

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 14, 2023 Special Election
Woodland School District Edition



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Clark County Auditor's Office

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

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, February 6, 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

Relay 7-1-1 or 877-833-6341

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

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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Tammy Graham

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
swweduction.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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Darcy Billingsley

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