

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Green Mountain School District



STAY INFORMED

www.clarkvotes.org • 564-397-2345

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:

*[clark.wa.gov/elections/
february-8-2022-special-election-0](http://clark.wa.gov/elections/february-8-2022-special-election-0)*

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 signature to go through the mail.



Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

Green Mountain School District No. 103

Proposition No. 3

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Green Mountain School District No. 103 adopted Resolution No. 2021-09, 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
2023	\$1.99	\$419,920
2024	\$1.99	\$432,298

all as provided in Resolution No. 2021-09. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy...Yes Levy...No

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, instructional materials, special education, technology, essential teachers and staff, and transportation. The proposed replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes of \$419,920 in 2023 and \$432,298 in 2024. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Dear Voter:

The gem of North Clark County; Green Mountain School (GMS) needs your continued support to keep our unique, rural, high performing school operational. This proposed levy would replace the existing levy that expires at the end of the 2022. Voting yes for this maintenance and operations levy will allow our school district to continue to provide the excellent educational programs our students currently enjoy.

Washington State finances a portion of the revenue needed, but does not fund the level of staffing and programs our families have come to expect from our school. GMS provides our students with access to smaller class sizes and more support staff than funding from the state allows for small schools. Currently, a principal and part-time superintendent are needed to keep our school viable. State funding allocations provide 30% of these administrative costs. This levy will also pay for normal operational expenses including maintenance staff, transportation, and food service staff. Each hard-working staff member provides valuable educational experiences for our kids!

We the community, can be very proud of our district for providing students the best K-8 education in Clark County. GMS has achieved the Washington School of Distinction award many times while maintaining a low overall tax rate in comparison with other school districts in Clark County. Green Mountain School leaders have a long, consistent history of stretching our tax dollars to maintain a high-quality program for our students.

Submitted by:

Dawn Shinn
larrydawnshinn@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Green Mountain School is not participating in the public-school establishment. Washington State funding is supposed to provide basic education. The legislature and the teacher's union have lobbied to provide funding at a higher level for larger school districts. Rural districts were short changed. Many would like to see small school districts with greater community control disappear. Green Mountain School District is not increasing funding by 140%. Please research to find actual costs and expenditures.

STATEMENT AGAINST

Green Mountain School District is a small school district with just 153 students enrolled. It spends an average of \$14,440 per student. Of this amount, just \$1,167 was funded through local levies such as this one. However, this new levy authorizes spending of almost \$2,800(!) per student. That's an increase of 140% even as Green Mountain has seen a pandemic induced decline in enrollment. Don't be scared about voting No on this unaffordable levy. Voting No will not impact state funding which guarantees basic education for our children.

It's no coincidence that a school levy of this size is being snuck onto a special election in February - the lowest voter turnout month of the year. Yet all will pay these large property tax bills. This is indicative of the strategy used by the public school system establishment. The teachers' unions bankroll the politicians in Olympia who then funnel more of your dollars toward increasing salaries and administration. Yet more popular "elective" school programs such as technology, materials, and even some operating expenses go unfunded. Voters are then held hostage to fund these programs through a local levy such as this.

We have to break this cycle. Vote No. Then *demand* your representatives support the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program which empowers parents with a \$10,000 grant to direct toward education of their choice, whether through public schools, private schools, or home schooling. Until then, save your money and reject this levy.

Submitted by:

Dick Rylander
Tom Goldman
tbgoldman@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Unfortunately, it is simply not cost-effective to operate a tiny school district. The result is GMS with just 153 students requiring more money for additional administrative staffing. With the cost of living out of control, this is not fair to the taxpayer. Vote *No*. Green Mountain Schools will still provide quality classroom instruction via state funding. Administrative and non-essential spending is avoided. Taxpayers save in the process. Vote *No*.