

Ridgefield School District No. 122

Proposition No. 12 Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Ridgefield School District No. 122 adopted Resolution #2024-2025-002, concerning a replacement levy for unfunded educational programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District, to continue programs, including the Ridgefield Family Resource Center, community education, athletics, extra-curricular activities, and special education; to enhance curriculum and technology, and enrich coursework; and to maintain salaries, benefits, and professional learning days for staff above the state's basic funding formula:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2026	\$1.75	\$14,025,000
2027	\$1.75	\$14,685,000
2028	\$1.75	\$15,325,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2024-2025-002. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
Passage of Proposition 12 would enable the District to pay for school operations and educational programs not fully funded by the State, including but not limited to: Athletics, Extracurricular activities, Special Education, the Family Resource Center, Community Education programs, and professional development. The District estimates a tax rate of \$1.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the levy's three collection years (2026, 2027, and 2028). Tax exemptions may be available to homeowners 61 or older or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For information on exemptions, call the Clark County Assessor at (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR
Please vote "Yes" on Proposition 12, a critical levy renewal that will replace the current levy approved by voters in 2022, which will expire at the end of 2025. This essential levy bridges the gap between state funding and the actual cost of running Ridgefield schools, ensuring every student continues to receive the quality education they deserve.

Funding for Essential Programs and Services
Proposition 12 funds critical areas where state funding falls short of covering the full costs of public education. It will fund essential programs and services that directly benefit students' education. These include Special Education, classroom support staff, athletics like football, wrestling, soccer, and track, and student clubs such as Drama, Debate, and DECA. Additionally, it supports early learning programs, transportation, supplies, and the Ridgefield Family Resource Center. These programs and services go far beyond what the state's basic funding formula provides, enriching educational opportunities and creating a thriving school environment.

Without this renewal, Ridgefield schools would face significant loss of funding when the current levy expires. This would endanger vital programs and resources, impacting the educational experience of every student. Proposition 12 ensures Ridgefield schools remain places of excellence, safety, and opportunity for all.

Vote "Yes" on Proposition 12 to ensure Ridgefield Schools remain a place of unlimited possibilities. By renewing this levy, we can protect the programs and essential services that are critical to our students' education. This essential levy preserves the strong foundation of our schools—Vote "Yes" on Proposition 12!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST
Proposition 12 is a replacement levy. The proposed renewal represents a modest 16.7% increase in tax rate from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value, a \$187.50 annual increase for a \$750,000 home. For correct information on student achievement data, see <https://ospi.k12.wa.us>. There you will see that 80% of South Ridge and 85+% of Union Ridge students are proficient in math & ELA. To view the district's clean financial audits, go to sao.wa.gov.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:
Kelliana Cole, Chair
kelliana@me.com
citizensforridgefieldschools.com
Megan Dudley
Bill Baumann

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-11-2025-special-election
Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.

STATEMENT AGAINST
The "Replacement" Is A Big Tax Increase
The proposed levy is *Not* just a replacement but a significant 41.7% increase, raising total revenues collected from \$31 million approved in 2022 to \$44 million in 2025. If both proposed levies pass, you'll see a huge 72.7% increase in the tax rates, from \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$2.59. For a \$750,000 home, this means annual taxes for the levy would increase by \$817—an enormous burden during a time of economic uncertainty.

Better Funding Has Not Lead To Better Results
Despite ever-increasing funding, Ridgefield schools have failed to deliver meaningful results. Only 64% of elementary students are proficient in reading, and just 52% in math. These outcomes expose a system that prioritizes spending increases over academic success. For years, taxpayers have invested more and more money with little to no improvements in student's academic outcomes.

Salaries Have Increased But Academic Scores Have Not
District leadership prioritizes satisfying teacher union demands and advancing misguided agendas over students' basic academic success. The illegal teacher strike in 2022 disrupted classrooms, ballooned salaries and further eroded public trust in the district's ability to manage funds responsibly. These failures must not be rewarded with more taxpayer money.

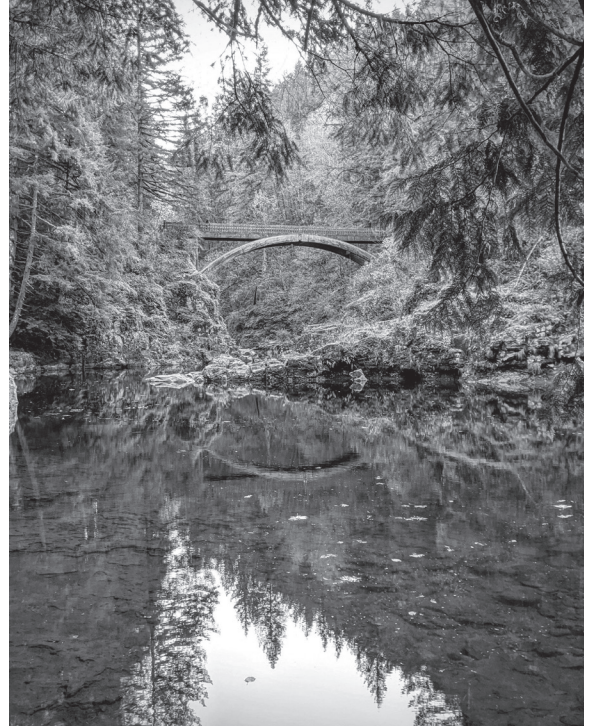
Taxpayers and students deserve better. This levy perpetuates waste and poor performance. Reject Proposition 12 and demand accountability and real progress. Visit www.reformclarkcounty.com for more information.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR
Proposition 12 isn't just a "renewal" but a 41.7% revenue increase—that's *Double* since 2019. Meanwhile, Ridgefield schools' academic performance continues to disappoint. Giving big raises via an illegal teachers' union strike should not be rewarded, or more will follow. Enlarged salaries now threaten other services, not the lack of tax revenue. Vote "No" to make Ridgefield come back with a more reasonable levy request and demand accountability. For more info, visit reformclarkcounty.com.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:
Rob Anderson, Chair
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Clark County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

February 11, 2025 Special Election
Ridgefield School District Edition



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Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

Ridgefield School District No. 122

Proposition No. 13

Capital Projects and Technology Levy

The Board of Directors of Ridgefield School District No. 122 adopted Resolution #2024-2025-003 concerning a proposition for a capital projects and technology levy. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District to construct Elementary School #3; make necessary repairs to Union Ridge and South Ridge Elementaries; enhance access to technology, telecommunications and networking systems; improve cybersecurity; purchase online applications and software licenses; and make safety and infrastructure improvements, including upgrades to HVAC systems and roofing:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2026	\$0.84	\$6,730,000
2027	\$0.84	\$7,070,000
2028	\$0.84	\$7,420,000

all as provided in Resolution #2024-2025-003. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Passage of Proposition No. 13 would enable the District to construct Elementary #3; make repairs at Union Ridge and South Ridge Elementaries; modernize and upgrade educational facilities; improve computer, telecommunications and networking systems; and make cybersecurity, licensing, training and technology expenditures. The District estimates a tax rate of \$0.84 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the levy's three collection years (2026, 2027, and 2028). Tax exemptions may be available to homeowners 61 or older or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For information on exemptions, call the Clark County Assessor at (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Transforming Community Ideas Into Action
Please vote "Yes" on Proposition 13, the Capital and Technology Levy that transforms community ideas into action through a strategic, community-driven plan.

A Proposal Developed by Community Feedback
After months of engagement through town halls, surveys, and discussions, Ridgefield School District developed a proposal addressing essential facility needs. The district explored multiple options and incorporated rounds of community feedback, resulting in a reduced design footprint for the new elementary school. Changes include a smaller gym, eliminating collaboration spaces, corridor pull-out spaces, and the turf athletic field, cutting 6,000 square feet, and saving about \$4 million. This scaled-back plan and smart funding strategy reflect what the community asked for—practical solutions prioritizing urgent needs while remaining fiscally responsible.

Smart Funding Strategies
The new school will be funded through \$21 million in developer-paid impact fees and \$16.5 million in state funding—available only if the levy passes. Of the \$22 million requested from taxpayers, \$15 million will complete the elementary, \$5 million will replace aging roofs at Union and South Ridge, and \$1.5 million will support three years of technology upgrades. This no-frills approach maximizes every dollar to address urgent school needs while minimizing tax impact on residents, with the levy limited to three years.

Voting "Yes" on Proposition 13 improves Ridgefield's schools while honoring community feedback. Propositions 12 and 13 are critical investments in our community's future. Please vote "Yes" on both Propositions!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

A benefit of a levy over a bond is the shorter tax commitment (3 years), decreasing total interest paid. For *and* against bond voters gave feedback, which created a solution to build an elementary school with the smallest taxpayer burden. Unfortunately, a tax increase is the only way to build schools in Washington. The community gave feedback that track resurfacing and turf replacement are not essential, which is why they are *not* in Proposition 13.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Kelliana Cole, Chair
kelliana@me.com
citizensforridgefieldschools.com
Megan Dudley
Bill Baumann

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-11-2025-special-election
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STATEMENT AGAINST

A Very Expensive Levy That Looks Like A Bond
Public school funding is intentionally confusing, and Ridgefield's proposed "Capital and Technology Levy" is no exception. This \$21 million new spending proposal, when combined with Proposition 12, would more than double school taxes, increasing from \$31 million in 2022 to \$65 million in 2025—an eye-popping 110% increase. Tax rates would rise by 72.7%, from \$1.50 to \$2.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a \$750,000 home, this means an additional \$817, bringing the total school tax burden to \$2,715 per year (\$3.62 - total bonds and levies approved).

Shockingly, *only* 7% of this levy will go toward technology expenses, primarily to maintain existing staff and student devices. The rest would fund projects previously rejected by voters, including the high school track resurfacing and turf replacement. This levy functions like a bond measure repackaged as a levy to pass with a simple majority, instead of the required 60%.

More Promises, Same Results
Despite promises of innovation, Ridgefield schools continue to struggle with poor academic performance. Increasing funding for technology has not improved results. Taxpayers have funded laptops and Chromebooks for years, yet only 64% of elementary students are proficient in reading, and just 52% meet math standards. There is no evidence this additional spending will address these systemic issues.

Ridgefield students and taxpayers deserve better. Vote *No* on Proposition 13 and demand accountability from the district. Visit www.reformclarkcounty.com for more information.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Proposition 13 claims to reflect community feedback and fiscal responsibility, yet it repackages past rejected bond projects, including turf replacement, into an easier-to-pass levy. Shockingly, only 7% of the \$22 million will actually fund technology, while taxpayers shoulder a 72.7% increase in school tax rates if both levies pass. Ridgefield schools already underperform, with little accountability for previous funding. Reject wasteful spending masked as "smart strategies." For more info, visit reformclarkcounty.com.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

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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.

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 4 pm Monday, February 3, 2025.

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 877-833-6341
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