

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Ridgefield 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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Ridgefield School District No. 122

Proposition No. 7

General Obligation Bonds – \$62,565,000

The Board of Directors of Ridgefield School District No. 122 approved Resolution No. 2021-2022-003 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to construct and equip a new elementary school and 8-plex classroom building at the new school site, and a new vocational and general education building at Ridgefield High School, by issuing \$62,565,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years; and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 2021-2022-003.

Should this proposition be approved?

Approved Rejected

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Proposition No. 7 authorizes the District to issue up to \$62,565,000 of general obligation bonds to construct and equip a new K-4 elementary school, which will initially open as a K-6 school, an 8-plex classroom building at the new elementary school site, and an approximately 18,000 square foot vocational/general education building at Ridgefield High. The District expects to receive approximately \$9,700,000 in State matching funds for the projects. If approved, the District would be authorized to levy property taxes annually to repay the bonds.

STATEMENT FOR

“An investment in education always pays the highest returns.” This quote by Benjamin Franklin could not be more fitting for this moment in our community. We have the opportunity right now to make an investment for the prosperous future of Ridgefield.

Ridgefield prides itself on our strong community and education system and we as parents have experienced first hand the level of care, expertise, and knowledge the RSD pours into their staff and students. All children are challenged academically, safe, supported, and loved everyday they walk through the doors of all Ridgefield schools.

Anyone who drives by the schools during drop off or pick up will see the multiple buses and long car lines. It is obvious that our schools are quickly being outgrown and with good reason - our population has seen a 116% increase over the last 10 yrs. We all want to be a part of a thriving community. We all want our children to receive the best education possible and Ridgefield is known for both. However, we cannot keep the same standards of community and education if we do not invest in our future! The median projected costs per year is \$140.50 per household or \$11.71 per month. \$11.71 per month to provide much needed space and exciting, new educational opportunities for kids at all levels.

Our households are more than willing to vote yes and support the future of our schools and community. Make the investment, and we will yield high returns.

Submitted by:

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REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Unlike nearby districts, Ridgefield continues being one of the fastest growing. K-4 enrollment grew by approximately 100 students within the last year. Our elementary schools are over capacity by a combined 200 students and climbing. Numbers show RSD spent \$13,458 per-pupil last year, the lowest per-pupil spending of all County districts. This Bond is a desperate *need* for Ridgefield and its continued growth. We encourage our community to vote yes for Ridgefield Schools.

STATEMENT AGAINST

We all want the very best for our children. Ridgefield has been focused on replacing school facilities claiming the need based on future potential for student headcount projections. Those projections have been wildly high and incorrect. Ridgefield has a history of asking for more and more money: Ridgefield Capital Bond – Feb 2020 (swwededucation.org) How many of us can afford a new car when we could spend a lot less and refurbish the one we have? Nice to have or need to have? If this bond is approved it will add over \$62 million in debt. Voters have rejected past bonds because they didn't see the value.

The district has over \$850,000 in ESSER funds (Covid) but where are they using them? They currently spend over \$21,000 per year per student (2x what it was a decade ago) which is the highest in Southwest Washington. Inflation is at the highest rate in 30 years. Wages are not keeping up with costs. Fixed income people are being forced out of their homes due to tax increases. What about the new capital gains tax? The new payroll tax? Higher property taxes?

Can they work with what they have? Should the focus be first and foremost on education rather than shiny new buildings? School enrollment is flat to falling in many districts. The issue may be less about the goals and more about the cost of implementing them. It's fiscally responsible to say *No*. Send a message that they must listen to you!

Submitted by:

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REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The well is dry. You approved bonds and then they came back for more and you said no. When will they accept your choice? They cite the growth in new housing but they don't tell you the number of students is flat to falling. Inflation at 30 year highs. Gas approaching \$4 a gallon. Wages stagnate. Property taxes through the roof. The real question is this a need to have or a nice to have?