



## KOOTENAI COUNTY DEMOCRATIC CENTRAL COMMITTEE

### A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESPONSIBLE SCHOOL BUILDING PLANNING AND FUNDING

Whereas Idaho's education system ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation and earned an F grade in over all education spending, and is 50<sup>th</sup> in per student expenditures; and

Whereas Idaho Code Section 33-317 requires 66 and 2/3% of voters to approve Idaho school bonds, and 43% of Idaho school bonds failed to receive 66 and 2/3% voter approval between 2002 and 2105; and

Whereas lowering the voter approval threshold to 60% would increase the school bond passage rate from 57% to 75% based on data from 2002 through 2015; and

Whereas Section 7 of the Kootenai County Comprehensive Plan (2010) encourages support for public school sites but does not require active, responsible planning for future school buildings; and

Whereas local school districts struggle to locate and afford adequate, accessible property to build public schools; and

Whereas Idaho Code Section 33-5208 allows the State of Idaho Department of Education to fund 30% or more of the facility costs for public charter schools, but does not fund any portion of the facility costs for traditional public schools; and

Whereas local school districts rely exclusively on local property taxes and school bonds to fund school facility and building projects; and

Whereas the student population of the Post Falls School District increased by 137 students in 2018 and the Post Falls School District will run a bond for a facilities and supplemental levy; and

Whereas the student population of the Coeur d'Alene School District increased by 85 students in 2018 and the Coeur d'Alene School District approved an emergency levy; and

Whereas the student population of the Lakeland Joint School District increased by 137 students in 2018 and the Lakeland Joint School District approved emergency levy will increase property taxes; now, therefore be it

***Resolved,*** that the Kootenai County Democratic Central Committee:

1. Supports increasing overall funding for public schools; and
2. Supports legislative candidates who will work to amend Idaho Code Section 33-317 to require 60% voter approval of school bonds; and
3. Supports legislative candidates who will pass legislation requiring the State of Idaho Department of Education to fund 30% of the facility and building costs of Idaho's public schools; and
4. Demands that local city councils and the Kootenai County Commissioners work to design and implement a system of development impact fees, transfer of development rights, and land dedication to ensure adequate, accessible, and affordable land is available for public schools.