

To the editor: I encourage everyone to vote "yes" on Proposition A.

The opposition claims that Vote Yes on Prop A is "an emotional campaign." Ironically, the entire "Vote No" campaign seems to be built around two powerful emotions of its own: fear and distrust.

"Vote No" claims that the timing couldn't be worse, that inflation and cost of living are at all-time highs. Yet it is precisely this reality that has put our schools into such a dire situation. Did you think heating your house was expensive this year? Try heating a school. The timing isn't bad, the timing is vital.

"Vote No" claims the borough has nearly 30 million dollars "laying around" that could be spent on schools. They fail to mention that our schools are facing a \$29.5 million deficit going into next year. This means that even if schools were given every last spare penny the borough had, it would be gone in one year. This is a shockingly huge amount, and exactly why this special election has been called.

"Vote No" argues that the increase to property taxes would be insurmountable for many Fairbanks families. This is how Prop A would directly impact my family if it passes — our mortgage would increase by \$25 per month. We can't even share a monthly meal at McDonald's for that price. We own a rental cabin as well, the increase it would see: \$8 a month. We have no plans to increase our tenant's rent to reflect such a minuscule change.

The last thing I continue to hear is, "I support better schools and agree they should be funded ... but not this way." Our schools need funding now, and rather than wait for a perfect solution (and let the quality of our local schools deteriorate while we wait) I hope we take this opportunity right in front of us.

In this time of political polarization let's not make this about party lines. Let's come together on one thing we hopefully can still agree on: Our children, our schools, and our community are worth investing in.

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