

Proposition No. 13

Replacement Capital Levy for Educational Technology, Health and Safety Improvements

The Board of Directors of Washougal School District No. 112-6 adopted Resolution No. 2022-23-08, concerning a proposition to finance educational technology, health and safety 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 acquire and install educational technology equipment and infrastructure and provide technology support, upgrade building access controls, make ADA accessibility improvements, replace/repair boilers and roofs, and modernize flooring:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2024	\$0.21	\$950,000
2025	\$0.84	\$3,950,000
2026	\$0.85	\$4,150,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2022-23-08. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Washougal School District to replace an expiring capital levy. Taxes collected from this replacement levy will be used to make District-wide educational technology, health and safety improvements, including: (1) acquiring and installing educational technology equipment and infrastructure and providing related staff training and support; (2) upgrading, acquiring and installing building access controls and other safety and security systems; (3) making ADA accessibility improvements for main entrances; (4) replacing or repairing boilers and roofs; and (5) modernizing flooring. Further information is available at www.washougal.k12.wa.us. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call your county assessor for more information.

STATEMENT FOR

Not a New Tax

The Capital levy will not increase taxes. The bond payments on our schools start to drop off in 2025. As this happens, the Capital levy will increase by the same amount, keeping taxes flat while protecting important investments.

Spend a little now, or a lot later

Business owners know that a dollar invested in preventative maintenance saves four by avoiding future repairs. Washougal has great school buildings, some of them have lasted almost 90 years. Spending wisely now to keep them in great shape will prevent major issues down the road. We can only postpone these improvements so long before we will need to replace buildings instead of doing repairs, which will cost way more! Protect your investment in our schools by voting yes.

Technology to build job readiness skills

Students and teachers use technology every day in the classroom. The capital levy keeps the technology updated and working well. It also funds web filters and safety tools to keep students focused on productive uses of technology. School provided devices help students build job readiness skills to enter the workforce, military, college, or trade school ready to compete in an increasingly digital workplace.

Security investments

The Capital levy invests in modern security systems to keep kids and teachers safe. Schools need to be able to respond quickly, and updated security doors will improve our schools' safety. While we never want awful things to happen in our community, we need to make sure our schools are prepared.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

The vast majority, almost 70% of voters, didn't vote in the February election. Running the election again provides an opportunity for the Washougal community to step up in support of kids and teachers. While the capital levy does increase over the three years, the entire increase is offset by decreases in the bond payments that happen starting in 2025, so tax rates will remain stable over the next three years. Vote Yes for schools!

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Pamela Maas
René Carroll
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facebook.com/Washougal4Schools

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/april-25-2023-special-election

Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.

STATEMENT AGAINST

On February 14th this exact same levy failed. 2 months later and they ask for exactly the same amount of money. They didn't listen to the majority. Now they will speak of doomsday warnings if you don't vote yes this 2nd time. You can read the original details by going to this article: <https://swwededucation.org/washougal-school-district-feb-2023-levys/>

Nothing has changed in the ask. This is a "replacement levy" in that it's a new 3 year replacing the old 3 year. This time they ask for \$9,050,000 vs the old levy of \$2,613,000. Simple math says that this "replacement levy" is an increase of \$6,437,000 = a 246% increase? Inflation is dramatically higher but not 246%! Have your earnings gone up 246%? They will want you to focus on the "rate per \$1000" instead of the actual amount of money, it's meaningless.

Your new property tax statements should be in your hands now. Did your property taxes increase and how much? Washougal's test scores are poor. Visit: <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100286> The amount spent per student (without these increases) in the past 10 years has doubled for what results? While we all love our children and want the best for them your pockets are only so deep. If you need to live within a budget why don't they? The student headcount is falling as more people remove their children from public schools.

There is another "levy" on your ballot which asks for another \$31,500,000 on top of this \$9,050,000 for a total in excess of \$40,000,000.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Facts please: Taxes increase from \$2,623,000 to \$9,050,000 (246%). How is that *not* a tax increase? Are they saying they have not been spending on maintenance? Tech, in the right place used correctly, can help but it is not the solution. Are they saying that they have ignored safety and now suddenly need to spend money? Taxes are up; income is down. Schools need to practice what they teach. Vote No!

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Richard Rylander
swwededucation@gmail.com

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

April 25, 2023 Special Election
Washougal School District Edition



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Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

Washougal School District

No. 112-6

Proposition No. 12

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Washougal School District No. 112-6 adopted Resolution No. 2022-23-05, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to maintain current educational program funding levels and support the District's educational programs, student services and operations expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2024	\$1.99	\$9,500,000
2025	\$1.99	\$10,500,000
2026	\$1.99	\$11,500,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2022-23-05. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Washougal School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire at the end of 2023. The proposed replacement levy will continue funding educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including supplies, textbooks, library, teacher and staff support, technology, athletics, transportation and facility maintenance and operations. Taxes collected by the proposed replacement levy will provide approximately 18% of the District's General Fund budget. Further information is available at www.washougal.k12.wa.us. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call your county assessor for more information.

STATEMENT FOR

As parents, business owners, and involved community members, we urge you to vote yes! Great communities have great schools, and great schools are the heart of strong communities. Our kids and grandkids need the programs and staff the levy supports to find success.

These are not new taxes!

Washougal voters have supported the EP&O levy for more than 40 years. We have talented teachers, successful schools, and our community's youth deserve our support. If levies fail again, 20% of the staff will get cut. Class sizes will go up, our kids will not have the support they need.

Levy funded programs keep kids engaged!

Sports, art, band, choir, drama, robotics, clubs, and activities. Field trips, assemblies, and competitions. All of these are funded in part or fully by the levy. These opportunities keep kids engaged in school and help them graduate. WHS has a nearly 90% graduation rate. Without these programs, students will drop out. Support the levy to support bright futures for our kids.

Caring adults and programs to support youth!

Counselors, nurses, coaches, librarians, and extra teachers to keep class sizes small. Security staff, tech support, custodians, and secretaries who work to keep schools running smoothly. Intervention staff who help students get back on the right path if they need help. Family and Community Resource Center staff who help families and youth who are struggling with finances, food insecurity, or homelessness. The levy provides critical support for kids most in need. Please vote yes!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

We looked at our most recent tax statement for 2023, and they're about the same as 2022. Most Washougal voters did not see an increase from 2022 to 2023 on their property taxes. It's unfortunate that so few voters participated in the February election. The school board was wise to approach voters again to avoid drastic cuts in the important programs that make our schools great places for your kids. Vote Yes for kids!

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Pamela Maas

René Carroll

info@washougal4schools.org

facebook.com/Washougal4Schools

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STATEMENT AGAINST

On February 14th this exact same levy failed. 2 months later and they ask for exactly the same amount of money. They didn't hear you. They say the sky will fall if you don't vote yes. You can read the February 14th details by going to this article: <https://swwededucation.org/washougal-school-district-feb-2023-levys/>

Nothing has changed. This is a "replacement levy" in that it's a new 3 year replacing the old 3 year. This time they ask for \$31,500,000 vs the old levy of \$24,000,000. Simple math says that this "replacement levy" is an increase of \$7,500,000 = a 31.25% increase. Inflation is dramatically higher but not 31%! Have your earnings gone up 31%?

Your new property tax statements should be in your hands now. Did your property taxes increase and how much? Washougal's test scores are poor. The amount spent per student (without these increases) in the past 10 years has doubled with what results? Visit: <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100286> While we all love our children and want the best for them your pockets are only so deep. If you need to live within a budget why don't they? The student headcount is falling (down 6.1% in the last 3 years) as more people remove their children from public schools.

There is another "levy" on your ballot which asks for another \$9,050,000 on top of this \$31,500,000 for a total in excess of \$40,000,000. Until the money stops flowing nothing will change. If you want to be heard you must vote no!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Lets get the facts straight: This is a *tax increase of \$7,500,000 (31.25%)* which will increase mortgage payments and rent. This money goes mostly to teachers and not maintenance. Student population is down over 6%. 62.7% are failing math! 46.7% are failing English language. Only 61.2% of students regularly attend school! If you love kids hold the district accountable and vote no! More money is *not* the answer. The sky will not fall.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Richard Rylander

swwededucation@gmail.com

You must sign and date your return envelope in order for your ballot to be counted!

- Sign in the signature box that has YOUR name printed on the envelope.
- If you registered to vote online, or when you obtained your driver's license, the signature on your driver's license is the signature in your voter registration record.
- If you are unsure about the signature in your voter registration record, we encourage you to call the Elections Office at 564-397-2345. We can provide a description of the signature you used when you registered to vote.
- Do NOT sign someone else's name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else fill out and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters can call us at 564-397-2345 to learn about the options for voting while they are out of town.
- Drop boxes are available if you don't want your ballot or signature to go through the mail.

Registering to vote

Registering takes only a few minutes, and you may do it by mail or online at VoteWA.gov.

A Washington driver's license or ID is required to register online. You may also complete a new voter registration form. Contact the Elections Office by mail, email, or phone for more information.

The deadline to receive new voter registrations and voter updates to existing registrations online, by phone or by mail is 5 pm Monday, April 17, 2023.

Lost or damaged ballot?

If you lose your ballot, or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the Elections Office.

Clark County Elections Office

Phone 564-397-2345

Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

Street address 1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Speech-to-speech Relay 711 or 877-833-6341

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Clark County Elections Office

Phone 564-397-2345

Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Speech-to-speech Relay

711 or 877-833-6341

Woodland School District No. 404

Proposition No. 1

Replacement School Support Levy for Educational Programs and Operations

The Board of Directors of Woodland School District No. 404 adopted Resolution No. 23-01 concerning the replacement of an expiring school support levy. This proposition provides funding for educational programs and operations not funded by the State. If approved, Proposition 1 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, all as provided in Resolution No. 23-01:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2024	\$1.91	\$5,900,000
2025	\$1.91	\$6,250,000
2026	\$1.91	\$6,625,000

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 \$5,900,000 for collection in 2024, \$6,250,000 for collection in 2025, and \$6,625,000 for collection in 2026. In accordance with Resolution No. 23-01 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 improvements and maintenance, learning technology, arts and athletics, and specialized educational programs.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$1.91 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2024, 2025 and 2026. These estimated rates are lower than the tax rates of the expiring levy.

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 Cowlitz County Assessor at (360) 577-3010 or the Clark County Assessor at (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Vote Yes for Woodland's children!

Renewing Woodland Public Schools' Educational Programs and Operations Levy is critical for the quality of education our children receive in Woodland's schools.

The levy is not a new tax.

This levy renews the existing levy expiring in 2023. Without the levy, the district must cut \$3,000,000 from next year's budget followed by additional cuts the following year. The district must make drastic cuts to technology, security improvements, facilities maintenance, athletics, extracurricular clubs, specialized courses, and more.

Such cuts will increase class sizes, decrease learning opportunities, and leave our kids unprepared for the next steps after graduation. Not replacing the levy will profoundly negatively affect the educational experience our children receive.

Levy taxes will be lower in 2024.

To address these difficult economic times, the Board of Directors lowered the taxes the levy will collect in 2024, reducing the taxpayer's burden by nearly 9%. While the amount collected will increase in 2025 and 2026 to address growth in the Woodland community, the tax rate is expected to remain at \$1.91 per thousand of assessed value for all three years.

Vote yes for our kids' futures

Woodland Public Schools' mission is to prepare students for careers, life, and college. A yes vote shows you support this mission. Without the levy, our kids will not have the educational opportunities they deserve. Thank you for your approving Woodland Schools' current EP&O levy and for your yes vote for renewal. For the most accurate information, visit woodlandschools.org/levy

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

This levy is not new. It renews the expiring levy at a lower rate. It provides what our kids need that the state doesn't fund.

Without it, kids will have outdated technology, less college/career preparation, larger class sizes, no field trips, fewer athletics and extracurriculars, less security, and other cuts.

No family wants to live somewhere without good schools. No businesses want to operate there.

Vote yes for kids. Vote yes for Woodland's future.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

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STATEMENT AGAINST

Woodland School District is running a special election, a second request for a three year "excess tax" levy to collect a total of \$18,775,000 from property owners in the Woodland School District. The voters already said *no* by a wide margin, and that was no surprise. This levy amount is 8.8% higher than the previous levy. This election will cost the taxpayers approximately \$60,000, in addition to the \$30,000 expense for the February failed levy.

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. It is equally concerning that student standard outcomes are poor. Woodland ranks #231 in Washington state high schools. Only 50.85% of students meet the English Language Arts standard, 34.7% meet the Math standard, and 45.1% meet the Science standard. These competency numbers are disturbing.

The cost per student is \$16,547, which is 5.4% *higher* than the State average. We are investing *more* money than average in our students, but students are *lower* than the state averages in academics. Clearly, more money is not the answer. These facts are a compelling *no* vote on your ballot.

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

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

It's not hard. Vote with a clear conscience. January 2012, the Washington State Supreme Court ordered the state to *fully fund* K-12 public schools as required by Article IX of the Washington State Constitution. (McCleary Decision) This levy asks for "excess taxes" beyond the state's full funding. The district needs to make responsible budget cuts without threatening to drastically eliminate programs that would negatively affect the educational experience of students. Vote responsibly. Vote no.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

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