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Clark County Elections Office

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Relay 711 or 800-833-6341

Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

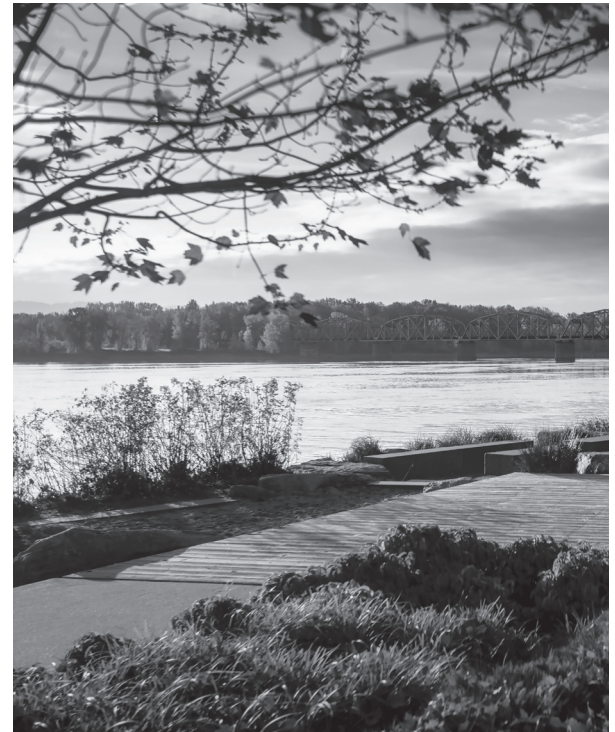
Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Official Local

Voters’ Pamphlet

February 13, 2024 Special Election
Battle Ground School District Edition



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Published by the
Clark County Auditor’s Office

Battle Ground School District

No. 119

Proposition No. 7

Capital Levy for Safety, Facility and Technology Improvements

The Board of Directors of Battle Ground School District No. 119 adopted Resolution No. H-23, concerning a proposition for capital improvements to support the learning environment. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, for making District-wide safety, facility and technology improvements (upgrading security, including cameras and entry controls; repairing roofs; improving heating/cooling; upgrading lighting and technology; creating learning spaces for construction trades, culinary, health sciences):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.44	\$8,500,000
2026	\$0.44	\$9,200,000
2027	\$0.44	\$10,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. H-23. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Passage of this proposition would authorize Battle Ground School District to levy taxes over a three year period to make District-wide safety, facility and technology improvements, including: (1) upgrading security (cameras, entry controls, communication systems, parking/traffic circulation); (2) repairing roofs; (3) improving heating and cooling systems; (4) upgrading lighting and technology (computers, wireless network, other technology devices, equipment, software, phones, and infrastructure) and providing related training/support; and (5) creating learning spaces for construction trades, culinary, health sciences and middle school STEM. Further information is available at www.battlegroundps.org/capital-levy/. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor at (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Vote yes for Battle Ground students, teachers and schools! Like homes and cars, schools eventually need repairs and updates as part of the upkeep, but the state does not fully cover the costs. It's up to us to ensure that our children continue to have good learning environments. The capital levy would help improve safety and security, roofs, heating/cooling systems and technology. In addition, it would help build or upgrade spaces for students to learn the construction trades, culinary skills and health sciences. These spaces would enhance their ability to get jobs that pay well after they graduate. The capital levy is a positive step toward getting the most out of our investment in schools.

This capital levy would take the place of a bond measure that expired at the end of December 2023. The expired bond measure rate was \$0.44 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The capital levy rate is projected to be the same: \$0.44 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for all three years. And Battle Ground already has the lowest tax rate of all school districts in Clark County.

Good schools help maintain strong property values and are essential to the health of our community. A yes vote is a vote for our children that will help them learn in safe, well-maintained schools that support their learning and help them build the skills needed for their future jobs. Thank you for voting yes!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

A new bond could have a higher rate per \$1,000 for taxpayers than the estimated rate for the capital levy. Given the current economic climate, the levy is a fiscally responsible approach. It would extend the life of aging buildings and maximize taxpayer investment. It also would address major facility needs and help keep students safe, warm and dry. Please vote yes for our students.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Terry Dotson, chair
votebgschools@gmail.com
votebgschools.org

STATEMENT AGAINST

There are levy's and bonds. Levy's are for short term spending. Bonds are for long term projects (like roofs, HVAC, fencing and building repairs) that have lives of 10; 15; 20 years or more. This is a *new* levy called a Capital Levy. The money would be used for mostly long term capital projects. Why a Capital Levy? Because the past attempts at a Capital Bond failed to reach the required 60% approval. A levy only requires 50% + 1.

The existing capital bond was paid off in 2023. The new Capital Levy would be for 3 years and raise \$27.7 million on top of the existing EP&O levy which is 4 years (2022-2025) for \$115.8 million. They say that this new Capital Levy will not increase your taxes because it replaces the expired bond. In 2025 they will ask for a new 4 year Maintenance Levy. At some point they will likely ask for a new Capital Bond. This Capital Levy would be used to pay for safety (\$5,250,000); facilities (\$14,850,000) and technology (\$7,600,000).

They also get about \$10,000 per student from the State (plus these levy's).

They are using short term tax increases to pay for long term projects rather than running a bond. Fiscally that's not ideal. Why not ask for the Capital Bond? The potential for it failing. Do they need roofs, HVAC, security, computers, etc.? Probably. You must need to decide whether long-term financing or a new levy should be used to pay for expenses.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Maintenance like they describe should come out of the existing EP&O levy of \$115 million. Why isn't that money being used to pay for these updates? Where is the money for maintenance going? The state gives over \$10,000 per student per year to the district for education. Property owners already pay 2 school taxes to the State to fund districts. When will the next Capital Bond be? This is a new tax.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Richard Rylander
swweduction.org
swweduction@gmail.com

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-13-2024-special-election

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Camas School District No. 117

Proposition No. 7 Replacement Capital Levy for Educational Technology, Health and Safety Improvements

The Board of Directors of Camas School District No. 117 adopted Resolution No. 23-04, concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for capital improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to make District-wide educational technology, health and safety improvements (including upgrading educational technology equipment and infrastructure, replacing or repairing artificial turf, boilers, roofs and other equipment):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.39	\$4,150,000
2026	\$0.39	\$4,270,000
2027	\$0.39	\$4,400,000
2028	\$0.39	\$4,530,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 23-04. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
This proposition authorizes Camas School District to replace an expiring capital levy. This replacement levy will be used to acquire, install and modernize educational technology equipment, infrastructure and systems and provide technology support, replace or repair artificial turf, boilers, roofs and other equipment. The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$4,150,000 in 2025, \$4,270,000 in 2026, \$4,400,000 in 2027 and \$4,530,000 in 2028. To produce these levy amounts, the estimated average tax levy rate is \$0.39 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR
Voting “Yes” ensures Camas schools, classrooms, and facilities stay safe, warm, and dry. This replacement levy is not a new tax; it maintains the same current assessed value rate. Its renewal enables smart infrastructure that provides facilities with security systems, wifi accessibility, and ADA compliance. The maintenance and replacement of facility components such as HVAC systems, sport field turf, and other small capital projects are also financed through this levy.

Voting “Yes” to the replacement levy provides funding for updating district technology aids for students and teachers, including computers, audio-visual devices, and digital curriculum software. These technologies equip students with essential skills for the modern workforce by applying digital literacy, critical thinking, and problem-solving strategies in their learning process. This needed technological support will also allow for valuable parental engagement in their student’s learning and facilitate effective communication between teachers and families. Camas is fortunate to have beautiful facilities for learning, athletics, and performing arts, which over time require standard maintenance, periodic repair, and component replacement. Specific projects include repairing the roof at Camas High School and replacing the field turf at both Cardon Sports complex and Doc Harris Stadium, needed investments to keep our student-athletes safe on the field.

Investing in maintenance and renewal of these facilities and educational technologies is not only fiscally responsible for our community of learners but provides a critical foundation for an educational environment in which our students can thrive! Please join Camas Citizens for Quality Schools in voting “Yes”.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST
Camas Schools are inclusive for all Camas students of all educational needs. As a community of learners, we appreciate that our schools can facilitate curriculum options for all learning requirements. While we support school choice for parents and students, we also recognize our responsibility to educate every child in a way that prepares them for their best life. This capital levy funding provides effectively in meeting this objective. More info at: www.voteyescamas.org

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:
Patrick Hennessey, Chair
pghennessey@icloud.com
Mark Klein
voteyescamas.org

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-13-2024-special-election
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STATEMENT AGAINST
There should be no tax measures on the lowest voter turnout month, February. Taxpayers don’t even have their tax bills for the year yet. Tell the district to run their tax measures in November when voter turnout is high.

WA has about a dozen public charter schools open to all. Our public charter schools are not allowed to run any local tax measures and they don’t. They stay on a budget. They provide all the technology that students need and none that they don’t. They don’t nickel and dime taxpayers and tax them out of their homes. They don’t have Enrichment Levies, Tech Levies, Capital Levies, Bonds, Replacement Levies, Not-A-New-Tax Tax Levy Levies, etc.

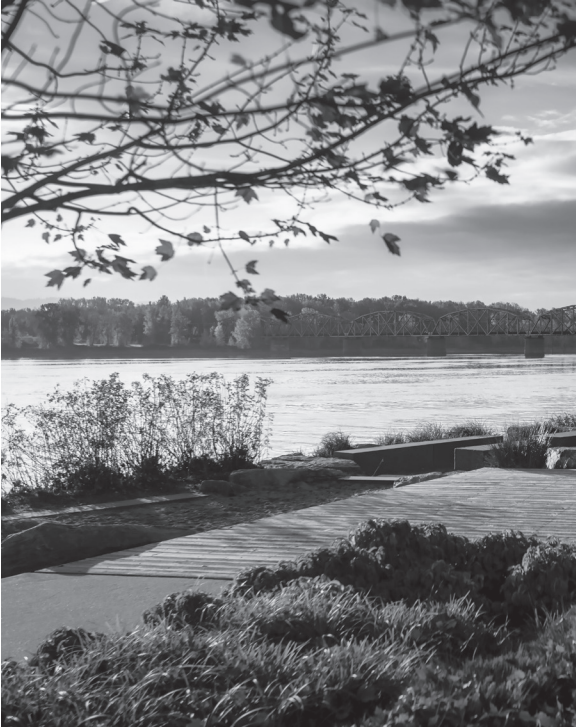
The point is that most traditional public schools in WA are spendthrifts. More money, same poor results. It doesn’t matter how much money they are given. They always seem to need/want more. What if we had school choice (vouchers) to give families a choice and taxpayers a break? Perhaps that is needed to introduce some competition for the monopoly to both improve and to become more efficient. And most importantly, many students learn better in environments other than what the assigned traditional public schools provide. LevyNo.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR
The district at the least needs to only run tax measures on the November election when there will be high voter turnout. These February elections are stealthy. Citizens are just learning about the election – let alone what is on it. There is no amount of money that will satisfy WA’s traditional public school districts. These levies are taxing people out of their homes.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:
Jeff Heckathorn
LevyNo.com

Clark County Official Local Voters’ Pamphlet

February 13, 2024 Special Election
Camas School District Edition



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Camas School District No. 117

Proposition No. 6

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Camas School District No. 117 adopted Resolution No. 23-03, concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for education. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State (including salaries and benefits, instructional materials, special education, extracurricular activities, substitute teachers, food service costs):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.82	\$19,130,000
2026	\$1.82	\$19,710,000
2027	\$1.82	\$20,300,000
2028	\$1.82	\$20,910,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 23-03. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Camas School District to replace an expiring educational programs and operations levy. This replacement levy will pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including salaries and benefits, instructional materials, special education, extracurricular activities, substitute teachers and food service costs. The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$19,130,000 in 2025, \$19,710,000 in 2026, \$20,300,000 in 2027 and \$20,910,000 in 2028. The estimated tax levy rate is \$1.82 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor (564)397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Camas citizens want and deserve smart investment in student educational programming. Voting “Yes” bridges the gap between state and federal funding, which only finances a very generalized, basic K-12 standard, to one which provides an exceptional educational experience for Camas students. This levy investment is reasonable, valuable, and ultimately benefits our entire Camas community.

Fiscally Responsible

Voting “Yes” does not create a new tax. This is a replacement levy that collects the same estimated rate on assessed property value as the current levy, thus continuing the necessary funding to sustain important programs and operations over the next four years. Critical programs such as enhanced health/safety resources, substitute teachers, food service for students, and transportation are financed by these funds, allowing for a well-prepared and consistent learning environment for every student.

Proven Value

Educational Programs and Operations funded by this levy make a measurable difference in our students’ educational outcomes (*see Camas School District OSPI Report Card) by enriching each student’s experience with smaller class sizes, special education services, advanced placement courses, and access to extracurricular activities such as sports, music, performing arts and science programs.

Strengthening Schools, Community and Business

The benefits of investing in our schools extend far beyond an educated society. Strong schools are a foundation to a strong community, which attracts further investment of local businesses, producing economic structure and vitality. This is a strategy that Camas is getting right. Please join Camas Citizens for Quality Schools in voting “Yes!”

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Fiscal responsibility and student results have been Camas Schools’ record with Camas citizens’ levy investments. These EP&O funds will continue to provide these returns and accountability that our students and community deserve. Correction in opposition’s statement: Tax rate for this levy is \$1.82 per \$1,000 assessed value, not \$2.15 as calculated in the \$600,000 home value example. More information at www.voteyecamas.org.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Patrick Hennessey, Chair
pghennessey@icloud.com

Mark Klein
voteyecamas.org

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STATEMENT AGAINST

The district found pro committee members but no con committee members. The county had to find someone at the last minute by 12/15/23.

There should be no tax measures on the lowest voter turnout month, February. Taxpayers don’t even have their tax bills for the year yet. For a property with a 2023 AV of \$600,000, the owner would be responsible for \$1290 a year for the next 4 years for this one levy.

School districts have forgotten about the McCleary Decision. Taxpayers were told these local school levies would be eliminated as our State School property taxes were increased. But these local school levies were reintroduced and are again spiraling out of control pitting taxpayers in different parts of the state against each other. If anything, these Enrichment Levies are supposed to go towards student enrichment programs only – not staff salary enrichment. Districts should stop blaming sports and music programs for the district’s lack of budgeting discipline.

District unions and administrators, in closed meetings, “bargained” away future multiyear taxpayer money without input from taxpayers or legislators. Their compensations are scheduled to continue to increase at faster than inflation rates and now they want local taxpayers to pay the bill. These same districts complain that the “State” is not fully funding education by X%. In reality, these districts are just X% over budget. And these districts are supposed to be teaching students about mathematics and maybe economics and finance? More at: LevyNo.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Claiming future guesstimated tax rates will be the same is hardly good news. The same rate multiplied by substantially increased assessed values equals substantially increased taxes – in dollars. Voters are voting on amounts – not guesstimated future tax rates. These local levies are taxing people out of their homes. There is no amount of money that will satisfy these traditional public school districts.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Jeff Heckathorn
LevyNo.com

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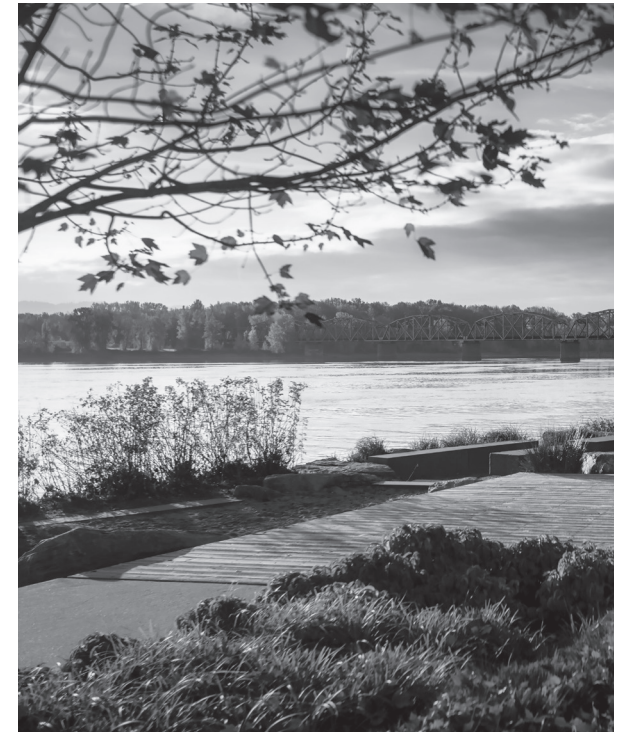
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Voters' Pamphlet

February 13, 2024 Special Election
Green Mountain School District Edition



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Street address

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Green Mountain School District No. 103

Proposition No. 4

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Green Mountain School District No. 103 adopted Resolution No. 2023-04, concerning this proposition to support current education funding. This proposition would authorize the District to continue funding students' educational needs (including instructional materials, special education and technology) and operational expenses (including essential teachers and staff, and transportation) not funded by the State by replacing an expiring levy with the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.25	\$560,000
2026	\$2.25	\$580,000
2027	\$2.25	\$600,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2023-04. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Green Mountain School District to replace an expiring levy to continue funding students' educational programs and operational expenses that are not fully funded by the State such as certificated and support staff, classroom materials, special education services, technology and transportation. The proposed three-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes of a maximum amount of \$560,000 in 2025, \$580,000 in 2026 and \$600,000 in 2027 with an estimated tax levy rate of \$2.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

The gem of North Clark County, Green Mountain School (GMS), needs your continued support to keep our unique, rural, high performing school operational.

The proposed levy would *replace* the existing levy that will *expire* at the end of 2024. Voting yes for this Educational Programs and Operations (EPO) levy will allow our school district to continue to provide the excellent educational programs our students need. The proposed estimated levy tax rate is \$2.25 per \$1000 of assessed value. Our current, but expiring rate, EPO plus Capital levy, adds up to \$2.84 per \$1000. In 2025, voters will likely experience a decrease in the total amount paid per year.

We, as a community, can be very proud of our district for providing our students the best K-8 education in Clark County. GMS has achieved the Washington School of Distinction award five times. Just one other district in Washington can claim this achievement. Green Mountain School leaders have a long, consistent history of stretching our tax dollars while maintaining a high-quality program for our students. Historically, our district's tax rate has been lower than most local districts. This proposal continues that tradition.

Thank you for your strong support of our district in the past. With the future of our school and students in mind, please support this EPO levy by voting yes.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

The Green Mountain School District (GMS) community will vote in February. The McCleary decision resulted in a state school property tax and the legislature chose a formula to disperse this money that does not favor rural schools. The proposed levy allows current educational programs to continue. Staff salary enrichment is not proposed. The GMS School Board has a proven track record for budgeting discipline, transparency and wisdom. Please contact the school or myself with questions.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Hans Schmeusser
Hanss9210@gmail.com

Dawn Shinn
larrydawnshinn@gmail.com

STATEMENT AGAINST

The district found pro committee members but no con committee members. The county had to find someone at the last minute by 12/15/23.

There should be no tax measures on the lowest voter turnout month, February. Taxpayers don't even have their tax bills for the year yet. For a property with a 2023 AV of \$500,000, the owner would be responsible for \$1260 a year for the next 3 years for this one levy.

School districts have forgotten about the McCleary Decision. Taxpayers were told these local school levies would be eliminated as our State School property taxes were increased. But these local school levies were reintroduced and are again spiraling out of control pitting taxpayers in different parts of the state against each other. If anything, these Enrichment Levies are supposed to go towards student enrichment programs only – not staff salary enrichment. Districts should stop blaming sports and music programs for the district's lack of budgeting discipline.

District unions and administrators, in closed meetings, "bargained" away future multiyear taxpayer money without input from taxpayers or legislators. Their compensations are scheduled to continue to increase at faster than inflation rates and now they want local taxpayers to pay the bill. These same districts complain that the "State" is not fully funding education by X%. In reality, these districts are just X% over budget. And these districts are supposed to be teaching students about mathematics and maybe economics and finance? More at: LevyNo.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The pro committee's logic and mathematics are incorrect. They are confused with tax rates. Voters are voting on amounts – not future guesstimated rates. Only the county assessor calculates the rates each year. This Not-A-New-Tax Tax is a 40% increase over the previous levy in dollars. These local excessive levies are taxing people out of their homes. State property and state sales taxpayers need to put the brakes on the incessant spending addiction.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Jeff Heckathorn
LevyNo.com

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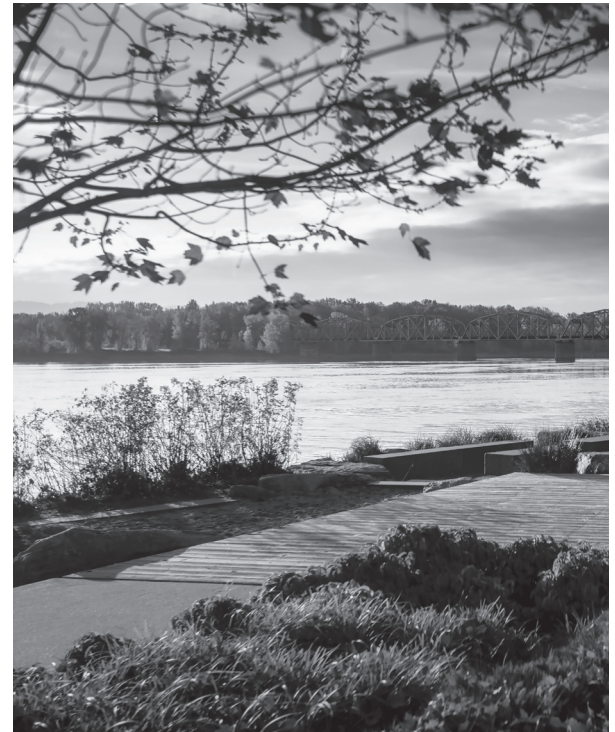
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Woodland School District Edition



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Woodland School District

No. 404

Proposition No. 1

School Support Levy for Educational Programs and Operations

The Board of Directors of Woodland School District No. 404 adopted Resolution No. 23.08, concerning a proposition supporting educational programs not funded by the State. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing a levy that expired in 2023, upon all taxable property within the District, ensuring the continuation of programs such as advanced placement classes, music, art, drama, school safety, technology, nursing, athletic programming, financial literacy, facility maintenance, counseling and support staff:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.20	\$7,050,000
2026	\$2.20	\$7,400,000
2027	\$2.20	\$7,775,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 23.08. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Passage of Proposition 1 authorizes the District to renew an expiring levy for educational programs and operations by levying \$7,050,000 for collection in 2025, \$7,400,000 for collection in 2026, and \$7,775,000 for collection in 2027. In accordance with Resolution No. 23-08 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the District's General Fund to pay for educational programs and operations of the District not funded by the State. These include teachers and staff, school supplies, facility maintenance, technology, athletics, and specialized educational programs.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$2.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2025, 2026 and 2027.

Under State law, tax exemptions may be available to homeowners age 61 or older, and disabled persons who meet certain income requirements. For information regarding exemptions, call the Clark County Assessor at (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Why a yes vote is about so much more than tax dollars!

Voting yes for the Woodland Public Schools' Educational Programs and Operations Levy is critical for the quality of education our children receive in Woodland's schools, as well as the future of Woodland's community.

Because schools matter to homeowners and community health

99% of students in Washington state benefit from local levy dollars, including every district in Cowlitz County. If we don't support our schools with funding they will cease to perform well in any capacity, resulting in a dramatic decline in people's desire to live here. What follows that? A decline in business, as well as an increase in drug use and criminal activity.

Because levies pay for what students need for success

Without a levy, Woodland had to cut \$3,000,000 from the 2023-24 budget and will have to cut even more next year. These cuts caused increased class sizes district-wide, limited access to new curriculum and technology, deferred security improvements, cut athletics and extracurricular clubs at both the middle school and the high school, specialized courses, and more!

Because the kids depend solely on and need us to make this happen!

The mission of your Woodland Schools is to prepare students for careers, life, and college. Without a levy, our kids will not have the educational opportunities they deserve. Thank you for your yes vote to bring back the levy support our great schools desperately need. For the most accurate information, visit woodlandschools.org/levy

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Communities that support *all* kids vote *yes* for levies. Woodland students deserve access to the same high quality educational programming as the other 99% students in the state. Without a *yes* vote we will lose more critical programs, support for kids will decrease, staff will burn out and leave, and student achievement will decline. Levy funds are necessary. Communities without levies fail their kids, and have failing economies. Less support does not produce better outcomes.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Stacy Chilton
stacichilton@gmail.com
Mindy Patee
Robin Chilton

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-13-2024-special-election
Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.

STATEMENT AGAINST

We are for the kids! Woodland School District is running a special election for a three year "excess tax" levy to collect a total of \$22,242,418 from property owners in the district. That is \$5 million *more* requested than the last levy, which equates to a 25.3% increase.

Last year voters said *no* to a new levy *twice*, and that was understandable. We are experiencing a 40-year inflation high which is felt at the grocery store, gas pump, rent increases, property taxes and water and sewer rate hikes. Under the prevailing circumstances, many taxpayers of the district are feeling financial pressures like never before. It is not just a matter of the pocketbook. In fact, it is more concerning that student standard outcomes are poor. Only 48.5% of students meet the English Language Arts standard, 35.7% meet the Math standard, and 50.6% meet the Science standard, according to the State Superintendent's official website. These competency numbers were not higher *with* a levy.

Clearly, more money is not the answer. Levy proponents tried to compel yes votes by threatening sports programs and facilities upkeep, but the community stepped up voluntarily and maintenance staff made efficiencies! Thank you District employees who recognize that our funds are not limitless. The last two failed levy elections cost the taxpayers approximately \$90,000. What will this current levy election cost?

Woodland Public Schools removed the comment feature from their social media during the previous election, limiting the voice of the taxpayers. Your vote is your voice.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

People desire to live where taxes are lower. It makes for affordable housing.

Yes. It is about "more than tax dollars". It is about *how* they are spent!

Example: Each month our board approves unspecified expenses of \$150,000 - \$300,000. It is like giving a blank check to staff. Transparency of expenditures is essential! Taxpayers want to know the correlation between how their money is spent and the low-test scores.

See State data at LevyNo.com

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Donna Butler
Donnabutlercm4u@hotmail.com
360-225-7757
Darcy Billingsley