

Proposition No. 11

General Obligation Bonds - \$120,000,000

The Board of Directors approved Resolution #2023-2024-001 concerning additional bonds for consideration only if Proposition #10 is approved. If Proposition #10 is approved by voters, approval of this Proposition #11 would authorize the District to construct a new intermediate/middle school campus and new wrestling and locker room additions and upgrades to Ridgefield High School; resurface the track and field and upgrade band room acoustics at Ridgefield High School; and update elementary school playgrounds by issuing an additional \$120,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years, and levying excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution #2023-2024-001.

Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

If approved, Proposition 11 would authorize the District to issue up to \$120,000,000 of general obligation bonds, and use these funds to construct a new intermediate/middle school campus and wrestling and locker room improvements at Ridgefield High; resurface the track and field and upgrade band room acoustics at Ridgefield High; and update elementary school playgrounds. The District also expects to receive approximately \$0 in State matching funds for these projects. The District would levy property taxes to repay the bonds. Approval of Proposition 11 would authorize the bonds and projects described above only if voters also approve Proposition 10.

STATEMENT FOR

Overcrowding is impacting every school in our district, with a 47% increase in student population since the last bond in 2017. The overcrowding in our intermediate and middle schools deprives students of crucial opportunities, like participating in sports due to limited team spaces. Gyms have been converted into makeshift classrooms, and students are forced to travel off-campus for classes, sacrificing precious learning time. This overcrowding not only jeopardizes safety but also undermines the quality of education for our students.

Ridgefield students need our help.

Building on the urgent projects addressed by Proposition 10, Proposition 11 will allow Ridgefield to move from playing catch-up to getting back on-track to meet the current facility needs of our students. Proposition 11 will provide additional classroom space and facilities for 5th through 8th graders with a new combined intermediate and middle school. Proposition 11 also includes projects at the high school like upgrading the band room, an addition for the wrestling room, and track maintenance. These projects provide opportunities for students to be involved in extracurricular activities, which contribute to greater academic success and character development.

The challenges facing our schools are not going away and the costs to address them will only increase as construction costs rise and existing buildings continue to deteriorate. This is about more than constructing buildings. We are uniting as a community to solve an important problem.

Now is the time to come together to address our overcrowded schools. Please vote "Yes" on both Proposition 10 and 11.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Proposition 11 isn't a frivolous request. Technical education and extracurricular activities are essential for the success of Ridgefield students. We're out of 5th-8th grade classroom space. Average growth at the intermediate/middle school has been 51 students/year, two full classrooms. By the time the new campus is built, children filling our elementary schools will be moving up. Now's the time to unite so students have the spaces needed to thrive. Visit www.citizensforridgefieldschools.com.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Zach Smith, Chair

Amy Watt

citizensforridgefieldschools.com

citizens4rs@gmail.com

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/april-23-2024-special-election

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

STATEMENT AGAINST

Go to www.swweducation.org for the full story. This bond is for \$120 million on top of the \$70 million request. They are splitting the bonds to give a false sense of choice. This plan says trust us, you don't need to know the details. They are asking for a new 5-8 school. Why? The one just built is less than 10% over its stated capacity of 1,157. Is the design so poor that 2 more kids per class is a problem? At the current growth rate of about 24 kids per year, it will take 36 years to reach capacity.

The high school has the greatest need for more classroom space based on their growth rate. Have you heard the plan there? We haven't. Instead of classrooms, they are asking for a wrestling room. Because they snuck one in at the 5-8 school?

There are safety issues with the playgrounds and band room. Why does it take a bond to fix those? It looks like money is going to luxury items instead of the core. This \$120 million will end up costing over \$190 million after interest over 21 years and over \$300 million for both propositions.

These bonds are outrageous and need to be sent back for complete restructuring. Property taxes will rise dramatically while school test scores are poor and graduation rates have declined. They play games by using preschool and distance learning to inflate student numbers to make a case for the money. Tell them enough!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

565 is the actual gap in capacity to current enrollment when removing early and online learning. Their growth projections are wildly off. School sports are not short. Facilities should not be built for community programs. The wrestling room is not being used for classes currently. Specialty rooms reduce class space and are underutilized. Time to get back to basics and use land and space efficiently. They have failed to do. See www.swweducation.org for more facts.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Heidi Pozzo, Chair

Jamie Keiser

Richard Rylander

swweducation.org

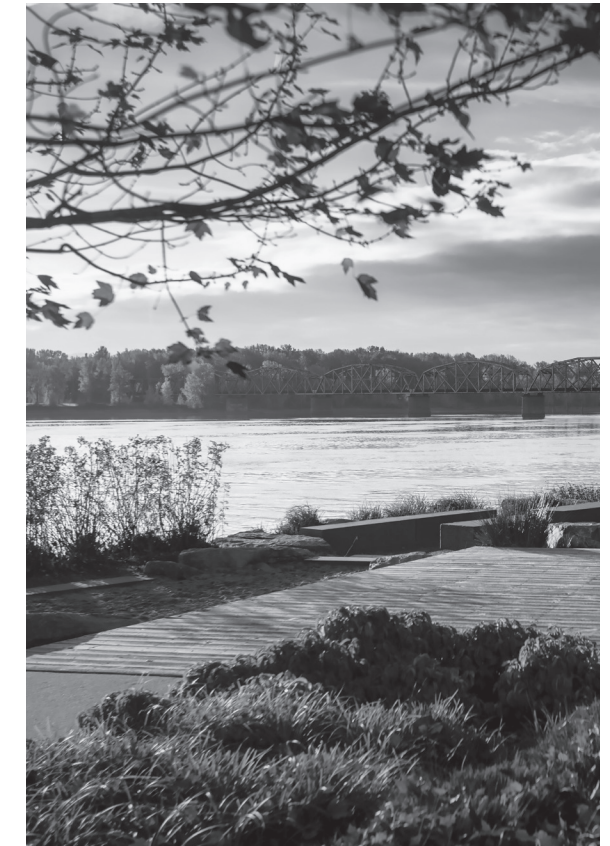
swweducation@gmail.com

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

April 23, 2024 Special Election

Ridgefield School District Edition



Proposition No. 10

General Obligation Bonds - \$70,000,000

The Board of Directors approved Resolution #2023-2024-001 concerning this proposition for bonds. This Proposition #10 would authorize the District to complete the construction of a new elementary school; construct an addition to Ridgefield High School with new general and vocational education classrooms; and repair roofing and replace rooftop mechanical systems at Ridgefield High School and District elementary schools by issuing \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years, and levying excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution #2023-2024-001.

Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

If approved, Proposition 10 would authorize the District to issue up to \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds, and use these funds to complete construction of a new elementary school; construct new general and vocational education classrooms at Ridgefield High; and repair roofing and replace rooftop mechanical systems at Ridgefield High and District elementary schools. The District also expects to receive approximately \$11,700,000 in State matching funds for these projects. The District would levy property taxes to repay the bonds. Approval of Proposition 10 would authorize the bonds and projects described above regardless of whether voters also approve Proposition 11.

STATEMENT FOR

Ridgefield School District has added 1,337 more pre-K to 12th grade students since we passed our last bond in 2017, a 47% increase. Without space in our school buildings, approximately 1/3 of our students are learning in portable classrooms at any given point during the school day.

The impact of overcrowding is felt by our entire community. Long pick-up and drop-off lines snarl traffic, and essential funds meant for education are diverted to purchase and maintain 26 portable buildings. This overcrowding has led to the upheaval of hundreds of elementary students, shuffling them to different schools in a bid to balance the strain across campuses. Furthermore, delayed maintenance is hastening the deterioration of our school facilities.

Now is the time to come together to address our overcrowded schools.

Proposition 10 includes a new elementary school and an addition to Ridgefield High School, providing desperately needed classroom space and responding to the growing demand for career and technical education. These projects are past due and shovel-ready, scheduled for completion by fall of 2025. Proposition 10 will give more students safe and quality learning spaces and access to technical training, which decreases dropout rates and increases attendance, college enrollment, and employment.

Improved schools enhance life for everyone in Ridgefield. Our schools are the heart of our community and our students are its future. Let's unite to take a crucial next step towards alleviating overcrowding in our schools and invest in the future of Ridgefield. Please vote "Yes" on Proposition 10.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Despite misinformation, there's something we can agree on: Ridgefield's schools *are* undeniably overcrowded and a new school *is* necessary. The new elementary school was thoughtfully designed with community input and exceeds safety regulations. Impact fees paid for the land, plan, and site preparation. RHS hasn't been forgotten: 9 additional classrooms, plus a metals shop address overcrowding, accommodating 350 more students. The need is clear, the plan is prudent, the time is now: www.citizensforridgefieldschools.com.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Zach Smith, Chair
Amy Watt
citizensforridgefieldschools.com
citizens4rs@gmail.com

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/april-23-2024-special-election

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

STATEMENT AGAINST

We were shocked at what we found in analyzing the bond measure but only have 250 words to explain. Check www.swwededucation.org for more. We believe kids should get a good education and it should be affordable. That's not what is happening. They are hoping for a yes vote on the 6th attempt to get the same elementary school through. You get no say in the design. You just pay for it. If passed, more bonds will follow.

The \$70 million proposal will cost over \$110 million after interest over 21 years. The current schools are too crowded and a third is needed. It just doesn't need all the extras for the community. It is poorly designed and doesn't appear to have fencing and other safety features. Based on the current growth rate of about 28 kids per year, it will take 12 years to reach capacity in the elementary schools.

We are told this bond will add nine classrooms at the high school. After tearing buildings down, this will finally add capacity to the fastest growing school. How much capacity? We're not sure. The centerpiece is a replacement metals shop. Why a new one when there is one being built at Clark College? New roofs? They're needed. Why not through regular maintenance?

Inflation is through the roof. Taxes are outrageous. People need solid facilities not Taj Mahals. Tell them to go back to the drawing board and tighten their belts like you. We can do better.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

565 is the actual gap in capacity to current enrollment when removing early and online learning. Modular classrooms are often newer and better than older schools. Balancing schools happens all the time. As teachers unions negotiate for smaller classrooms you need more rooms not due to overcrowding. A school was closed which increased overcrowding when remodeling would have solved the issue. They made this happen based on poor decisions. See www.swwededucation.org for more facts.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Heidi Pozzo, Chair
Jamie Keiser
Richard Rylander
swwededucation.org
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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, April 15, 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