

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Hockinson School District



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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.



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Hockinson School District No. 98

Proposition No. 8

School Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Hockinson School District No. 98 adopted Resolution No. 21-22-02, concerning a proposition to continue funding current school programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for school programs and operations expenses not funded by the State (including extracurricular activities, athletics, technology, advanced courses, music, nursing, transportation, special education and student safety):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$1.89	\$4,075,000
2024	\$1.89	\$4,300,000
2025	\$1.89	\$4,525,000
2026	\$1.89	\$4,775,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 21-22-02. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy...Yes Levy...No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Hockinson School District to replace an expiring school programs and operations levy. The taxes collected by this levy will continue funding current school programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including extracurricular activities, athletics, technology, advanced courses, music, theater, nursing, transportation, special education and student safety. Further information is available: <https://www.hocksd.org>. Taxes collected by the proposed levy, together with State levy equalization money that is contingent upon passage of the levy, will provide approximately 10% of the District's General Fund budget. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Hockinson is a community that is stronger together. The HSD is the district that families move to for the best schools in Clark County; let's continue that tradition of excellence. The HSD Replacement Levy ensures our students will receive the quality education, extracurricular opportunities and services that define our community.

State and federal funds do not fully offset the costs associated with school services for students, such as counselors, nurses, recess aides, coaches, and custodians. Passing this levy provides for smaller class sizes, building maintenance, security, and transportation. Levy funds continue support for special education, social emotional learning, technology, advanced courses, and learning support programs. Additionally, extracurricular activities have a strong correlation with student engagement and academic success. Supporting this levy will provide access to music, athletics, theater, and a wide range of clubs and activities for our students. If this levy fails, many programs will be cut and our students won't have the same opportunities as others who came before them.

At \$1.89/\$1,000 assessed value this 4-year replacement levy fills gaps while maintaining the second-lowest levy rate in Clark County. The HSD Board remained fiscally responsible to their promise of not raising your levied dollars even though they're authorized to take more.

Voting Yes isn't about anything else except providing our students what they deserve. Students need more than the bare minimum; they need our support to thrive with a high-quality education that prepares for a lifetime of success. Vote Yes! For information visit forhockschools.com.

Submitted by:

Brian Hebert

Ambra Peters

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REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

HSD is more than fiscally responsible; it's reduced its programs and personnel three consecutive years. In 2019-20, Hockinson collected the second-lowest funding per student in Clark County and spent \$1,350 /student less than average. Hockinson has shown it can accomplish great things with less. Voting "Yes" is critical to continuing essential services and experiences for our students. The statement against contains inaccuracies. Visit www.forhockschools.com/rebuttal for additional facts about this levy.

STATEMENT AGAINST

Even if you support schools, there are good reasons to reject this 17 million dollar school levy. You should vote *No* until the District proves it is financially responsible. District decisions have been questionable. For example, the 2018 teacher's strike resulted in 25% increases in pay. The Board also set aside more than a million dollars, the union took it. Do you really believe the new Board will resist union demands? There's more. The Covid related Esser fund money is unaccounted for. The Superintendent thinks the District should consider providing food and shelter to students. All of this in the face of uninspiring test scores. Finally, there is no guarantee the District will fund the identified programs you are voting for. Under Washington law the Board can set a different course after the vote.

Voting "yes" lets the State evade its Constitutional obligation to fund schools. Because the State pays on a monthly basis per student, when students leave, the District loses money. Fixed costs for "basic education" remain and State money won't be enough. But your taxes won't decline. You pay based on property value, not on the number of students. What do you expect happens to athletics, band, art, and school nurse when State "basic education" money stops?

You have a right to have your money spent wisely. In an election the action should match the sales pitch. Will it? Moreover, what kind of District holds the band and school nurse hostage? One that deserves a *No* vote.

Submitted by:

Richard Rylander

Bill Eling

Tom Goldman

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REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The district endorses all the State Superintendent's pronouncements and mandates except one: The money needed to fund a "basic education." Furthermore, instead of seeking a one or two year levy, Hockinson seeks a massive four year levy, leaving the District unaccountable to voters for four full years. If approved, your taxes will be spent however the Board, a Board under the spell of the Unions and Superintendent, decides to spend it. Retain Accountability. Vote *No*.