



**Coeur d'Alene School District**  
**NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
**March 9, 2011**

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**SCHOOL DISTRICT HONORS ALL NO VOTES**

Coeur d'Alene, ID – While initial results of yesterday's election speak strongly to the community's support of our schools, we are surprised and saddened that our intent of the menued ballot was not translated into the vote count as reported by the Kootenai County Elections Department.

Throughout this process it has been our intent to honor the voice of all voters, including voters who voted no cumulatively on either part of the levy ballot.

It became clear while watching last night's returns that our intent on how no votes would be counted differed from how the Elections Department reported percentages.

Although both parts of the Maintenance and Operations Levy passed regardless of the tallying method of the no votes on Option #2 of the ballot, we know the correct action to take is to count the no votes from Option #1 also as a no vote on Option #2. Then those no votes should be added to the no votes cast on Option #2.

We acknowledge that while the ballot language meets all legal thresholds, we understand where confusion was expressed. Had the Coeur d'Alene School District conducted the election as it had for decades, the district would have counted a no vote in Option #1 as an automatic no vote in Option #2. However, this is a new process, being the first time a school levy election was run by the County Elections Department. We will work diligently in the future to clarify our ballot intent prior to the ballot creation, with both parties involved.

(more)

School District administrators met first thing this morning with the County Elections Department and asked them to count all no votes on Option #1 as a no vote on Option #2, but the County Elections Department declined.

An emergency Board of Trustees meeting has been called for 11:30 a.m. Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at Midtown Center so the Board may publically honor all votes cast on Tuesday's election and recognize that voters approved both parts of the levy, with Option #1 at 64% and Option #2 passing at over 55%. The County Elections Department is reporting Option #2 passing at 85%.

The levy required 50% plus one vote for each option to pass. The Coeur D'Alene School District achieved this result regardless of how the no votes were tabulated. We wish the Kootenai County Elections had tabulated all no votes in Option #2 of the ballot. We continue to thank the community for its remarkable support of our schools.

#### LEVY RESULTS BASED ON CORRECT TABULATION

##### Supplemental Maintenance & Operations Election 2011 Results\*

Option # 1			
Yes Votes 6,882	No Votes 3,790	Total Votes 10,672	Percent Yes 64.49%
Option # 2			
Yes Votes 5,873	No Votes 4,771	Total Votes 10,644	Percent Yes 55.18%

\* Numbers based on preliminary unofficial results from Kootenai County Elections Department

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