

Clark County Official Local

# Voters' Pamphlet

**April 25, 2023 Special Election**  
Woodland School District Edition



## STAY INFORMED

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Published by the  
Clark County Auditor's Office

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, April 17, 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

### Mailing address

PO Box 8815  
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

### Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

### Speech-to-speech Relay

711 or 877-833-6341

# 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. 23-01 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. 23-01:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2024	\$1.91	\$5,900,000
2025	\$1.91	\$6,250,000
2026	\$1.91	\$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. 23-01 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 \$1.91 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!*

Renewing Woodland Public Schools' Educational Programs and Operations Levy is critical for the quality of education our children receive in Woodland's schools.

*The levy is not a new tax.*

This levy renews the existing levy expiring in 2023. Without the levy, the district must cut \$3,000,000 from next year's budget followed by additional cuts the following year. The district must make drastic cuts to technology, security improvements, facilities maintenance, athletics, extracurricular clubs, specialized courses, and more.

Such cuts will increase class sizes, decrease learning opportunities, and leave our kids unprepared for the next steps after graduation. Not replacing the levy will profoundly negatively affect the educational experience our children receive.

*Levy taxes will be lower in 2024.*

To address these difficult economic times, the Board of Directors lowered the taxes the levy will collect in 2024, reducing the taxpayer's burden by nearly 9%. While the amount collected will increase in 2025 and 2026 to address growth in the Woodland community, the tax rate is expected to remain at \$1.91 per thousand of assessed value for all three years.

*Vote yes for our kids' futures*

Woodland Public Schools' mission is to prepare students for careers, life, and college. A yes vote shows you support this mission. Without the levy, our kids will not have the educational opportunities they deserve. 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](http://woodlandschools.org/levy)

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

This levy is not new. It renews the expiring levy at a lower rate. It provides what our kids need that the state doesn't fund.

Without it, kids will have outdated technology, less college/career preparation, larger class sizes, no field trips, fewer athletics and extracurriculars, less security, and other cuts.

No family wants to live somewhere without good schools. No businesses want to operate there.

Vote yes for kids. Vote yes for Woodland's future.

#### Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

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#### STATEMENT AGAINST

Woodland School District is running a special election, a second request for a three year "excess tax" levy to collect a total of \$18,775,000 from property owners in the Woodland School District. The voters already said *no* by a wide margin, and that was no surprise. This levy amount is 8.8% higher than the previous levy. This election will cost the taxpayers approximately \$60,000, in addition to the \$30,000 expense for the February failed levy.

We are experiencing a 40-year inflation high which is felt at the grocery store, gas pump, rent increases, property taxes and water and sewer rate hikes. Under the prevailing circumstances, many taxpayers of the district are feeling financial pressures like never before. It is not just a matter of the pocketbook. It is equally concerning that student standard outcomes are poor. Woodland ranks #231 in Washington state high schools. Only 50.85% of students meet the English Language Arts standard, 34.7% meet the Math standard, and 45.1% meet the Science standard. These competency numbers are disturbing.

The cost per student is \$16,547, which is 5.4% *higher* than the State average. We are investing *more* money than average in our students, but students are *lower* than the state averages in academics. Clearly, more money is not the answer. These facts are a compelling *no* vote on your ballot.

In closing, Woodland Public Schools removed the comment feature from their social media during the election, limiting the voice of the taxpayers. Your vote is your voice.

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

It's not hard. Vote with a clear conscience. January 2012, the Washington State Supreme Court ordered the state to *fully fund* K-12 public schools as required by Article IX of the Washington State Constitution. (McCleary Decision) This levy asks for "excess taxes" beyond the state's full funding. The district needs to make responsible budget cuts without threatening to drastically eliminate programs that would negatively affect the educational experience of students. Vote responsibly. Vote no.

#### Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

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**For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:** [clark.wa.gov/elections/april-25-2023-special-election](http://clark.wa.gov/elections/april-25-2023-special-election)

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