	33%	9%
Children in ASD schools.....	56%	35%	6%





Altogether, two-out-of-five respondents (40%) report they are aware of people saying, “The Anchorage School District should not bond for maintenance.”

*Question: Have you read or heard about people saying that “the Anchorage School District should not bond for maintenance”?*



*“...read or heard...”*

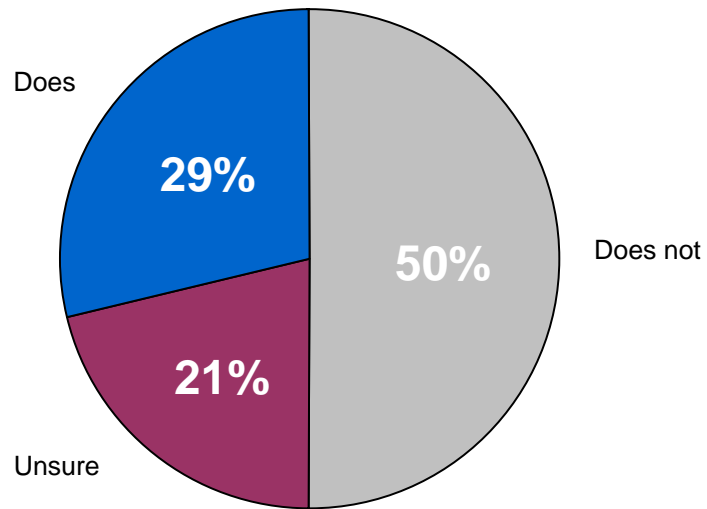
In general, public awareness of the “...not bond for maintenance” expression is similar among all respondent households.

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
No children.....	40%	59%
No children in ASD .....	42%	58%
Children in ASD schools .....	38%	62%



At the present time, half of all respondents (50%) believe the Anchorage School District does not currently issue bonds to pay for routine, day-to-day maintenance, while the other half is either “unsure” (21%) or believe the school district does issue bonds for day-to-day, routine maintenance (29%).

*Question: As far as you know, does the Anchorage School District issue bonds to pay for routine day-to-day maintenance of district facilities?*



*“...ASD issue bonds...routine, day-to-day maintenance...?”*

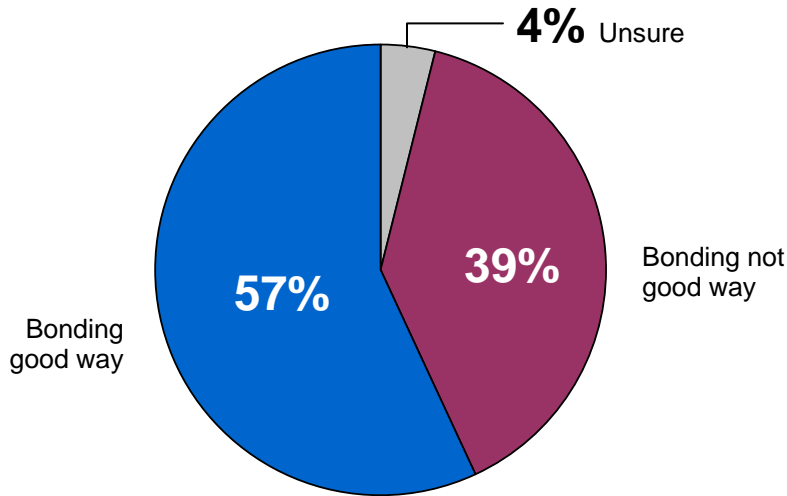
And again, public awareness is basically similar among respondent households.

	<u>Does</u>	<u>Does not</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
No children .....	29%	50%	21%
No children in ASD .....	31%	46%	23%
Children in ASD schools .....	26%	54%	20%



In spite of awareness of the expression “...no bonding for maintenance...” and the general lack of awareness concerning the Anchorage School District’s current policy, substantially over half (57%) believe bonding is a good way to pay for major ASD maintenance projects.

*Question: The Anchorage School District currently budgets approximately \$23 million dollars a year for regular daily maintenance of district buildings and facilities. However, additional major maintenance projects such as new roofs, heating systems and fire code compliance are usually paid for by bonds issued for these purposes. Do you feel bonding is or is not a good way to pay for the school district’s major maintenance projects?*



*“...bonding is or is not a good way to pay...?”*

Households with children currently enrolled in ASD schools and households without children are most likely to support bonding to pay for major maintenance projects.

	<u>Good Way</u>	<u>Not Good</u>
No children.....	57%	39%
No children in ASD .....	46%	46%
Children in ASD schools .....	60%	37%



All respondents who reported they do not feel bonding is a good way to pay for ASD major maintenance were asked a follow-up question:

*Question: The Anchorage School District currently budgets approximately \$23 million dollars a year for regular daily maintenance of district buildings and facilities. However, additional major maintenance projects such as new roofs, heating systems and fire code compliance are usually paid for by bonds issued for these purposes. Do you feel bonding is or is not a good way to pay for the school district’s major maintenance projects?*

*If answered “not a good way”  
...How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?*

Complete responses are included in the Verbatim Comments section, p. VC 1 - 26, and it is recommended the full section be read in its entirety for a full understanding of the respective points of view.



In conclusion, the term “maintenance” can have different meanings for different people. In order to test the effect of the word “maintenance,” compared to words or phrases with a similar connotation, a “split-sample” test was employed. In this example, the total of n=610 respondents was divided (split) into three equal groups. Respondents in each group were asked an identical question with the exception of the stated purpose of the hypothetical bond issue. Comparing the responses from the three different descriptions of purpose, it is clear ASD bond issues are considered most appropriate if they “extend the life” of Anchorage School District buildings and facilities.

**Question:** *If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as “providing funds \_\_\_\_\_ at/of Anchorage School District buildings and facilities,” would you be more likely to vote for or against the bond?*

<p>Group A 34% n=207</p>	<p><i>“If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as “providing funds <u>for major maintenance projects...</u>”</i></p>	<p>59% Vote for 37% Vote against 4% Unsure</p>
<p>Group B 33% n=201</p>	<p><i>“If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as “providing funds <u>for building systems renewals...</u>”</i></p>	<p>55% Vote for 36% Vote against 9% Unsure</p>
<p>Group C 33% n=202</p>	<p><i>“If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as “providing funds <u>to extend the life...</u>”</i></p>	<p>70% Vote for 26% Vote against 4% Unsure</p>



# III Summary





SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- ◆ Overall, depending on the dollar amount, 70% of all respondents report they may vote for a school bond next year, while approximately one-out-of-four (26%) say they would vote against any bond regardless of amount.
- ◆ And a little over three-out-of-five respondents (62%) say they believe the school district should propose appropriate bonds for the most critical projects, while approximately one-third (34%) believe the Anchorage School District should give taxpayers a “bond holiday.”
- ◆ Sixty percent (60%) of all respondents report they would vote in favor of a \$70 million bond to complete the renovations at Service High School, while 34% are opposed.
- ◆ In total, while there currently is potential 60-70% support for ASD bonds, it should be noted that any bond issue would currently begin with 26-34% voting “no” regardless of amount.
- ◆ In terms of the amount of bond-debt being considered, potential support for ASD bonds decline as the proposed bond amount increases.
  - 67% potentially support total bonds under \$40 million
  - 62% potentially support total bonds between \$41-60 million
  - 51% potentially support total bonds between \$61-80 million
  - 32% potentially support total bonds between \$81-100 million
  - 14% potentially support total bonds over \$100 million
- ◆ Voters are split regarding the effect of a “phased” approach to authorize large-amount bonds -- approximately half (51%) support one-time, lump-sum bonds, while 45% support a “phased” approach, or would not support bonds in any case.
- ◆ The term “*maintenance*” is an important and frequently misunderstood component of the ASD bonding environment
  - Two-out-of-five voters (40%) report they have heard or read of the expression “*the Anchorage School District should not bond for maintenance.*”
  - Half of all voters report they believe the ASD does bond for routine, day-to-day maintenance (29%) or are “unsure” (21%).
  - Nearly two-out-of-five voters (39%) report they believe bonding is not a good way to pay for even major maintenance projects.
- ◆ And in conclusion, when it comes to bond descriptions, rather than referring to “*maintenance*,” it is clear that ASD bond issues are considered most appropriate if they “*extend the life*” of ASD buildings and facilities.
 

Purpose of a bond is to “provide funds...	
...for <u>major maintenance projects</u> ...	59% vote for
...for <u>building systems renewal</u> ...	55% vote for
...to <u>extend the life</u> of...”	70% vote for



# IV Crosstabulations



**Specifically thinking about the upcoming April 6th election, do you think you'll vote against any school bond regardless of how much it is for, or do you think you might vote in favor of a school bond depending on the dollar amount?**

		Unsure	Vote against	Might vote for	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		4%	25%	70%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	30%	14%	56%	3.3%
	<b>For</b>	3%	4%	93%	57.9%
	<b>Against</b>	4%	67%	28%	29.9%
	<b>50/50</b>	6%	27%	67%	9.0%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	9%	23%	69%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	2%	33%	65%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	3%	19%	77%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	3%	25%	72%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	6%	29%	65%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	5%	24%	71%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	0%	0%	100%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	2%	25%	74%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	5%	27%	68%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	5%	25%	70%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	4%	28%	68%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	6%	18%	75%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	4%	29%	66%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	3%	17%	80%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	5%	29%	66%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	5%	27%	68%	8.9%
	<b>35-44</b>	2%	15%	82%	17.8%
	<b>45-54</b>	4%	29%	67%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	5%	27%	68%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	4%	26%	70%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	8%	16%	76%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	2%	4%	94%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	4%	42%	54%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	4%	25%	70%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	15%	8%	77%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	6%	30%	64%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	3%	21%	76%	49.9%

**Overall, would you say you usually vote for or against Anchorage School District bond propositions?**

		Unsure	For	Against	50/50	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		3%	58%	30%	9%	100.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	22%	34%	31%	13%	4.4%
	<b>Vote against</b>	2%	9%	79%	10%	25.4%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	3%	77%	12%	9%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	0%	61%	31%	8%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	3%	46%	38%	13%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	5%	62%	24%	10%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	2%	66%	25%	8%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	4%	54%	32%	10%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	3%	59%	31%	7%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	0%	54%	0%	46%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	3%	62%	27%	9%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	6%	55%	32%	8%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	2%	59%	30%	9%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	3%	56%	32%	8%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	4%	62%	24%	10%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	2%	55%	41%	2%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	3%	64%	23%	10%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	4%	55%	32%	9%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	7%	60%	32%	2%	8.9%
	<b>35-44</b>	5%	64%	21%	10%	17.8%
	<b>45-54</b>	3%	55%	32%	11%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	2%	57%	32%	9%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	2%	58%	30%	9%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	13%	52%	28%	7%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	4%	79%	7%	11%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	2%	40%	48%	10%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	4%	59%	30%	8%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	8%	73%	12%	8%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	3%	51%	35%	11%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	3%	65%	25%	7%	49.9%

Some people think that the school district should not ask for any money this spring to give Anchorage taxpayers a break.

Other people say that bonds are necessary because many of the schools are about fifty years old and \$800 million dollars of capital improvements have been identified.

What do you think -- should the school district give Anchorage taxpayers a 'bond holiday' and not have any school bonds in April 2010, or do you think there are on-going important needs and the school district should propose appropriate bonds for the most critical projects?

		Unsure	Bond Holiday	Critical Bonds	Either okay, don't care	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		3%	34%	62%	2%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	20%	26%	54%	0%	3.3%
	<b>For</b>	3%	8%	87%	2%	57.9%
	<b>Against</b>	1%	79%	20%	1%	29.9%
	<b>50/50</b>	0%	48%	50%	2%	9.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	8%	34%	55%	4%	4.4%
	<b>Vote against</b>	1%	83%	16%	0%	25.4%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	3%	16%	79%	2%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	0%	44%	56%	0%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	3%	38%	54%	5%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	4%	32%	64%	1%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	4%	30%	67%	0%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	2%	35%	60%	3%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	2%	32%	65%	1%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	0%	100%	0%	0%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	2%	25%	73%	0%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	3%	36%	60%	1%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	3%	34%	62%	2%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	2%	35%	61%	1%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	3%	29%	66%	2%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	0%	33%	65%	2%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	3%	25%	71%	1%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	3%	37%	58%	2%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	4%	32%	64%	0%	8.9%
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	<b>45-54</b>	4%	34%	62%	1%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	2%	37%	59%	1%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	2%	34%	62%	2%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	10%	26%	64%	0%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	2%	15%	83%	0%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	2%	47%	50%	1%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	3%	33%	62%	1%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	4%	27%	59%	10%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	2%	38%	59%	1%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	3%	29%	66%	2%	49.9%

**If there are no school bonds on the April 2010 ballot, how would you likely vote in 2011 on a \$70 million dollar bond to complete the renovations at Service High School?**

		Unsure	In favor	Opposed	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		7%	60%	34%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	43%	13%	44%	3.3%
	<b>For</b>	4%	84%	11%	57.9%
	<b>Against</b>	3%	21%	76%	29.9%
	<b>50/50</b>	17%	47%	36%	9.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	24%	37%	40%	4.4%
	<b>Vote against</b>	4%	18%	78%	25.4%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	6%	76%	17%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	6%	52%	43%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	7%	50%	42%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	13%	60%	28%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	2%	65%	33%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	6%	57%	37%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	5%	66%	30%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	0%	100%	0%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	5%	70%	25%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	7%	55%	38%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	7%	60%	33%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	6%	58%	36%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	8%	64%	28%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	0%	67%	33%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	8%	67%	26%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	7%	56%	37%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	4%	60%	36%	8.9%
	<b>35-44</b>	9%	65%	26%	17.8%
	<b>45-54</b>	8%	55%	37%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	5%	60%	35%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	6%	60%	34%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	9%	59%	31%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	6%	78%	16%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	3%	49%	48%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	8%	57%	35%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	8%	81%	12%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	8%	57%	36%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	5%	63%	32%	49.9%

In the past, the total amount of Anchorage School District bonds on the municipal election ballot have ranged between \$80 and 160 million dollars.

Looking ahead to April 2010, what do you think would be a reasonable amount for Anchorage School District bonds?

		None, No bonds	Under \$40 Million	30	\$41 - \$60 Million	\$61 - \$80 Million	\$81 - \$100 Million	Over \$100 Million	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		33%	5%	0%	11%	19%	18%	14%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	43%	14%	14%	14%	0%	14%	0%	1.6%
	<b>For</b>	4%	3%	0%	12%	29%	29%	24%	54.3%
	<b>Against</b>	73%	7%	0%	9%	6%	3%	2%	36.0%
	<b>50/50</b>	45%	8%	0%	15%	14%	10%	7%	8.1%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	67%	0%	0%	0%	9%	16%	9%	2.7%
	<b>Vote against</b>	84%	4%	0%	5%	4%	0%	3%	31.2%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	7%	6%	0%	15%	26%	26%	20%	66.1%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	42%	4%	0%	0%	13%	24%	17%	5.7%
	<b>District 2</b>	41%	4%	0%	6%	19%	20%	10%	15.4%
	<b>District 3</b>	25%	2%	0%	14%	23%	23%	12%	20.2%
	<b>District 4</b>	28%	7%	0%	13%	14%	15%	23%	16.2%
	<b>District 5</b>	35%	7%	0%	12%	18%	12%	15%	15.5%
	<b>District 6</b>	33%	5%	1%	13%	20%	17%	11%	27.0%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	46%	0%	0%	0%	54%	0%	0%	4%
	<b>2008 only</b>	25%	4%	0%	12%	18%	26%	16%	11.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	33%	6%	0%	14%	19%	16%	12%	31.2%
	<b>Both</b>	34%	5%	0%	10%	19%	18%	15%	56.5%
<b>Likeliness to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	34%	5%	0%	11%	19%	17%	14%	72.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	28%	5%	0%	12%	18%	22%	15%	27.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	36%	7%	0%	4%	28%	9%	16%	6.5%
	<b>1+</b>	21%	4%	0%	16%	20%	23%	15%	27.8%
	<b>No Children</b>	37%	5%	0%	10%	17%	17%	14%	65.8%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	27%	5%	0%	12%	23%	18%	15%	8.2%
	<b>35-44</b>	24%	5%	0%	10%	18%	27%	16%	17.6%
	<b>45-54</b>	31%	4%	1%	14%	19%	18%	13%	25.2%
	<b>55+</b>	37%	5%	0%	10%	19%	15%	14%	49.1%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	33%	5%	0%	11%	20%	17%	14%	92.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	24%	6%	0%	17%	9%	28%	17%	7.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	7%	0%	0%	8%	29%	28%	29%	15.2%
	<b>Republican</b>	49%	4%	0%	10%	16%	13%	8%	27.9%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	32%	7%	0%	12%	19%	15%	15%	52.0%
	<b>Other</b>	25%	0%	0%	25%	0%	49%	0%	4.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	37%	4%	0%	12%	13%	19%	15%	51.1%
	<b>Female</b>	28%	6%	0%	10%	25%	17%	13%	48.9%

Bond proposals for large projects can be presented as one lump sum which is the most cost-effective way to fund a project. However, these one-time bonds are often for \$60 to 100 million dollars which is a lot of money to approve at one time. Or, large projects can be separated into “phases” of approximately \$30 to 40 million dollars and voted on by voters over several years. The downside of “phasing” is that the total project costs more than if it had all been completed at one time.

As a voter, when considering major projects such as a new school, are you more likely to vote for a single large bond of \$60 to 100 million dollars, or for a “phased” project of \$30 to 40 million dollars each year for multiple years?

		Unsure	One-time \$60-100m	Phased \$30-40m	Neither	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		4%	51%	33%	12%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	Unsure	29%	17%	54%	0%	3.3%
	For	3%	64%	31%	2%	57.9%
	Against	3%	32%	33%	32%	29.9%
	50/50	7%	48%	32%	13%	9.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	Unsure	18%	34%	27%	21%	4.4%
	Vote against	2%	33%	30%	35%	25.4%
	Might vote for	4%	59%	34%	3%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	District 1	0%	49%	32%	20%	5.4%
	District 2	1%	55%	26%	18%	15.2%
	District 3	8%	53%	34%	5%	19.8%
	District 4	1%	57%	30%	12%	16.5%
	District 5	8%	44%	35%	13%	16.2%
	District 6	4%	49%	37%	11%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	Newly registered	0%	54%	46%	0%	.3%
	2008 only	2%	63%	31%	5%	10.9%
	2009 only	5%	42%	38%	15%	31.3%
	Both	4%	54%	30%	11%	57.5%
<b>Likeliness to Vote</b>	Absolutely certain	3%	50%	34%	13%	71.5%
	Very likely	6%	54%	31%	9%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	None in ASD	0%	58%	33%	9%	7.0%
	1+	4%	56%	35%	6%	28.1%
	No Children	5%	48%	32%	15%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	25-34	7%	57%	27%	9%	8.9%
	35-44	2%	65%	32%	2%	17.8%
	45-54	2%	52%	34%	13%	25.5%
	55+	6%	45%	34%	15%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	Own	4%	52%	32%	12%	91.2%
	Rent	10%	43%	37%	10%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	Democrat	5%	64%	29%	2%	16.0%
	Republican	4%	43%	33%	19%	26.0%
	Non-Partisan	3%	52%	34%	11%	52.1%
	Other	12%	42%	32%	15%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	Male	4%	53%	29%	14%	50.1%
	Female	4%	49%	37%	10%	49.9%

**Have you read or heard about people saying that 'the Anchorage School District should not bond for maintenance'?**

		Unsure	Yes	No	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		1%	39%	60%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	7%	26%	67%	3.3%
	<b>For</b>	0%	35%	65%	57.9%
	<b>Against</b>	0%	51%	49%	29.9%
	<b>50/50</b>	0%	35%	65%	9.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	5%	24%	71%	4.4%
	<b>Vote against</b>	1%	51%	48%	25.4%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	0%	36%	64%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	0%	37%	63%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	0%	36%	64%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	0%	38%	62%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	2%	41%	58%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	1%	36%	63%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	0%	44%	56%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	0%	0%	100%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	0%	33%	67%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	0%	37%	63%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	1%	42%	57%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	0%	42%	58%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	1%	33%	66%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	0%	42%	58%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	0%	38%	62%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	1%	40%	59%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	0%	44%	56%	8.9%
	<b>35-44</b>	1%	31%	68%	17.8%
	<b>45-54</b>	1%	43%	57%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	0%	40%	60%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	0%	40%	59%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	2%	33%	66%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	0%	35%	65%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	1%	40%	60%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	0%	42%	58%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	4%	29%	67%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	1%	43%	56%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	0%	36%	64%	49.9%

**As far as you know, does the Anchorage School District issue bonds to pay for routine day-to-day maintenance of district facilities?**

		Unsure	Does	Does not	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		21%	29%	50%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	40%	35%	24%	3.3%
	<b>For</b>	19%	20%	61%	57.9%
	<b>Against</b>	24%	42%	34%	29.9%
	<b>50/50</b>	17%	38%	45%	9.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	44%	20%	36%	4.4%
	<b>Vote against</b>	23%	43%	33%	25.4%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	19%	24%	57%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	10%	33%	57%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	30%	29%	42%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	20%	30%	49%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	21%	30%	50%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	21%	29%	50%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	18%	26%	56%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	54%	0%	46%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	24%	31%	45%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	25%	24%	52%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	18%	31%	51%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	18%	30%	52%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	29%	25%	46%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	23%	31%	46%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	20%	26%	54%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	21%	29%	49%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	15%	39%	46%	8.9%
	<b>35-44</b>	24%	27%	49%	17.8%
	<b>45-54</b>	21%	26%	53%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	21%	29%	50%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	21%	29%	51%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	26%	29%	45%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	16%	29%	55%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	21%	29%	49%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	21%	30%	48%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	29%	12%	59%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	19%	34%	47%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	23%	24%	54%	49.9%

The Anchorage School District currently budgets approximately \$23 million dollars a year for regular daily maintenance of district buildings and facilities.

However, additional major maintenance projects such as new roofs, heating systems and fire code compliance are usually paid for by bonds issued for these purposes.

Do you feel bonding is or is not a good way to pay for the school district's major maintenance projects?

		Unsure	Bonding good way	Bonding not good way	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		4%	57%	39%	100.0%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	22%	37%	40%	3.3%
	<b>For</b>	3%	74%	23%	57.9%
	<b>Against</b>	2%	31%	67%	29.9%
	<b>50/50</b>	7%	42%	52%	9.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	17%	38%	46%	4.4%
	<b>Vote against</b>	4%	26%	70%	25.4%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	3%	69%	28%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	0%	65%	35%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	2%	56%	42%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	4%	60%	36%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	5%	52%	43%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	7%	51%	42%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	3%	61%	36%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	0%	0%	100%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	3%	66%	30%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	6%	57%	37%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	3%	56%	41%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	3%	55%	42%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	5%	63%	32%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	8%	46%	46%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	3%	60%	37%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	4%	57%	39%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	7%	53%	40%	8.9%
	<b>35-44</b>	5%	55%	40%	17.8%
	<b>45-54</b>	3%	55%	42%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	3%	60%	37%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	3%	56%	40%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	8%	63%	29%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	5%	70%	24%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	4%	47%	50%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	4%	55%	41%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	4%	81%	15%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	4%	55%	41%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	4%	59%	37%	49.9%

**SPLIT SAMPLE: (Major maintenance projects / Building systems renewals / Extend the life)**  
**If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as 'providing funds \_\_\_\_\_ Anchorage School District buildings and facilities' would you be more likely to vote for or against the bond?**

		Unsure	Vote for	Vote against	BASE
<b>TOTAL</b>		6%	61%	33%	100.0%
<b>Split Sample Wording</b>	<b>Described as 'Maintenance'</b>	4%	59%	37%	33.8%
	<b>Described as 'Renewals'</b>	9%	55%	36%	32.8%
	<b>Described as 'Extend life'</b>	4%	70%	26%	33.4%
<b>Usually Vote ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	33%	44%	23%	3.3%
	<b>For</b>	5%	81%	14%	57.9%
	<b>Against</b>	4%	29%	67%	29.9%
	<b>50/50</b>	7%	47%	47%	9.0%
<b>Vote April 2010 ASD Bonds</b>	<b>Unsure</b>	20%	44%	36%	4.4%
	<b>Vote against</b>	5%	29%	67%	25.4%
	<b>Might vote for</b>	5%	74%	21%	70.2%
<b>Assembly District</b>	<b>District 1</b>	8%	55%	37%	5.4%
	<b>District 2</b>	4%	52%	44%	15.2%
	<b>District 3</b>	5%	68%	27%	19.8%
	<b>District 4</b>	5%	62%	32%	16.5%
	<b>District 5</b>	7%	57%	36%	16.2%
	<b>District 6</b>	6%	65%	29%	26.8%
<b>Municipal Voting (2008-09)</b>	<b>Newly registered</b>	0%	46%	54%	.3%
	<b>2008 only</b>	6%	73%	21%	10.9%
	<b>2009 only</b>	4%	60%	36%	31.3%
	<b>Both</b>	7%	60%	33%	57.5%
<b>Likelihood to Vote</b>	<b>Absolutely certain</b>	5%	60%	35%	71.5%
	<b>Very likely</b>	8%	64%	29%	28.5%
<b>ASD Children in Household</b>	<b>None in ASD</b>	5%	61%	34%	7.0%
	<b>1+</b>	5%	62%	33%	28.1%
	<b>No Children</b>	6%	61%	33%	64.9%
<b>Age</b>	<b>25-34</b>	9%	54%	37%	8.9%
	<b>35-44</b>	8%	60%	33%	17.8%
	<b>45-54</b>	3%	62%	35%	25.5%
	<b>55+</b>	6%	63%	31%	47.8%
<b>Own or Rent</b>	<b>Own</b>	5%	61%	34%	91.2%
	<b>Rent</b>	10%	67%	24%	8.8%
<b>Registered as</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	5%	78%	17%	16.0%
	<b>Republican</b>	6%	48%	46%	26.0%
	<b>Non-Partisan</b>	6%	61%	33%	52.1%
	<b>Other</b>	8%	77%	15%	5.9%
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	6%	61%	33%	50.1%
	<b>Female</b>	5%	62%	33%	49.9%

# Verbatim Comments





# Verbatim Comments

Question: *“...Do you feel bonding is or is not a good way to pay for the school district’s major maintenance projects?”*

*(If response was “Not a good way,” the following question was asked.)*

*“How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?”*



**ANCHORAGE**

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QUESTION: *“How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?”*

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Taxes; other state revenue from oil or from grants.

Recently there have been many, many expenses. The school district should be united in one building to save money now. They should use that money they save. It's a beautiful building.

Schools in the Lower 48 states are two to three hundred years old, and ours are newer yet we still need to replace them. Too much waste.

When they figure the building costs of building new facilities they should think about how they're going to maintain it. All costs should be upfront, instead of pulling the wool over everyone's eyes.

A part of the regular budget, otherwise it's up to the whims of the voters and the economy; maintenance is ongoing.

They should fit it into the budget. It's like trying to hide it.

Establish a maintenance account at the time of construction, and utilize diligence, and maintain it. Don't let it sit there and rot. Use the best engineering philosophy, like Norway and Sweden and other northern community's knowledge.

It should be planned in the budget for the following years, not bonded. Alaska does not extend the life of anything. They tear them all down. I'm frustrated with Anchorage's way of running their schools, with the mind set here.

What they are doing is illegal. Before they come after me they should look internally and come to Jesus over there. Comeau doesn't need any more money. I've never lived in a city this size before that had all this bonding and asked for so much money. It's illegal. It's just an expense for Anchorage School District and there shouldn't be bonds for it. None of the schools in this city are over 40 years old.

It should be in their budget. A roof should be good for 20 years. That should be included in their budget. They don't know how to manage their money.

Take it out of the teachers' salaries. Teach the kids how to fix things in the schools. They could learn to paint the walls. Let the parents come out and sheetrock. Let these welfare parents come out and do it. They are home not doing anything anyway.

They just came up with \$11million they forgot about. They don't seem to know how much they have. That turns me off to school bonding. I'm a proponent of a sales tax.

My idea is we'll plan ahead; know that a roof lasts only so long. Put the money in a contingency plan, in a bank, and earn interest on it to pay for expenses.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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Budget for that. The school tax they had, probably 20-30 years ago, it was a painless way to collect money. Anybody that paid income or state or city tax of any kind would pay that school tax. That might be a good way to collect money again.

Should be in the budget.

It should be part of their regular budget.

They need to budget for it.

A loaded question; I have very little sympathy for Anchorage School District. I drive up to a school and it has gorgeous trees and lines to it and I can't put a single tree in my yard. The amount of money used to educate the children is minor compared to everything else. I've home schooled all of mine.

In the city budget.

It comes out of the budget.

I hate to leave it in the hands of our legislature; not what I feel comfortable with.

It should be in their budget.

I'm against school bonds. Schools get too much money, I hear.

With their budget.

Bond only for capital projects and improvements; and roofing isn't one, compliance is one.

Well, they need to put it into the regular budget to take it out of their regular budget, which is what they do.

They are pretty good at finding money. One week ago they found money they didn't know they had and that has happened before. They need to get their accountants in line. It's not good for their reputation.

Build it into the budget the way I do with my house.

It has to come out from somewhere, I don't know where. I guess it should have been budgeted before it was built.

Get rid of the PFD and use that money; use the Permanent Fund to pay for it.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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It should be paid for out of the regular budget. Have enough money from the state and not spend it on other things, or do what the rest of us do, have a reserve fund to cover roof replacements.

Cut their administrative staff by two-thirds and take from the wages that would have been paid to them and budget that money to do their repairs; certain administrators cut, not the classroom. The classrooms have to be looked at

It's an essential part of operating costs; bonds are like grants and should be in the total operating costs.

Have a school tax for people who have children in schools.

Only use bonds for unexpected costs. They need to be for specific projects like pools, and school renovation, and new roofs.

The operating budget.

Tax people who have kids in schools and not everyone else.

It should be separate, a yearly maintenance, as an average homeowner does.

If they were careful they could forego 99.9% of maintenance. They let things go to ruin and expect us to pay for it. That lady is a disaster for the Anchorage School District. She wastes too much and keeps asking for more in bonds.

The taxpayers already pay for schools; do not bond unless the roofs are falling in.

We need to figure out how to get out of debt first.

Pay it out of their normal budget.

Establish and include it in the day-to-day budget the same as a homeowner would do, looking at the need for a new roof and budgeting for it.

Because over \$1 billion is still outstanding. By maintaining; have proper maintenance for upkeep. Use the operating budget to maintain minor repairs so the systems don't breakdown.

I would like to hear about a better way.

Look at their budget better and include it there.

It should be part of their ongoing budget so it's not subject to a vote. If it's for a roof and is voted down, and then it falls in, that does not make sense if the people voted it down.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *“How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?”*

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Include it in the annual maintenance budget.

Some other way besides property tax; a small sales tax.

There's all kinds of ways to fund. Put it out for private contractors for bids, except for unions. Let independent contractors bid on it.

It needs to be budgeted. Major maintenance is not optional. When bonds are voted down the problems needing major maintenance worsen. More damage is done, which is more costly.

Rewards current procedures; administration and school board performance is horrible. Cut the regular budget and use money in lieu of bonds.

Pay with money you have already. The school district has plenty of money.

Roll it into their budget each year.

That should be included when budgeting each year with the annual budget.

They should budget it into their annual budget and live within their means like the rest of us have to.

How about budget in with their yearly budget.

I think those things you mentioned should be budgeted into their annual budget and as far as fire code compliance; the schools should be built to meet those codes.

Go to the federal government, they are bailing out everyone right now. Live within their budget. Maybe plan ahead, cut administration costs, just cut back like we have had to do this year.

They have maintenance people who need to work instead of drink coffee all day, and they need to hire supervisors that are qualified and can get things done. If the maintenance employees would just do their job, this would be a mute point.

They could cut back in other areas, I suppose, and budget it into the annual budget they receive.

I don't know but I don't think bonding should ever be used. It's trying to get around the tax cap. Maybe just budget it every year.

Plan ahead of time when they are building new schools and put in the budget a new roof ten years down the road, so it doesn't have to be a bond.

They have to go to the municipality and ask for more money for their budget.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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I think that should be budgeted in with their annual budget.

It should be included in the annual budget. They need to plan ahead to cover these costs.

They need to put that into their budget. The interests we pay on those large bonds have to be pretty high.

They need to budget it into their annual budget and live within their means like the rest of us have to do.

Work it into the general budget somehow.

Budget it in with the day-to-day maintenance budget.

Look at their budget and cut some out to pay for the major maintenance projects. They are run by government; there's always places to cut in government.

Budget it in with the day-to-day maintenance. I don't know; there has to be areas they could cut back in; maybe administrative jobs. Maybe they could cut back the amount on new schools; they don't need to be a different floor plan in every school.

Go to the legislature and ask for more money for maintenance. I think bonds should only be used for building a new school, and then the budget should be increased to maintain it after that.

Budget it in, and also, do a better job of maintenance throughout the year.

Sub-contract it out. Because I think if they did, it would cost them less than having their union fixing major maintenance problems.

It should be included in their annual budget, but since it hasn't been done like that from the start, they probably are going to have to bond to catch up.

Incorporate.

I believe in a sales tax. We have to find other revenue sources, other than property tax.

Cutting the unnecessary, other budget cuts in other areas, such as staff or administration.

I'd think they would budget it in as capital expenditures like everyone else.

Taxation – it's not a good idea to bond for it because then they're turned down.

In their normal budgeting.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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I would like to see it worked into the yearly budget. They seem to run on a credit card-type mentality.

Budget for it as part of their operational budget. They need to get on a program where they budget roof renewals for the oldest schools, and each year budget for a few more roofs, or any other projects like that.

Out of the operating budget.

I don't recommend anything; they get paid enough to figure it out themselves.

To budget for it – ask for money up front, and to plan for, say 15 years to pay for it. They should ask for more money in the budget, and only bond for a new school.

It should be part of the budget.

They need to put it into their budget for day-to-day maintenance.

They need to put it into their yearly budget.

Plan for it over the years; for example, a heating system should last 15-20 years, so you budget for it. Everything has a life limit.

I have never lived in a state that has these bonds for schools, and their schools don't seem to last. They should find out how other states do it.

They should change the way they govern entirely, and put it out to bid; privatize it.

It should be part of the school budget itself, where they're already extricating a huge amount from the taxpayer.

It should be regularly budgeted so that the money is set aside to make it happen.

Raise it from the parents. If you're interested in your child's safety you can find a way to contribute without affecting everyone's real estate tax.

We need to have a lot fewer chiefs; that money should be going into the day-to-day maintenance and upkeep.

Have it included in their regular budgeting process.

Include it in the day-to-day budget.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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I'd say include it in the budget, let it be a budget item.

If they would budget their money the way they should they wouldn't have a problem.

It goes down to the tax structure. It needs to be a sales or income tax.

They should get rid of the big yard in South Anchorage, and the jobs should be put out into the private sector. They'd save a bundle.

Yearly operational costs; include it in there. You don't want something that is going to run out in five years.

Reduce administration.

It should be included in their annual budget.

We should have a sales tax in Anchorage.

Go into the savings account. They have that. They're trying to keep it at a certain level.

A tax spread across all the users, and not just the homeowners. Or, maybe attach the PFD of the children.

More from the state or federal government.

Budget for it.

They should budget it in right from the start, it'd keep them from other money. That's unnecessary.

Live within their means. They should have enough money already in their budget. It's a bottomless pit.

It needs to come out of their yearly regular budget.

Budget more annually for maintenance.

If they were able to budget it into its long-term budget plan, phased in over several years, I think would be good.

The bonds should be for new buildings and new projects. The money should come from the state. Put more money in for the day-to-day expenses, because we have more new students.

Take it out of their budget.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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Carol Comeau seems to always come up with money if she wants it, so have her dip into her gold pot and pull some money to pay for it.

It should be part of the operating budget. I would rather see a tax that would stay steady that goes toward helping out with the operating budget than see them ask for a large sum of money.

I would like to see it planned ahead of time and have the legislature pay for it.

They have money from fees they charge student, they have slush funds and they could cut back on the monstrously expensive new schools they are putting in.

Carol Comeau should learn how to budget her money to take care of all maintenance in her operating budget.

It should be part of their operating budget.

Start having kids connect to a teacher through computers and not build such large schools.

I'm sure there are areas that are wasting money; administrative jobs, top-of-the line new schools.

Take it out of their working yearly budget.

Plan for it in their budget each year.

Through their normal running operation budget.

Come up with the money in their operating budget each year.

It should be budgeted as expense. Carol Comeau is out of control spending, with all this new building. Be frugal. People are getting aware of all her spending. She's on a terror with her spending. Go back to the school tax everybody pays; 50% of our property taxes go to schools.

Better budgeting.

Plan their budget.

Call it school upgrades.

Raise the budget to \$30 million, and any extra big maintenance projects, pay with big bonds on top of that.

I think we should go to the state legislature. We have the largest population in the state. They ought to devote a little more to education.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *“How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?”*

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Include it in their budget proposals.

They should budget for it with a little long-term planning, because they know it's going to happen.

They should be included in the budget for a year.

They need to go to the federal government – everybody is. Maybe they can get a stimulus package. They shouldn't go 10-15 years and expect the public to pay for the maintenance then. Carol Comeau is a big one for begging and pleading for bonds. They should be keeping up maintenance on all these schools daily, not waiting 10-15 years for them to fall apart, like cracks in the walls, roof leaks; and then asking the public to pay for the maintenance in bonds.

It's in the budget that's already been allotted to them in the taxes from the city. Stop spending more money. If it means lay offs, then lay off. It means no \$10,000 statues in the schools. South High School, Goldenvue, Clark Middle School, and Begich schools are all a waste of money. They're not museums.

A bond gets passed for a specific reason, and the money gets used for other reasons. They do that all the time. Budget for day-to-day expenses.

Reduce overhead and administration personnel.

Have people that are taking money from the city, such as welfare, do the maintenance in lieu of the money they get. They'll help out and maybe learn some responsibility, too.

Budget a reserve account each year.

If they manage their budget properly – I think they need to eliminate a lot of waste, like not having proper supervision on jobs for getting the right materials, so it doesn't have to be torn out and re-done because the materials weren't right.

Probably cut the budget in certain areas, there is quite a bit of waste. For example, a friend found a lot of new books in the dumpster. They could have been shipped to the rural areas, or something. That's just one example.

I believe it should be factored into their budget every year.

Let's see – bonding is the only way available to them, I guess.

They have always done it that way and need to have a better way. I'd do research and go to the library.

They should be funded out of our general funds.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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I have watched this school district grow, and grow, and grow. I'm talking about middle management. I drive past the school district office daily and the parking lot is full. I cannot buy having multiple layers of people. And also, Clark Middle School, they showed a picture of it when they needed a new school only they continue to show the same picture over, and over, and over. They really didn't show us the need. What is wrong with having a roof that will last more than 15 years? And the grade school over by East High had a fire; did they clean it up and fix it? They put up a whole new building. I have paid through the nose for 25 years, and it's still not okay. They're not selling their product. We have the lowest graduation rates. Carol Comeau is just a teacher, and teachers are notorious for asking for more and more money without regard to the business side of the house. They need to learn the business and how to operate a business, and build buildings that last. We can find many buildings in other places that are 50, 75, or 100 years old. Why can't we make 15 years? And Service High School – they keep telling us it needs help, and they show us a picture that it needs help. Yet, it's the same picture over, and over, and over. Why can't they show us what they really need? I'm sorry; I didn't mean to be long-winded!

Basically, cut costs at other levels for new buildings.

Budget for that in their regular income.

That's only a short-term goal. Include it in the budget and some kind of fund they don't have to use up at the end of the year. If a roof doesn't need to be replaced in one year, then carry the funds over to the next year.

I should research that part, but if they don't have bonds, maybe figure the budget to include those charges or use taxes. That's not a good answer I know, but I don't know, I just don't know.

Bake sales; some form of investing your proceeds to cover it; no one covers my hot water heater when it goes; some kind of fundraising effort. I have to cover all the costs associated with my business. I don't have bonds available. I have to find other ways to cover expenses when needed.

They should start to save, just like in a house. If we know we'll need a new roof in two years, we need to save along the way.

Get a good fiscal manager in there to go over the budget, and come up with a manageable budget plan.

They need to include it in their budget.

Through the annual operating budget; save money year by year to pay for it.

I think they should contract it out and change it, and it shouldn't be unions.

Just by budgeting it out of the operating expenses.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *“How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?”*

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I don't know; put it in the budget, I guess.

Work within the budget – been there, done that – I work with budgets and have been in schools. A lot of waste could be cut.

Unless it's a dire necessity, like a school burned down, but not for repairs; don't do it.

They need to raise the rate; budget it in with the normal budget. I have to pay for my own roof and so should they.

Contract them out for maintenance just like you do for a house. Each year have schools checked out and fixed; not by union workers.

Taxes; their annual budget should include maintenance, of course, and that's paid for out of taxes.

Have it included in the municipal budget. My property tax bill is itemized, and it says how much goes to schools.

Scale down on the locksmiths and other jobs the schools don't need billed by people.

In their budget; they don't maintain what they've got, like Dimond High School, specifically the grounds keeping is not kept up there, nor at Chinook Elementary.

Budget for it, and ask the city for the money through taxes. Property taxes from the city should pay for it.

Out of their budget – cut some place in the budget for maintenance.

Lower ongoing costs and fit the costs into there. Just go to Kincaid School, it's a beautiful school, and is really tricked out. Lower the ongoing costs to operate, and put maintenance into regular expenses not bonds.

Save for it. Get a difference superintendent, somebody that can actually manage a school district so we have more graduates. Our failure rate is too high. Bring the budget down, teach basics, and get the graduation rate up. School buildings need to last more than 50 years. Cut the budget, then approve the bonds.

For code, yes, not for day-to-day; review the budget and start cutting the budget. Live within their means like the rest of us. Set money aside. Mismanagement is an issue.

Maintenance should not be bonded. Set money by; prepare; get rid of unions.

A yearly budgeted amount for the budget to run a school. To do otherwise seems a little strange.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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A lottery is a way. I have seen it work in Australia.

Save for a rainy day like a homeowner does. They should budget for it.

Bonding should be proposed for capitol projects. A new roof could almost qualify for that.

They have enough money in their budgets to take care of it.

I don't really know; not much thought; I haven't had children in the district in years.

Budget and have maintenance people working. They should do some maintenance planning. If we need it get it done at one time, don't just cry for money.

I leave that to the economists of the school district; budget towards the known maintenance things.

Don't know enough about the difference in bonding and budgeting; don't know enough about their books.

Just like we do in our own budget, budget for an emergency fund; the school district should too. We don't need bonds for that.

Taxes.

Set aside some money.

Get rid of enormous administrative burden; it's unnecessary.

It should be in their regular budgets. Plan on these things.

Operate on a cash basis, don't go into debt. Their expenses for the year are to be based on what they can collect that year. Quit asking for more money out of my mortgage. The school board presents bonds without showing the need. They just say, "We need." They have to show "we need" it for \$70 million.

Budget, figure out sources of income and how much they can spend. So it may need to drag out longer due to the economic conditions.

Taxing.

Keep a budget, allocate better for the operating budget and over-due supplies in the distract; take maintenance out of each school's operating budget.

I would need to think about that; I'd need to think it through.



**ANCHORAGE**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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Spend money more wisely. Why is it called maintenance if they are not maintaining?

When you bond for building you should also bond for upkeep of that building, in one passage.

I recommend the school district to bid it out, bid to get it. Have funding for project managers to make sure it is completed on time, or they'll be fined. Eliminate building maintenance and put it into an overseeing job. You don't need a lot of people to oversee it.

Have it in the operating budget; plan ahead – things do fall apart.

**EAGLE RIVER**

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QUESTION: *“How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?”*

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Use their budget, pay for it out of their budget.

I would recommend we start living within a budget, and if we can't afford a new school then don't build it. We gotta live within our means. We've got to stop our overspending. Maybe just teach academics, and let the parents work on the arts, the sports and such. I have written Carol Comeau on several occasions about some cost cutting measures, and I thought some of them were pretty good, but I've never heard a word back from her.

That's not maintenance, that's a repair. Maintenance is done all the time over the years.

They should budget for it, set aside a little each year, and not just spend it all.

Better management of their total maintenance program, and the bonded money is not going to the right place.

Anchorage School District has a bad habit about how things proceed. As a homeowner I get really tired of being the first they come to when they need money. That doesn't answer the question though. I really don't know how to answer that question.

Take so much money a year and put it into a savings account, and then fix it when they need it.

Put it into their budget and allow for it, just like I do for my home. They can cut in several places. There are a lot of special programs, feel-good programs that I don't think they should have. A lot of Special Education programs and optional educational programs could go.

It should go into their maintenance expenses every year. This whole school board and the way they run this is a big cluster. They don't have a clue. They are all ignorant, including Comeau. All she knows how to do is go out and ask for more money, and it's got to stop, and she needs to go. I've lived in a lot of places and this school board doesn't know what they are doing.

The schools are built on too prime of property, costing taxpayers; architecture is too fancy. Who are we glorifying? Leave the cost in the annual school budget, maybe they will be more fiscally responsible.

Pay as you go, use city and state funds, and budget better. Eliminate the administrators and excess personnel.

Apply for grants. It's their discretion of sources.

The state should pay out of our oil revenues.

Maintain it before it becomes major. Work the smaller costs into their yearly budget. Put the locals to work and we all benefit.



**EAGLE RIVER**

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CONT'D: *"How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?"*

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Through good budgeting and fiscal responsibility, like I have to do to live my life. Just like the business I work for, siphon it from one area to pay for another area.

Just cut money like the rest of us.

The bond thing sucks! Three times when I checked, the bond money was used for other things. I believe Anchorage School District is going downhill, and should make better use of computers than these huge buildings we can't support. Anchorage School District is not the only school district going down. One bond was for \$8 million and the project took \$5 million, and the other \$3 million was used for something else.

I suggest a replacement reserve fund. Whenever a large development is put into a situation of being organized they are required to put "X" amount of money into a savings account to deal with deferred maintenance of roofs, carpet replacements, and so forth. This would have accumulated into a compounded situation as an offset. It's an issue that is not going to be easy long-term or short-term. I work with the school bonds.

They need to budget annually for all repairs, just like everybody else.

Through the property tax we pay now. The school should work it into their existing operating budget.

Individual schools should have neighborhood fundraisers.

They need to budget for it on their annual budget.

They should budget for it out of the annual budget, just like we have to do with our own homes.

The state legislature should budget for major maintenance.

It should be figured into the yearly budget.

Put it in the budget or have contractors return to repair a poor job done.

They need to budget for them annually. Set aside dedicated reserves.

It should be part of the yearly budget.

They should pay cash for improvements, and not go into any debt.

Cut the fat in schools, like assistant principals and activities principals, and work it into their annual budget.



**EAGLE RIVER**

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CONT'D:        *“How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?”*

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New schools – make new schools simpler, not so fancy. Have surety bonds on the builders and contractors for the amount they bid on the job for five years. Make sure they stand by their job.

Cut the staff in the administrative building and use the reserve funds in the accounts.

Budget the state funds better, and cut out the waste. Administrators are not planning very well.

They budget for it as part of their annual expenses, and seek additional funds from the legislature.

From the city assembly appropriations. Put upkeep in the original bond. Make interest and continue to fund maintenance projects. Minimize the PFD for school maintenance.

They have wasted a lot of money in the past, and should have included it in the original bond for maintenance expense and construction.



# Verbatim Comments

*[Comments volunteered by respondents during interview.]*



**ANCHORAGE**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS

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(Volunteered at end) You should be making people aware that most of the money for the bonds is reimbursed by the state. My husband works in maintenance for the school district.

(Volunteered at end) I wish when they were presenting the bond issues they would indicate how much bond is being paid off each year. It would be interesting to know how much of the bond is being retired.

(Volunteered at end) I think all the questions were done very well.

(Q.4) They need to tighten their belt like everybody else, and the parents need to come up to the plate to help with the school charges, instead of ingratiating those of us who don't have any kids in school. (Q.7) If there are no school bonds on the April 2010 ballot that'd make me very happy. (Q.9) I know the municipality has a facility maintenance department, and some of them work for the school district. The department is very slow on getting regular project maintenance done. I have no idea at all how the checks are written to cover the maintenance. (Volunteered at end) I think the school district needs to vigorously pursue, along with the municipal attorney, and penalize the juveniles who vandalize the schools and the school property; and the parents should step up to the plate and pay for the damage. Maybe we need teenage chain gangs. We can't have vandalism just because Johnny is having a bad day. I'd pay for a new ambulance for the fire department instead of new playground equipment that has been destroyed at the hands of some vandals.

(Q.6) It depends on how the project is put together and what is proposed. I have to know more before I decide. (Q.12) So they're not talking about finishing off East High School renovations?

(Volunteered at end) I'd like to get Mark Begich here to explain what he did and why he did it.

(Q.10) That's where I was confused, that they bond for major maintenance.

(Q.7) You don't feel it as much when it's smaller amounts. West High School is very old; Service is fairly new; the power at West went out last year and they had some other failures.

(Q.9) They don't seem to be listening. They usually ask for way too much. If they budget properly and use good management they could cover what they need and not have to ask for more. I don't know enough information.

(Q.6) Ranges from \$80 million to \$160 million, that's too broad. It depends on what they want to do, lots depends on if new schools are really needed.

(Q.6) Bond proposals for large projects – my goodness – it needs to be clear at the time of voting; and it should tell me if it is going to cost more, how much more it would cost.

(Q.5) Whatever they need I don't expect they will gouge the public.

(Q.4) I don't know what the needs are, tell me what the needs are and then I can decide.



**ANCHORAGE**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS, CONT'D

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(Q.12) It wouldn't make any difference; it wouldn't sway me one way or the other.

(Q.5) I'm unsure; it's just important to working facilities.

(Q.4 and 5) It just seems like its constant, and it is tough times right now. I have to be like this, saying none; but it's a tough time. I'm on a fixed income.

(Q.1) I would even if I could vote from six feet under. (Q.3) I would, although I think Carol Comeau mismanages a lot of the money. (Q.4) Although there is no excuse for the kind of buildings they build, look at the Eagle River fiasco; and Service was a mistake since the first day it was built. We're not in California. Service should be razed and started over. (Q.5) \$55-60 million for the critical stuff, like a power plan overall for Anchorage. (Q.6) One-time \$60-100 million, being fiscally responsible. If Carol Comeau is in charge of spending, then I can't see spending when bad advice is given, or when no advice is heeded. Carol Comeau needs a curb on her. She is ill spoken.

(Q.4) I think the district should consider year around school to help eliminate building new schools.

(Volunteered mid survey) I'm sick and tired of other people concerning how the school district spends the taxpayer's money.

(Q.8) I'm not going to tell you what I've heard.

(Q.5) I would have to see the projects they wanted to bond to not be unsure.

(Q.5) That depends on the project.

(Q.5) Any amount is fine with me.

(Q.6) I'd vote no either way, they need to make due with what they have already.

(Q.6) I would not support any bond, even for a new school right now.

(Q.5) I'm not sure of an amount; whatever they need to take care of the critical project.

(Q.5) No amount; I'm not sure and it depends on what it's for, what's most urgent.

(Q.4) Amp up the education about bond proposals, especially in the area of buildings. It's an ongoing; no holiday. (Q.5) Can't give an amount; in line with debt retirement, the community likes that.

(Q.5) No bonds; it depends on what it's for. Use money from the existing budget. (Q.5) Larger amounts are likely to include pork barrel projects.

(Q.4) Explain them; need to explain them well. What is it for, even last year's bonds, what did they spend those on? (Q.5) A lower amount is more likely to succeed.



**ANCHORAGE**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS, CONT'D

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(Q.12) I'm not sure what "building systems renewals" is.

(Q.4) I assume what they ask is reasonable. (Q.12) Suggest using words like repair or replacement, instead of maintenance say, like a car. We don't like them for maintenance but are willing to repair or replace.

(Q.4) The school district is fiscally irresponsible.

(Q.5) What are the projects?

(Q.4) Bond the most critical, but excess funds from prior bonds should be used first. (Q.5) Let us see them manage their money better and first use the reserve. (Q.6) The cost estimates are way off compared to the actual cost. Administration is not planning very well.

(Q.5) No bonds; cut the administrative heads.

(Q.7) I'm opposed until the kids are being taught and learning. The kids can't tell time, can't read, and can't do math.

(Q.5) The school is not using their funds wisely so no bonds.

(Q.6) Neither one, we can't afford it now. Wait until the whole school district gets back on their feet.

(Volunteered mid survey) Use the school buildings year around, and open them for public use without charge because we are already paying for them.

(Volunteered mid survey) Get rid of tenure and base raises on performance.

(Volunteered mid survey) Maybe utilize the work-release drug rehab people in programs, those that are experienced constructions laborers. DOC could work with employers to do maintenance in the off season.

(Q.5) What is it for? I'm not going to give them a blank check. (Q.7) It depends on the economy in 2010.

(Q.5) A reasonable amount is the least amount to do the repairs.

(Q.4) The teachers want a pay raise. (Q.5) I am unsure; it depends on what the needs or the plans are. (Q.6) I'm unsure; depending on the costs; and I've been in Anchorage one year. (Q.10) How else are we going to pay for them?

(Q.7) It's not that old; I'm from the east coast where older schools are still there and they are still using them. (Q.10) Bonding is okay only under extraordinary conditions. An alternative should be regular maintenance. Okay if there's no care or if it's a catastrophe.



**ANCHORAGE**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS, CONT'D

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(Q.7) Some are older and I thought they just got renovated.

(Q.10) I am unsure and I need to learn about it; not enough information.

(Q.6) I say neither because we need to figure out how to get out of the debt we're in.

(Q.6) None of them as long as she's in charge. She is a disaster for Anchorage School District.

(Q.8) They are wasting, and the annual budget expects us to pay the difference in bonds.

(Q.4) Make schools to last; and to last better, take care of them. (Q.5) \$80 million is too high, efficiency is more important. I'd like to see what it is buying and then consider more. (Q.6) I don't believe in long-term interest on anything. (Q.7) We had kids there; if I felt it would be necessary, but they have done it every year already. (Q.8) All of it should have been built into the yearly maintenance operations; have it built in yearly. (Q.12) I'd vote for it if it was to extend economically; get another five to seventeen years out of it.

(Q.7) I would read it to see how much it has completed first.

(Q.3) I might vote for it depending on how much our taxes keep going up, and how much I have to pay.

(Q.9) They should have to pay it out of their own pockets, especially Carol Comeau's.

(Q.5) Make it only \$40 million and pick the worst school to fix, and fix more for less. (Q.6) A one time of lower amounts, or in smaller increments. (Q.12) Compared to what? It's not a clear cut benefit; need to get my hands on the ballot and see how it's to be used for; not clear enough.

(Q.12) I have kids in school, I have to pay for part of it. Now I feel 50/50; it depends on what is happening then.

(Q.10) Bonds are a good way for roofs and heat possibly; fire code, not. It should be out of the main deal. The fire code, you keep it up. I'm in construction, grandfathered in. The last five or six years I voted yes. I know where my taxes go.

(Q.6) At one time, like the Service bond that failed last year; not piecemeal like in the past.

(Q.6) I want to see the costs first. Comeau got into trouble for having too much. Be closer to the real estimate.

(Q.5) Really, really general question; what are the problems the school district needs money for?

(Q.7) It needs to be significant evidence brought forth; is there substantial evidence that Service needs to be repaired?

(Volunteered mid survey) When I went to school there was one principal and one truant officer. All the teachers are fine.



**ANCHORAGE**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS, CONT'D

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(Q.5) If they need it, then okay. Sand Lake is okay. If it's for a good cause; Turnagain Elementary School is falling apart. (Q.6) Let me see what it was first, and it depends on the budget problems with how the long-haul pays more before the recession, even though we are often behind and tight budgeted.

(Q.6) Put it whichever one is more likely to get passed by the voters.

(Q.7) What are they doing?

(Q.4) A lot of schools are falling apart, it's a time thing. Bond issues should be ready for the ballot.

(Q.6) The reason is not offered. If it's split up maybe the first one passes and the other one does not pass.

(Q.5) A roof here and the glass here somewhere else – it's off balance. (Q.12) I've been around construction. Alaska does not extend the life of anything, they tear them all down. I grew up in the states. Is it because they are not fixing up in Anchorage? I'm frustrated with Anchorage's way of running their schools, the mind set you get here. West High getting fixed up is admirable; it's not like Dimond that they tore down.

(Q.4) Do the main things as needed, be a good housekeeper; lots of waste in the recent school district leadership. (Q.8) It should be in order, better housekeeping. Should be no maintenance cost and take care of things – called due diligence as needed.

(Q.5) Last year, or this year, miraculously the school board found the money.

(Q.9) It doesn't work, whatever they do now.

(Q.5) What did they do with the previous money? Cushion; why that amount; taxes already are paid. I need to research this. (Q.7) My son goes to Hillside School; we already voted on it. Do we need it again?

(Q.4) Too much is for the administration, they've spent plenty now. It's difficult to make cuts. We have new schools and the children still don't learn. (Q.12) Slow down with it for now. The kids aren't learning enough; concentrate on teaching, not on spending.

(Q.7) I'd probably vote for it if they meet my criteria as a necessity. Like electric and plumbing, if it's a life safety and necessary for teaching, then yes; if a pool, no. (Q.9) Put aside reserves for new roofs and such. Historically they haven't, but I think it should be an annual operating budget with more built into it.

(Q.6) Take one bond at a time.

(Q.5) Pay the price it takes to do the job.

(Q.6) I'm a contractor so I see it both ways. It's easier to swallow in phases.



**ANCHORAGE**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS, CONT'D

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(Q.4) A school lottery would be good. (Q.5) Nothing in addition to the taxes we already pay, or do a lottery.

(Q.5) Property taxes have gone up three-fold. A different method of funding is needed instead of taxing property holders. (Q.7) How did the school district let it get to this stage over the years? (Q.12) It sounds like a way of hiding maintenance costs.

(Q.7) I'd have to look, I don't know at this time. Schools are always asking for more money. (Q.9) Do it as it comes up. No bonding later. Budget for it.

(Q.5) Numbers like this don't mean anything to me. Move towards the lower end.

(Q.5) It depends on the needs. It's hard to put a dollar figure on it. There's a larger chance with lower numbers that it would pass.

(Q.7) That's too far ahead to say one way or the other, the economy would make a difference.

(Q.12) As long as it was clearly stated and clearly defined.

(Q.5) I want to know what it is for. I need to see the steak on the table.

(Q.4) My taxes have gone up so high that I might not be able to keep my home in a few years.

(Q.5) Get volunteers. It has gotten out of hand. Have kids that vandalize come in and paint. (Q.7) its outrageous money. Learning depends on what teachers offer; the priority is there.

(Q.4) I don't trust the school district on spending or cutting. (Q.7) The school district presents bonds without showing the need. They just say, "We need." They have to show me the need for \$70 million dollars

(Q.7) They have been bonding Service High for several years.

(Q.4) It all depends on what the critical projects are.

(Q.5) Bond the amount they retired this year.

(Q.3) It would be based more on what needed to be done.

(Volunteered at end) When I was school age we was going to schools over 100 years old! What's wrong now-a-days? Is it a cheap product, or what?

(Volunteered at end) They don't have a precedent for people like myself. I have twin 15 year old boys who live in California that I have to pay for, and I also have to pay school taxes here.



**EAGLE RIVER**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS

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(Q.6) One school at one time. Get that school done and then move on to the next school.

(Q.6) Work on the old schools first. Fix what they have got first. (Q.7) It depends on what the work was for.

(Q.7) Why wouldn't it be on the 2010? Why put it on the 2011 ballot?

(Q.4) We can't ignore our schools; we need them ongoing. (Q.6) I don't think the assumption is correct. The assumption says the costs will be more, and I don't believe that is necessarily true.

(Q.10) I don't consider those things maintenance, I would say they are capital improvements.

(Q.12) I would prefer to have that listed as major repairs because maintenance is like cleaning the rooms, and maintenance is supposed to be covered by the budget.

(Q.3) It's not the dollar amount so much as it is the project at hand, what the project is. (Q.4) The issue I have is that they are in competition with the city, and you have to decide who you are going to support, the schools or the city. They both have needs. (Q.5) They gotta realize everybody has tight belts and they are downsizing their budgets. (Q.6) A question on that, though, is what is the specific project? I know there are schools, like Mountain View, that are in dire need; yet the schools in the better areas of town get the upkeep. (Q.7) Again, I think the upper-crust of the hillside doesn't take care of what they have. (Q.8) Maintenance should be built into the budget. (Q.9) It does not, that I'm aware of; and I don't believe they should be. (Q.12) Sometimes the school district is not very good at telling us what they are doing or what the money is for.

(4) It really goes both ways; I'm tire of listening to it. (Q.9) I don't think so, although I don't trust them. They get money for one thing, and then they spend on something else, and then they don't have the money for the original project.

(Q.5) We'd have to look at the individual cases. I would vote for what was needed, whatever they needed, any amount you would work with. I'd vote for it. I don't have a number. (Q.10) Bonding is good for the major projects. The routine maintenance should be covered in their everyday budget.

(Q.10) Do not bond for day-to-day maintenance, but for renovations.

(Q.4) It's better to fix the schools and not build new schools. (Q.5) Without what the bonds would be for I have no idea what to say. (Q.6) The school may get started and then not finished.

(Q.6) I wouldn't vote. I'd call my local assemblyman. (Q.9) In a round-about way, and I know where they have \$27 million sitting over in a corner, that they have waiting there to be used.

(Q.3) I might vote for, or I might not vote for. I got an education and the upcoming generation needs one, too.

(Q.4) They should put the bonds on; whether they pass or not is a difficult question. (Q.5) That's too hard of a question. They spend too much now. (Q.12) Extend the life? It would need to answer what, and how it's for; it needs more information.



**EAGLE RIVER**

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VOLUNTEERED COMMENTS, CONT'D

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(Q.5) It depends on what kind of matching funds we'll get. I need more information. (Q.6) It depends on what kind of matching funds would be available. (Q.112) That's not at all clear. If there was no further explanation then I'd vote against.

(Q.4) You can't just let the buildings fall down, that wouldn't work for us. (Q.5) I haven't a clue; not more than what they're doing. (Q.6) If it's a new school just get it done. If there were several projects at several schools, then break it up over time. They'd have better luck if the bond was for a smaller number of projects on each bond. (Q.7) I don't know what I'm going to do in two weeks! (Q.8) And that should be part of their budget.

(Q.4) That's not an either/or question. We need to dig deeper and find out why we aren't saving money to do the maintenance on these buildings. We generally overspend.

(Q.7) I don't know what the situation of the school would be, and if that amount would take care of it. (Q.12) I would like to see more direct wording if it was worded like that, then I'd lean toward voting against it. Would they have other brochures or material with a better description?

# VI

# Appendix



**PRELIMINARY RESULTS**  
**n = 610**

Q.1	How likely do you think you are to vote in the Anchorage Municipal Election on April 6th next year -- absolutely certain, very likely, somewhat likely, or not at all likely?	Absolutely certain Very likely <b>(THANK &amp; TERMINATE)</b> Somewhat likely <b>(THANK &amp; TERMINATE)</b> Not at all likely <b>(THANK &amp; TERMINATE)</b> Unsure	72% 28% -- -- --
Q.2	Overall, would you say you usually vote <u>for</u> or <u>against</u> Anchorage School District bond propositions?	For Against 50/50 Unsure	58% 30% 9% 3%
Q.3	Specifically thinking about the upcoming April 6th election, do you think you'll <u>vote against any school bond</u> regardless of how much it is for, or do you think you <u>might vote in favor of a school bond</u> depending on the dollar amount?	Vote against, regardless Might vote for, depending on amount Unsure	26% 70% 4%
Q.4	Some people think that the school district should not ask for any money this spring to give Anchorage taxpayers a break. Other people say that bonds are necessary because many of the schools are about fifty years old and \$800 million dollars of capital improvements have been identified. What do you think -- should the school district give Anchorage taxpayers a "bond holiday" and not have any school bonds in April 2010, or do you think there are on-going important needs and the school district should propose appropriate bonds for the most critical projects?	Bond holiday Bond most critical Either is ok, don't care Unsure	34% 62% 2% 2%
Q.5	In the past, the total amount of Anchorage School District bonds on the municipal election ballot have ranged between \$80 and 160 million dollars. Looking ahead to April 2010, what do you think would be a reasonable amount for Anchorage School District bonds?	Mean= 53.2 million	

Q.6	<p>Bond proposals for large projects can be presented as one lump sum which is the most cost-effective way to fund a project. However, these one-time bonds are often for \$60 to 100 million dollars which is a lot of money to approve at one time. Or, large projects can be separated into “phases” of approximately \$30 to 40 million dollars and voted on by voters over several years. The downside of “phasing” is that the total project costs more than if it had all been completed at one time. As a voter, when considering major projects such as a new school, are you more likely to vote for a single large bond of \$60 to 100 million dollars, or for a “phased” project of \$30 to 40 million dollars each year for multiple years?</p>	<p>One-time \$60-100 million 51%  Phased \$30-40 million each 33%  Neither 12%  Unsure 4%</p>
Q.7	<p>If there are no school bonds on the April 2010 ballot, how would you likely vote in 2011 on a \$70 million dollar bond to complete the renovations at Service High School?</p>	<p>In favor 60%  Opposed 34%  Unsure 6%</p>
Q.8	<p>Have you read or heard about people saying that “the Anchorage School District should not bond for maintenance”?</p>	<p>Yes 40%  No 60%  Unsure --</p>
Q.9	<p>As far as you know, does the Anchorage School District issue bonds to pay for routine day-to-day maintenance of district facilities?</p>	<p>Does 29%  Does not 50%  Unsure 21%</p>
Q.10	<p>The Anchorage School District currently budgets approximately \$23 million dollars a year for regular daily maintenance of district buildings and facilities. However, additional major maintenance projects such as new roofs, heating systems and fire code compliance are usually paid for by bonds issued for these purposes. Do you feel bonding is or is not a good way to pay for the school district’s major maintenance projects?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(SKIP TO Q.12)</b> Bonding a good way</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Not a good way 39%</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>(SKIP TO Q.12)</b> Unsure 4%</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>Q.11 How would you recommend the school district pay for major maintenance beyond day-to-day expenses?</p> <p>VERBATIMS TO BE PROVIDED IN FINAL REPORT</p>	<p>57%  39%  4%</p>

Q.12a	If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as “providing funds for <u>major maintenance projects</u> at Anchorage School District buildings and facilities,” would you be more likely to vote for or against the bond?	Vote for Vote against Unsure	59% 37% 4%
Q.12b	If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as “providing funds for <u>building systems renewals</u> at Anchorage School District buildings and facilities,” would you be more likely to vote for or against the bond?	Vote for Vote against Unsure	55% 36% 9%
Q.12c	If the overall purpose of a bond issue was described as “providing funds to <u>extend the life</u> of Anchorage School District buildings and facilities,” would you be more likely to vote for or against the bond?	Vote for Vote against Unsure	70% 26% 4%
Q.13	In what year were you born?  NOT AVAILABLE -- TO BE INCLUDED IN FINAL REPORT	18-24 years 25-34 years 35-44 years 45-54 years 55 years or older	-- -- -- -- --
Q.14	When you registered to vote, did you register as a Democrat, Republican, Non-Partisan, Undeclared, or something else?	Democrat Republican Non-Partisan Undeclared Other	16% 26% 52% -- 6%
Q.15	Of the people currently living in your household, how many are children or adolescents aged 18 or under?	(SKIP TO Q.17) None One or more	65% 35%
Q.16	How many of these children currently attend public school in the Anchorage School District?	None One or more	20% 80%
Q.17	Do you own, rent or lease the home you live in?	Own Rent/Lease	91% 9%
Q.18	Gender	Male Female	50% 50%