

ISBA 2020 RESOLUTION NO. 4

TASK FORCE ON PROPERTY TAX REFORM

WHEREAS, in 1995, 38 percent of school districts asked patrons for a supplemental property tax levy; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 the Legislature replaced the annual maintenance and operations (M&O) property tax for schools districts with a lesser valued sales tax; and

WHEREAS, since that M&O replacement, use of supplemental levies has grown to 81 percent of school districts; and

WHEREAS, school districts with greater property values can raise more supplemental levy revenue at a lower tax rate than other school districts; and

WHEREAS, school districts with 15 percent or more students of color have half the property value of districts with fewer students of color; and

WHEREAS, many Idaho school districts have found it very difficult or impossible to pass a school facilities bond; and

WHEREAS, many Idaho school districts cannot raise sufficient funds to meet their needs even when they are able to pass a bond or plant facilities levy; and

WHEREAS, state lottery funds are insufficient for districts and charter schools to maintain existing buildings so that they are appropriate and safe educational settings; and

WHEREAS, charter schools cannot ask patrons for supplemental levies; and

WHEREAS, charter schools cannot ask patrons for bonds for new facilities. Instead, they acquire significant long term debt without voter approval; and

WHEREAS, charter schools cannot ask patrons for bonds for new facilities. Instead, they must reduce funds available for instructional programs or seek grants; and

WHEREAS, changes to Idaho's system of property tax for school use have resulted in an inequitable system of "have and have nots" and "can and cannots"

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association research, draft, and submit legislation that either establishes an interim committee to study and make recommendations to the Legislature to reform the property taxes for school purposes to support a uniform and thorough system of public education in Idaho, or advocate that the Honorable Governor Brad Little establish a task force to study and

make recommendations to reform property taxes for school purposes to support a uniform and thorough system of public education.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Changes to Idaho's property tax system in 2006 has put schools and districts in a tough position of asking their taxpayers for levies in order to provide the programs and educational services their communities expect. This resolution would convene members of the legislature, taxpayers, and stakeholders together to discuss a statewide solution to ensure Idaho's constitutional obligation to provide a uniform and thorough system of education is being met.

Supporting Data: <https://www.idahoednews.org/kevins-blog/report-idaho-school-funding-system-hurts-students-of-color/>

Submitted by Nampa School District No. 131

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS

Ken Hart of the ISBA Executive Board will address the Executive Board's recommendation to the membership at the Business Session of the Annual Convention.