

2021 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 6

REDUCE SUPER MAJORITY ON FACILITY BONDS

WHEREAS, many school districts in Idaho are in need of improved or new school facilities; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code currently provides voter-approved property tax measures as the only mechanism to construct schools; and

WHEREAS, Idaho requires at least a 66.67% super majority approval vote for school facilities bonds; and

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

WHEREAS, the Idaho Legislature has considered legislation in the past that would limit the number of facility bond elections for school districts per year and create an additional obstacle; and

WHEREAS, many school districts struggle to maintain existing buildings so that they are appropriate and safe educational settings; and

WHEREAS, the quality of school facilities has an impact on school achievement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association research, draft, and submit legislation that proposes supplemental mechanisms to fund school construction and maintenance and support the reduction of the super majority approval required to pass school facilities bonds.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

School districts facing rapidly increasing enrollment only have one option for the construction of new facilities: passage of a bond that places a burden on property owners. Meanwhile, the State of Idaho is trying to raise student achievement, and the quality of school facilities has an impact on that achievement. Many districts are trying to address their facilities needs but are having great difficulty achieving, or have not been able to achieve, the 66.67% approval vote required to pass a facilities bond. Any reduction of this extremely high approval threshold would help provide better school facilities in Idaho.

Submitted by Moscow School District No. 281
Submitted by St. Maries School District No. 41

Recommendation of the ISBA Executive Board: Do Pass

Bryan Matsuoka will address the ISBA Executive Board's Recommendation