

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.
- Sign up to receive text messages regarding your ballot status. Text the word VOTE to 868392 (VoteWA).

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 5, 2024.

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

Relay 711 or 800-833-6341

Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

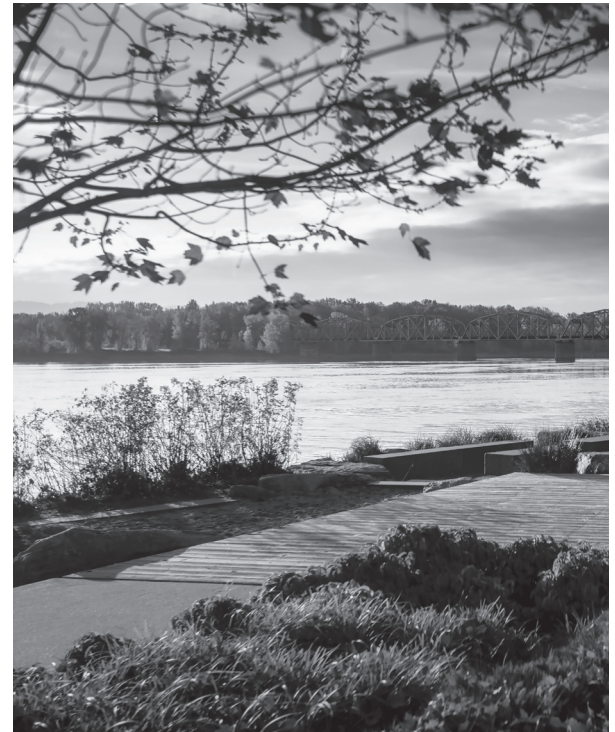
Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 13, 2024 Special Election
Woodland School District Edition



STAY INFORMED

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Woodland School District

No. 404

Proposition No. 1

School Support Levy for Educational Programs and Operations

The Board of Directors of Woodland School District No. 404 adopted Resolution No. 23.08, concerning a proposition supporting educational programs not funded by the State. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing a levy that expired in 2023, upon all taxable property within the District, ensuring the continuation of programs such as advanced placement classes, music, art, drama, school safety, technology, nursing, athletic programming, financial literacy, facility maintenance, counseling and support staff:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.20	\$7,050,000
2026	\$2.20	\$7,400,000
2027	\$2.20	\$7,775,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 23.08. 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 \$7,050,000 for collection in 2025, \$7,400,000 for collection in 2026, and \$7,775,000 for collection in 2027. In accordance with Resolution No. 23-08 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 maintenance, technology, athletics, and specialized educational programs.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$2.20 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2025, 2026 and 2027.

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 Clark County Assessor at (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Why a yes vote is about so much more than tax dollars!

Voting yes for the Woodland Public Schools' Educational Programs and Operations Levy is critical for the quality of education our children receive in Woodland's schools, as well as the future of Woodland's community.

Because schools matter to homeowners and community health

99% of students in Washington state benefit from local levy dollars, including every district in Cowlitz County. If we don't support our schools with funding they will cease to perform well in any capacity, resulting in a dramatic decline in people's desire to live here. What follows that? A decline in business, as well as an increase in drug use and criminal activity.

Because levies pay for what students need for success

Without a levy, Woodland had to cut \$3,000,000 from the 2023-24 budget and will have to cut even more next year. These cuts caused increased class sizes district-wide, limited access to new curriculum and technology, deferred security improvements, cut athletics and extracurricular clubs at both the middle school and the high school, specialized courses, and more!

Because the kids depend solely on and need us to make this happen!

The mission of your Woodland Schools is to prepare students for careers, life, and college. Without a levy, our kids will not have the educational opportunities they deserve. Thank you for your yes vote to bring back the levy support our great schools desperately need. For the most accurate information, visit woodlandschools.org/levy

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Communities that support *all* kids vote *yes* for levies. Woodland students deserve access to the same high quality educational programming as the other 99% students in the state. Without a *yes* vote we will lose more critical programs, support for kids will decrease, staff will burn out and leave, and student achievement will decline. Levy funds are necessary. Communities without levies fail their kids, and have failing economies. Less support does not produce better outcomes.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

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For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-13-2024-special-election
Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.

STATEMENT AGAINST

We are for the kids! Woodland School District is running a special election for a three year "excess tax" levy to collect a total of \$22,242,418 from property owners in the district. That is \$5 million *more* requested than the last levy, which equates to a 25.3% increase.

Last year voters said *no* to a new levy *twice*, and that was understandable. 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. In fact, it is more concerning that student standard outcomes are poor. Only 48.5% of students meet the English Language Arts standard, 35.7% meet the Math standard, and 50.6% meet the Science standard, according to the State Superintendent's official website. These competency numbers were not higher *with* a levy.

Clearly, more money is not the answer. Levy proponents tried to compel yes votes by threatening sports programs and facilities upkeep, but the community stepped up voluntarily and maintenance staff made efficiencies! Thank you District employees who recognize that our funds are not limitless. The last two failed levy elections cost the taxpayers approximately \$90,000. What will this current levy election cost?

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

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

People desire to live where taxes are lower. It makes for affordable housing.

Yes. It is about "more than tax dollars". It is about *how* they are spent!

Example: Each month our board approves unspecified expenses of \$150,000 - \$300,000. It is like giving a blank check to staff. Transparency of expenditures is essential! Taxpayers want to know the correlation between how their money is spent and the low-test scores.

See State data at LevyNo.com

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

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