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Clark County Elections Office

Phone 564-397-2345

Relay 711 or 800-833-6341

Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

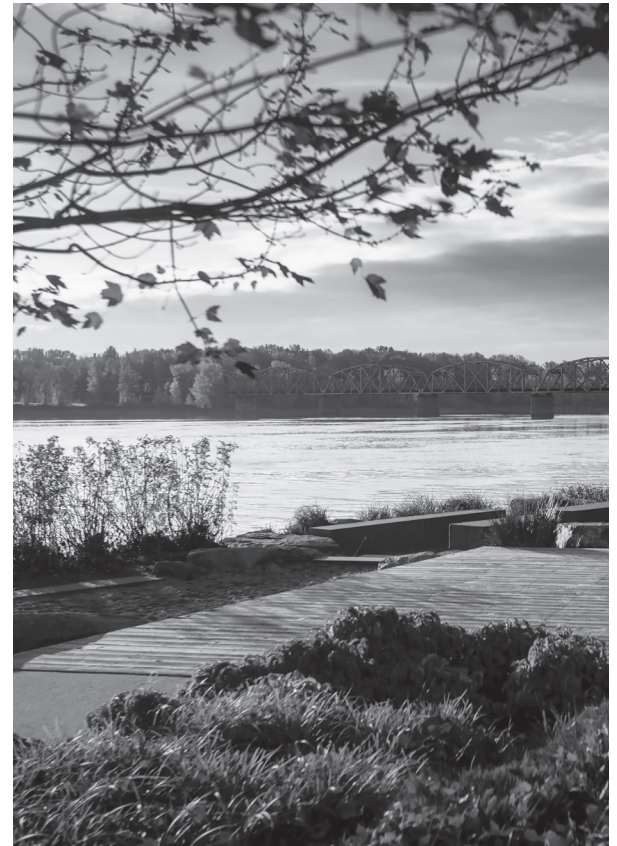
Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

April 23, 2024 Special Election
City of Camas Edition



Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

Proposition No. 3

Renewing the Regular Emergency Medical Services Property Tax Levy

The City of Camas Council adopted Resolution No. 24-003, which would renew the EMS Levy. If enacted, this measure will renew the City of Camas expiring EMS Levy and levy each year for a period of six consecutive years beginning in 2025 and collect a general tax on taxable property within the City, in amount not to exceed \$0.46 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation of such property.

Should this proposition be enacted into law?

To vote, use your official ballot.

STATEMENT FOR

Paramedics save lives - yours, your family's, and your neighbors'. *Passing this replacement Emergency Medical Services levy funds EMS services and transport around the clock. These advanced life support services provide critical care - bringing the ER to your door; increasing chances of recovery from heart attack, stroke or critical injuries; whenever they occur.*

Population growth and increased call volumes are straining existing resources. *Passing this replacement levy is critical. The voter approved funding ends December 31, 2024. This replacement levy renews the expiring levy for another 6 years. For example, the annual tax would be \$276 for a Camas home assessed at \$600,000.*

84% of all department calls are EMS related. Approval of this 6-year replacement levy funds current paramedic staffing. Without this funding, it's uncertain how many EMS personnel will be available, how quickly and how effectively they will be able to respond to medical emergencies. A yes vote keeps Firefighter/Paramedics on duty, enabling the Fire Department to maintain the current service level to protect and serve our community.

The City of Camas is asking voters to approve a replacement 6-year EMS Levy at 46 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value, renewing the expiring levy. *The current level of service can only be maintained by funding this replacement levy. The EMS program, continuously supported for over 40 years, has provided an enhanced level of emergency medical service to our community. We urge you to join us and vote yes for this replacement levy.*

Statement For Submitted by:

Greg K Anderson, Chair
Prunehill98607@aol.com
Ellen Burton
Don Chaney

No statements were submitted for:

**STATEMENT AGAINST
REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST
REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Since 1979, Camas voters have authorized the property tax levy for emergency medical services within the City. The levy expires at the end of 2024. Council desires to continue to provide emergency medical services and has adopted a resolution to place before the voters a proposition for a continued six-year EMS levy as authorized under RCW 84.52.069. This proposition would authorize the City to levy up to \$0.46 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in property tax. This levy would be collected for each of six consecutive years, beginning in 2025, subject to statutory limitations set forth in RCW Chapter 84.55.

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/april-23-2024-special-election
Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.

Proposition No. 11

General Obligation Bonds - \$120,000,000

The Board of Directors approved Resolution #2023-2024-001 concerning additional bonds for consideration only if Proposition #10 is approved. If Proposition #10 is approved by voters, approval of this Proposition #11 would authorize the District to construct a new intermediate/middle school campus and new wrestling and locker room additions and upgrades to Ridgefield High School; resurface the track and field and upgrade band room acoustics at Ridgefield High School; and update elementary school playgrounds by issuing an additional \$120,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years, and levying excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution #2023-2024-001.

Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

If approved, Proposition 11 would authorize the District to issue up to \$120,000,000 of general obligation bonds, and use these funds to construct a new intermediate/middle school campus and wrestling and locker room improvements at Ridgefield High; resurface the track and field and upgrade band room acoustics at Ridgefield High; and update elementary school playgrounds. The District also expects to receive approximately \$0 in State matching funds for these projects. The District would levy property taxes to repay the bonds. Approval of Proposition 11 would authorize the bonds and projects described above only if voters also approve Proposition 10.

STATEMENT FOR

Overcrowding is impacting every school in our district, with a 47% increase in student population since the last bond in 2017. The overcrowding in our intermediate and middle schools deprives students of crucial opportunities, like participating in sports due to limited team spaces. Gyms have been converted into makeshift classrooms, and students are forced to travel off-campus for classes, sacrificing precious learning time. This overcrowding not only jeopardizes safety but also undermines the quality of education for our students.

Ridgefield students need our help.

Building on the urgent projects addressed by Proposition 10, Proposition 11 will allow Ridgefield to move from playing catch-up to getting back on-track to meet the current facility needs of our students. Proposition 11 will provide additional classroom space and facilities for 5th through 8th graders with a new combined intermediate and middle school. Proposition 11 also includes projects at the high school like upgrading the band room, an addition for the wrestling room, and track maintenance. These projects provide opportunities for students to be involved in extracurricular activities, which contribute to greater academic success and character development.

The challenges facing our schools are not going away and the costs to address them will only increase as construction costs rise and existing buildings continue to deteriorate. This is about more than constructing buildings. We are uniting as a community to solve an important problem.

Now is the time to come together to address our overcrowded schools. Please vote "Yes" on both Proposition 10 and 11.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Proposition 11 isn't a frivolous request. Technical education and extracurricular activities are essential for the success of Ridgefield students. We're out of 5th-8th grade classroom space. Average growth at the intermediate/middle school has been 51 students/year, two full classrooms. By the time the new campus is built, children filling our elementary schools will be moving up. Now's the time to unite so students have the spaces needed to thrive. Visit www.citizensforridgefieldschools.com.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Zach Smith, Chair

Amy Watt

citizensforridgefieldschools.com

citizens4rs@gmail.com

STATEMENT AGAINST

Go to www.swweducation.org for the full story. This bond is for \$120 million on top of the \$70 million request. They are splitting the bonds to give a false sense of choice. This plan says trust us, you don't need to know the details. They are asking for a new 5-8 school. Why? The one just built is less than 10% over its stated capacity of 1,157. Is the design so poor that 2 more kids per class is a problem? At the current growth rate of about 24 kids per year, it will take 36 years to reach capacity.

The high school has the greatest need for more classroom space based on their growth rate. Have you heard the plan there? We haven't. Instead of classrooms, they are asking for a wrestling room. Because they snuck one in at the 5-8 school?

There are safety issues with the playgrounds and band room. Why does it take a bond to fix those? It looks like money is going to luxury items instead of the core. This \$120 million will end up costing over \$190 million after interest over 21 years and over \$300 million for both propositions.

These bonds are outrageous and need to be sent back for complete restructuring. Property taxes will rise dramatically while school test scores are poor and graduation rates have declined. They play games by using preschool and distance learning to inflate student numbers to make a case for the money. Tell them enough!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

565 is the actual gap in capacity to current enrollment when removing early and online learning. Their growth projections are wildly off. School sports are not short. Facilities should not be built for community programs. The wrestling room is not being used for classes currently. Specialty rooms reduce class space and are underutilized. Time to get back to basics and use land and space efficiently. They have failed to do. See www.swweducation.org for more facts.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Heidi Pozzo, Chair

Jamie Keiser

Richard Rylander

swweducation.org

swweducation@gmail.com

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/april-23-2024-special-election

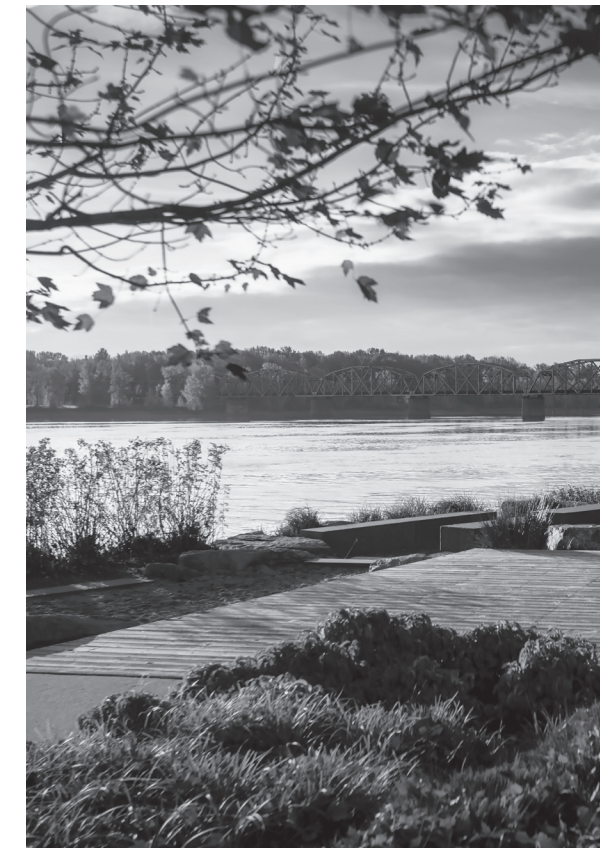
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Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

April 23, 2024 Special Election

Ridgefield School District Edition



Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

Proposition No. 10

General Obligation Bonds - \$70,000,000

The Board of Directors approved Resolution #2023-2024-001 concerning this proposition for bonds. This Proposition #10 would authorize the District to complete the construction of a new elementary school; construct an addition to Ridgefield High School with new general and vocational education classrooms; and repair roofing and replace rooftop mechanical systems at Ridgefield High School and District elementary schools by issuing \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years, and levying excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution #2023-2024-001.

Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

If approved, Proposition 10 would authorize the District to issue up to \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds, and use these funds to complete construction of a new elementary school; construct new general and vocational education classrooms at Ridgefield High; and repair roofing and replace rooftop mechanical systems at Ridgefield High and District elementary schools. The District also expects to receive approximately \$11,700,000 in State matching funds for these projects. The District would levy property taxes to repay the bonds. Approval of Proposition 10 would authorize the bonds and projects described above regardless of whether voters also approve Proposition 11.

STATEMENT FOR

Ridgefield School District has added 1,337 more pre-K to 12th grade students since we passed our last bond in 2017, a 47% increase. Without space in our school buildings, approximately 1/3 of our students are learning in portable classrooms at any given point during the school day.

The impact of overcrowding is felt by our entire community. Long pick-up and drop-off lines snarl traffic, and essential funds meant for education are diverted to purchase and maintain 26 portable buildings. This overcrowding has led to the upheaval of hundreds of elementary students, shuffling them to different schools in a bid to balance the strain across campuses. Furthermore, delayed maintenance is hastening the deterioration of our school facilities.

Now is the time to come together to address our overcrowded schools.

Proposition 10 includes a new elementary school and an addition to Ridgefield High School, providing desperately needed classroom space and responding to the growing demand for career and technical education. These projects are past due and shovel-ready, scheduled for completion by fall of 2025. Proposition 10 will give more students safe and quality learning spaces and access to technical training, which decreases dropout rates and increases attendance, college enrollment, and employment.

Improved schools enhance life for everyone in Ridgefield. Our schools are the heart of our community and our students are its future. Let's unite to take a crucial next step towards alleviating overcrowding in our schools and invest in the future of Ridgefield. Please vote "Yes" on Proposition 10.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Despite misinformation, there's something we can agree on: Ridgefield's schools *are* undeniably overcrowded and a new school *is* necessary. The new elementary school was thoughtfully designed with community input and exceeds safety regulations. Impact fees paid for the land, plan, and site preparation. RHS hasn't been forgotten: 9 additional classrooms, plus a metals shop address overcrowding, accommodating 350 more students. The need is clear, the plan is prudent, the time is now: www.citizensforridgefieldschools.com.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Zach Smith, Chair
Amy Watt
citizensforridgefieldschools.com
citizens4rs@gmail.com

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STATEMENT AGAINST

We were shocked at what we found in analyzing the bond measure but only have 250 words to explain. Check www.swwededucation.org for more. We believe kids should get a good education and it should be affordable. That's not what is happening. They are hoping for a yes vote on the 6th attempt to get the same elementary school through. You get no say in the design. You just pay for it. If passed, more bonds will follow.

The \$70 million proposal will cost over \$110 million after interest over 21 years. The current schools are too crowded and a third is needed. It just doesn't need all the extras for the community. It is poorly designed and doesn't appear to have fencing and other safety features. Based on the current growth rate of about 28 kids per year, it will take 12 years to reach capacity in the elementary schools.

We are told this bond will add nine classrooms at the high school. After tearing buildings down, this will finally add capacity to the fastest growing school. How much capacity? We're not sure. The centerpiece is a replacement metals shop. Why a new one when there is one being built at Clark College? New roofs? They're needed. Why not through regular maintenance?

Inflation is through the roof. Taxes are outrageous. People need solid facilities not Taj Mahals. Tell them to go back to the drawing board and tighten their belts like you. We can do better.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

565 is the actual gap in capacity to current enrollment when removing early and online learning. Modular classrooms are often newer and better than older schools. Balancing schools happens all the time. As teachers unions negotiate for smaller classrooms you need more rooms not due to overcrowding. A school was closed which increased overcrowding when remodeling would have solved the issue. They made this happen based on poor decisions. See www.swwededucation.org for more facts.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Heidi Pozzo, Chair
Jamie Keiser
Richard Rylander
swwededucation.org
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