

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:
clark.wa.gov/elections/february-14-2023-special-election

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February 14, 2023 Special Election
City of Vancouver Edition



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Proposition No. 3

Affordable Housing Levy Replacement

The City of Vancouver Council adopted Resolution No. M-4188 concerning the replacement of an expiring affordable housing property tax levy. This proposition would replace an expiring property tax levy and fund housing and housing services for people with low and very low incomes, including those with disabilities, veterans, seniors, and families with children, by authorizing a regular property tax levy generating \$10,000,000 annually (approximately \$0.30/\$1,000 assessed value) for ten years, beginning in 2024, pursuant to RCW 84.52.105. All levy proceeds would be used for affordable housing purposes pursuant to an administrative and financial plan adopted by City Council.

Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Washington State law, RCW 84.52.105, authorizes cities to impose a regular property tax levy to fund affordable housing for low and very low-income households when authorized to do so by a majority of voters. If approved, this proposition would authorize a regular property tax levy of \$10,000,000 annually for ten years to fund affordable housing and housing services for low and very low-income households. A low-income household is one whose income is at or below 80% of the median income, a very low-income household is one whose income is at or below 50% of the median income.

STATEMENT FOR

Vote Yes to Address Vancouver’s Affordable Housing Crisis
All Vancouver adults and children should live in safe, affordable homes. Over the last six years the Affordable Housing Levy, as approved by voters, has built and preserved over 1,000 homes for our most vulnerable neighbors and provided rental assistance to more than 1,600 households preventing their homelessness.

There is more work to do; especially for the 24,000 families struggling financially in Vancouver and unable to make ends meet, seniors on fixed incomes, people with disabilities, and hardworking families on the verge of losing their homes. *Without a yes vote, the levy will expire.*

Let’s continue our momentum. We can become a community where seniors and people with disabilities live independently. Where hardworking families can afford housing and still have enough money for things like groceries and childcare.

Replacement Levy, How It Works

The City will grant revenue from this 10-year levy (capped at \$10 million per year) through a competitive process to nonprofits and developers. Grants will be used to build and preserve housing that’s affordable to people making less than half of our community’s average income. Nonprofits can apply for rental assistance grants to help our most vulnerable neighbors. A replacement levy will help over 2,500 families afford housing, 150 low-income households with home ownership, and support 550 shelter beds, while only costing the average homeowner approximately \$60 more a year or \$5 per month. Let’s Bring Vancouver Home: Vote Yes on Proposition 3!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

This renewal levy is necessary and highly effective in addressing our city’s affordable housing crisis. It is our single most powerful tool to make residency in Vancouver affordable for our most vulnerable residents; low income families, seniors, and people with disabilities. For every levy dollar invested, we received \$8 additional dollars in funding from state, federal, and other sources. That’s an 800% return on investment! Vote Yes for a proven affordable housing solution!

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against

Submitted by:

Alishia Topper
Sarah Fox
Kim Harless
BringVancouverHome.com
BringVancouverHome@gmail.com

STATEMENT AGAINST

Proposition 3, Affordable Housing Fund property tax levy replacement, should be rejected because an increase from an 18 cent rate over 7 years (2017-2023) to a rate of 30 cents for 10 years commencing in 2024 is unnecessary and counterproductive. That’s a whopping 66 percent increase imposed upon taxpayers! City of Vancouver government ought to be pursuing policies and programs that make residency in Vancouver affordable instead of policies and programs that aggravate affordability in this fine city.

Quoting from the city website:

‘The City of Vancouver recognizes the importance of housing to fostering a healthy and livable community.’ RCW 84.52.105 is the prescribing statute and basis for affordable housing levy funding. The city government is required to declare an existence of an emergency with respect to availability of affordable housing.

New sprawling city programs and policies are exacerbating expenses, costs, and taxation upon our tax paying residents. The city ought to eliminate such programs and policies that result in more taxation and spending. Reducing the bloating local government is the solution not higher taxation. What is the city government doing to mitigate root causes of the perceived emergency, the affordable housing crisis? Where is the commitment by the Council in Resolution No. M-4188 expressed to eradicate an affordable housing problem?

This tax Increase will create additional risks for more people to become homeless as all these property taxes are passed down to only homeowners and renters not city owned or government abated private developments. Reject the unwarranted levy increase.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Seven years ago the Affordable Housing levy passed. Homelessness and affordability are worse! This new levy expands upon that same failed approach with even higher taxes over longer periods. The city has continued giving tax breaks to rich big developers. If this passes fixed income households will pay higher taxes. Let’s try a new approach. Stop treating the symptoms and address the root causes of the high costs of housing, Vote No, reject added taxes!

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For

Submitted by:

Sandra McKim
Kris Michael
Ed Walawender
SWFRWboard@gmail.com

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Vancouver School District

No. 37

Proposition No. 6

Replacement Levy for Maintenance and Operations

The Board of Directors of Vancouver School District No. 37 passed Resolution No. 893 concerning this proposition to maintain current educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to continue funding students' educational needs and school operations by levying the following excess taxes to replace the existing levy on all taxable property within the District, for educational programs and daily operational expenses, including textbooks, classroom materials and staff:

Collection Year	Estimated Rate/ \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2024	\$1.99	\$61,661,200
2025	\$1.99	\$65,308,600
2026	\$1.99	\$69,985,300
2027	\$1.99	\$74,988,200

Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Passage of Proposition No. 6 authorizes the District to renew an expiring levy for education programs and operations by levying \$61,661,200 for collection in 2024, \$65,308,600 for collection in 2025, \$69,985,000 for collection in 2026, and \$74,988,200 for collection in 2027. The taxes would be used to pay for the District's eligible expenses that are not funded by the state, including but not limited to staff salaries, textbooks and classroom materials. If approved, such property taxes would be levied at a rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2024, 2025, 2026, and 2027.

STATEMENT FOR

Let's maintain the level of teachers, programs, and services for students of Vancouver Public Schools, investing in our children's future and our community. If approved by voters, the proposed four-year levy would renew the existing education and operations levies set to expire in December 2023.

The state does not provide 100% of the funding needed for K-12 education. Local levy dollars make up 12.5% of the VPS budget and are necessary to bridge the gap between state funds and the total cost of delivering quality education.

The proposed education and operations levy would maintain both basic education and special education services, including a significant number of levy-funded teachers, counselors, nurses, and safety support staff. Levy funding would also preserve programs like Family-Community Resource Centers and extracurricular activities such as sports, band, and orchestra. All schools in the district would benefit.

The estimated rate of the proposed levy is \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, below the state's maximum allowable tax rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For more information, please visit vansd.org/levy. Healthy schools and students are the keys to a strong and prosperous community. Please vote yes!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Vote yes. Students deserve more support, not less. Learning loss and mental health are nationwide issues after COVID. State-required programs won't go away by voting 'no', but it will cause school sports, art, counseling and nurses to be reduced or eliminated. Costs for upkeep, transportation and food have increased, yet this levy rate of \$1.99 is lower than the allowable rate of \$2.50. Vote yes, support our children. Check out the facts at vansd.org/budget

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Jennifer Rhoads
Chair of the Citizens Committee for Good Schools
jenrhoads@msn.com
cgsvancouver.com
John McDonagh
Allison Pauletto

STATEMENT AGAINST

We love our kids and teachers. We've approved every funding request...until now. We have 250 words to convince you to *Vote No* on the new Enrichment Levy. It's time to say *No* so the district and school board will make changes and educate children.

The last levy 2020-2023 was \$147.7 million *Plus* a 6-year Tech levy of \$48.8 million. This time they ask for a new 4 year levy totaling \$271,943,300. That is an *Increase* of \$124,243,300 which is 84.12% higher. Inflation, at a 15% rate the last two years, is the highest in 40 years. They are asking for 5.6 times *More*?

Test scores show 57.7% *Failing* English Language; 70.6% *Failing* Math; 60.3% *Failing* science. 2015 we spent \$12,500/student. 2020-2021 was about \$19,700/student. About 52% of property taxes already go to schools. In the past decade, average spending per student has doubled.

Vancouver Schools are dismantling the Highly Capable Program because it's not equitable. This means kids who were doing Algebra in 6th grade are now doing basic multiplication in 7th and given 'packets' to do on their own if they want challenging work. What's wrong? We spend money on Comprehensive Sex Ed; Critical Race Theory; Common Core; Gender and Social Emotional programs at the expense of basic (core) education. We have enough money if we just use it to teach! *Say No* to this outrageous money grab is the only way to send a message. Hold the School District accountable, *Vote No!*

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

VPS tries to focus you on the levy being a renewal, instead of the fact it's a new levy of almost \$272 million (vs \$147 million in the last levy), an increase of \$124 million! Is that a renewal? Student population is falling. Test scores are in the toilet. Student spending has doubled in 10 years, for what? More money solves nothing. The only solution is to stop the excessive spending!

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Rachel Bosell
Erik Fritz
Kathy Karr
360-921-8300
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Proposition No. 11

Replacement Capital Levy for Educational Technology, Health and Safety Improvements

The Board of Directors of Washougal School District No. 112-6 adopted Resolution No. 2022-23-04, 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. 2022-23-04. 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 <http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/>. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call your county assessor for more information.

STATEMENT FOR

Powerful learning for the future
Modern learning requires up-to-date technology. The replacement Capital levy provides a stable and consistent set of funding. This funding provides support and security for the technology, too. All of this lets teachers and students focus on learning instead of worrying about unreliable or outdated technology getting in the way.

Maintain our great schools

In 2025, as school bond payments begin to drop off, the Capital levy will increase by the same amount. A yes vote funds maintaining our great schools and ensures students and teachers have safe, warm, and welcoming places to learn together. The Capital levy will replace the 25 year old roof at WHS, heating systems at several schools, and modernize the control systems to ensure our schools are heated and cooled in an energy-efficient way. These necessary projects will keep our oldest schools in great shape to support learning, making the most out of our investment.

Safe and Welcoming Schools

The Capital levy will also fund important safety work at schools, bringing all of our schools into the same security system. This will enhance the ability of school staff to respond to emergencies quickly, and keep our students, staff, and visitors safe. The levy will also add ADA door operators at main entrances, so moms with strollers and folks using a wheelchair or walker can access our schools easily.

Please join me in voting yes!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Washougal has invested in great school facilities through construction and remodeling, and the Capital Levy funds important projects to protect those investments. This replacement capital levy increases as the bond payments start to fall off, meaning a yes vote won't increase taxes. The capital levy is a prudent investment in school safety improvements, roof and boiler replacements, and will make sure our school buildings last to serve another generation of students.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Rene Carroll
washougal4schools.org
Washougal Citizens for Schools

STATEMENT AGAINST

Did you notice there are two (2) levies asking for your money? This one asks for \$9,050,000 for Tech on *Top* of the EP&O Levy of \$31,500,000. That's right. We're here to share facts and data that may lead you to voting *No!* They will tell you "this is for the kids" and that if you vote no it will hurt the kids. Fiscal responsibility is a teachable skill.

This is an extension of the existing Tech levy. Last time they got \$2,613,000. This extension for another 3 years asks for \$9,050,000 which is an increase of \$6,437,000 = a 246.3% increase! The inflation rate for the past 2 years has been 15%. How can they justify such an increase? The EP&O Levy on this ballot has an increase of \$7.5 million or 31.25%.

Has your income increased by 246% in the last 2 years? Test scores are in the trash can. Are you an endless well of money? Gasoline prices are at historic highs. A new carbon gas tax goes into effect in 2023 and adds another \$0.46/gallon. Utility rates are up 15-20%. Grocery prices are through the roof.

The school district needs to feel the same pain we do. They must find ways to do with less...just like us. We love the kids but we can't afford to increase our property taxes this much. Send a clear message. We are in this together. Demand they live within our means. Vote *No!*
www.swweduction.org

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

This Tech Levy is for \$9 million (a 246% increase!). There is the need to replace equipment but this is outrageous. Voting *No* tells them to come back a 2nd time and ask for a *Lot* less. This is \$6.4 million *More!* Saying no forces the district to sharpen their pencils and justify this egregious spending. You don't have limitless money to keep funding unreasonable spending. Protect the future of our children by voting no.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Dick Rylander
swweduction@gmail.com



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Washougal School District Edition



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Washougal School District No. 112-6

Proposition No. 10

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Washougal School District No. 112-6 adopted Resolution No. 2022-23-03, 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. 2022-23-03. 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 <http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/>. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call your county assessor for more information.

STATEMENT FOR

As a parent, volunteer, and longtime supporter of our Washougal Schools, I encourage everyone to vote yes for the replacement EP&O Levy. Washougal is a great community served by a caring staff who work hard every day to meet the needs of every student. While the state provides basic funding, our community expects more for our students. From excellent athletic programs to amazing drama productions, the work students and staff do every day is made possible by the levy. Our students deserve a well-rounded education with opportunities for the arts, band, choir, drama, world languages, athletics and so much more.

Vibrant Schools Benefit All of Us

Our community benefits from strong support for our schools. Students have taken an active role in helping make Washougal an amazing place to be, and they deserve our support. Students are active and involved in serving the community through faith groups, non-profits, and community service. Students who are active in clubs, activities, and athletic opportunities made possible by the levy make healthy, positive choices, and become contributing members of our community.

The levy provides nearly 18% of the resources our schools use to help every Washougal child graduate ready for their future. Students benefit from robust programs, small class sizes, and bright, well maintained schools. Levy dollars help make sure every teacher is well trained, well equipped, and ready to serve their students. Please join me in support of our schools by voting yes!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Hundreds of new homes being constructed in Washougal will add taxpayers contributing funding to our schools. Levy rates are projected to continue to decline as new people move in to our community, and are lower than what voters approved in 2020. Our schools are vital to the success of our community and our young people. Voting yes for the levy makes sure that every Washougal student has a pathway to success after graduation.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Rene Carroll
washougal4schools.org
Washougal Citizens for Schools

STATEMENT AGAINST

We support teachers. We support students. We also need to pay our own bills. We are experiencing 40 year high inflation which is devastating our pocketbooks. Gasoline prices at historic highs (2023 sees a new \$0.46/gallon carbon tax increase). Utility rates are through the roof! People are standing in food lines. Homelessness has never been higher. Wages are falling behind expenses. We would love to continue to support levies...but...we can't afford to.

In the last 3 years the district has lost 237 students (6.1% decline). Our test scores are terrible: 46.7% are failing English Language Arts; 62.7% are failing math and 52.9% are failing science. Our spending per student has climbed from \$12,600 to \$20,000 (58% increase) in the past 5 years. We spend more and we slip further behind.

The last 3 year levy totaled \$24 million. The new 3 year levy totals \$31,500,000 = an increase of \$7,500,000 or 31.25%! The inflation rate the last 2 years is 15% so they are asking for 2x the inflation rate. Has your income gone up 30% in the last 2 years?

Rather than teaching "equity" and CRT and CSE and gender identity the district should focus on improving test scores and using the existing money for basic education and proficiency. Perhaps the district should learn to live within a budget like we do. There will never be enough money. We just need to demand they spend it on core education. Vote *No* to force change. www.swweducation.org

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The district gets more money than ever before from the state school taxes. Spending per student has over doubled in the last 10 years. Yet, they ask for more and more. Every support service they mention can be offered under the existing state funding. Why do they think the new levy needs to go up 31.25%? If they had asked for something reasonable maybe but this makes no sense! Make them ask for far less.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Dick Rylander
swweducation@gmail.com

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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. 22-10 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. 22-10:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2024	\$2.05	\$5,900,000
2025	\$2.05	\$6,250,000
2026	\$2.05	\$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. 22-10 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 \$2.05 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!

Renewal of Woodland Public Schools' Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy is essential to maintain critical educational and extracurricular activities in Woodland's schools.

Your levy dollars are vital to Woodland's schools

The District's expiring levy provided essential support to reduce class sizes, diversify course offerings, support special education programs, and provide enhanced technology for all students. The levy funds improved security and safety district-wide and supported the maintenance and care for school facilities. The levy provides students with extracurricular opportunities in arts and athletics.

Renewal of the levy ensures the continued support of enriched career and technical education, STEM, and programs to serve all kids. Your continued support allows the district to maintain the current level of service for students. The School Board understands the economic challenges facing families, so this request lowers the estimated tax rate below what voters are currently assessed. The estimated levy rate of \$2.05 per thousand of assessed property value will be collected in 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Vote yes for our kids' futures

Woodland Public Schools' mission is to prepare students for careers, life, and college. This is accomplished by producing lifelong learners leading productive, healthy, and responsible lives. A yes vote shows you support this mission. Vote yes for renewal of Woodland Public Schools' replacement levy on February 14th. 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

The State does not fully fund its schools. Levies are required to maintain quality schools. Without a levy, Woodland's students will suffer as programs and services are cut. Levies aren't "wish lists," they're necessary for quality schools. They are necessary for helping students recover lost learning from the pandemic.

Woodland's per-student costs are similar to neighboring districts when accounting for KWRL is considered.

Inflation affects families. The board is asking for a lower rate.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

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STATEMENT AGAINST

We support teachers. We support students. We also are personally responsible for paying our own bills. Woodland School District is requesting a tax levy, which unlike a bond, is not a capital investment, but is an "excess tax" for supplemental extras, beyond the State provided funding. If money were no object, it would be much easier to provide the wish-list requested.

We are experiencing a 40-year inflation high which is felt at the gas pump, grocery store, rent/property taxes and in Woodland's recent and continuing utility rate hikes. Wages are falling behind expenses. Most of us would love to continue supporting levies, but under the prevailing circumstances, many taxpayers of the district simply cannot afford to.

In the last 3 years the Woodland School District has lost approximately 165 students. Woodland test scores? 49.2% are failing English Language Arts; 65.3% are failing math and 54.9% are failing science. The math scores are 3% lower than the State average, but the cost per student is 5.4% higher at \$16,547 per student vs. the \$15,699 State average. Neighboring districts all have lower per-student costs. Many School Districts have spent their resources on teaching "equity", CRT, CSE and gender identity. It's time to focus on improving core subject test scores and using the existing money for basic education and proficiency.

Just as inflation is forcing taxpayers to cut costs, the district needs to do the same, and operate within the already allotted funding. Give this levy a no vote.

Sources:

washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/100302
schooldataproject.com/districts.html
swweducation.org/category/levys

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The estimated assessed tax rate is meaningless. If your property value goes up the rate drops. The essence is the actual amount of money they are asking for. The district student population is dropping. Test scores have dropped. They are asking for \$1.5 million more than last time. The question is whether you can afford to pay more given the downward trends. Does your belt tighten while the district lets out a notch?

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

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