

# Snohomish County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

## February 8, 2022 Special Election

### Local Elections Matter!

The February 8 Special Election features ballot measures related to services and funding of school and fire districts. The results of this Special Election will have an impact on you, your neighbors, and your community – so please vote.

The local voters' pamphlet is one tool to help you make your important vote choices.

In this local voters' pamphlet you will find:

- statements for and against local ballot measures
- information on how to properly cast your ballot
- information on how and where to return your ballot

Visit [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov) to ensure your registration information is up to date or to register to vote! You can also use the site to confirm that your voted ballot has been received and accepted by Snohomish County Elections.

And if you are contacted by our elections staff regarding your ballot, please respond to our inquiries so any issues can be resolved quickly and we can count your voted ballot.

Local elections matter! Make sure your voice is heard in the Feb. 8 Special Election – vote!

Contact Snohomish County Elections at 425-388-3444 if you have any questions.



**Snohomish County Elections**  
A Division of the Auditor's Office



## Deadline for returning your ballot

Vote anytime between now and Election Day, Feb. 8.

To count, your ballot must be:

- Returned to a ballot drop box before 8 p.m. on Election Day, Feb. 8
- Or
- Postmarked by the post office by Election Day, Feb. 8 (Caution - check the last pick-up time on the box)

We recommend using a ballot drop box after Friday, Feb. 4 to ensure your ballot is on-time.

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## Why did I get a pamphlet but not a ballot?

The February 8 Special Election is almost county-wide, and therefore the voters' pamphlet was mailed in the most cost-effective way to every household in Snohomish County as a blanket mailing. Voters in the Arlington and Lakewood school districts are not participating in an election and will not receive a ballot.

If you are registered to vote and live within a district listed in this pamphlet, you will receive a ballot in the mail.

If you live in the Arlington or Lakewood school district, the pamphlet is a good reminder to register or update your registration so you are ready for the next election in your area.

## Voting in Washington State

### Voter Qualifications

To register to vote you must be:

- A citizen of the United States
- A legal resident of Washington State for at least 30 days prior to Election Day
- At least 18 years old by Election Day
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order
- Not currently serving Department of Corrections sentence in total confinement



In Washington State, you do not register by political party or declare political party membership to vote.

### How to Register to Vote

- Register online at [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov), or
- Mail in a completed registration form (available online and at public libraries, schools, and other government offices)

### Registration Deadlines

- Register to vote online or by mail by January 31 (8 days before the election)
- Register to vote in person at the county elections office or at an accessible voting location until 8 p.m. on Election Day, February 8, 2022

### How to Change Your Address

- Visit the voter portal at [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov) to submit changes
- Complete a new registration form, or
- If moving within Snohomish County, call us at 425-388-3444 or email [elections@snoco.org](mailto:elections@snoco.org)

### How to Get a Replacement Ballot

- Print a ballot through the voter portal at [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov), or
- Call Snohomish County Elections at 425-388-3444

### Ballots

All registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail for every election in which they are eligible to vote. Accessible voting equipment is available to allow voters who cannot vote independently by mail to vote a private, secure ballot. (See Accessible Voting on page 3).

Ballot envelopes must be signed and be postmarked or dropped in a ballot drop box on or before Election Day, February 8.

- If returned by mail - check the last pickup time to ensure your ballot envelope is postmarked on or before February 8
- If returned by ballot drop box - make sure you drop it in one of our 30+ ballot drop boxes before 8 p.m. on February 8

### Election Results Online

On election night, voting results will be posted online after 8 p.m. at [snoco.org/elections](http://snoco.org/elections).

### Contact Information and Assistance

Snohomish County Elections  
3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett  
425-388-3444  
[elections@snoco.org](mailto:elections@snoco.org)  
[snoco.org/elections](http://snoco.org/elections)

Washington Secretary of State  
1-800-448-4881 or 711 WA Relay Center  
[sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections)

### Log into your voter portal at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) to:

- Register to vote
- Update your address
- Locate drop boxes and accessible voting locations
- View your online voters' guide
- Get a replacement ballot
- Track your ballot
- Find your elected officials

**VoteWA**

## Ballot Drop Boxes



The boxes listed below (except those in dark gray) are open for the Feb. 8 Special Election.

Boxes are open 24/7 until 8 p.m. on Election Day, Feb. 8.

No postage needed.

Visit [snoco.org/elections](http://snoco.org/elections) for an updated list, as additional boxes may be added.

|                                            |                                 |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Arlington                                  | Not Open                        |
| Bothell<br>(QFC parking lot)               | 22833 Bothell Everett Hwy       |
| Brier<br>(near City Hall)                  | 2901 228th St SW                |
| Darrington<br>(near library/Town Hall)     | 1005 Cascade St                 |
| Edmonds<br>(near library)                  | 650 Main St                     |
| Everett<br>(courthouse campus)             | Rockefeller Ave and Wall St     |
| Everett<br>(EvCC - near WSU Bldg)          | 1001 N Broadway                 |
| Everett<br>(Everett Mall - near W Mall Dr) | 1402 SE Everett Mall Way        |
| Everett<br>(McCullum Park & Ride)          | 600 128th St SE                 |
| Gold Bar<br>(Gateway Park)                 | 5th and Orchard                 |
| Granite Falls<br>(near library)            | 815 E Galena St                 |
| Index<br>(near Town Hall)                  | 511 Ave A                       |
| Lake Stevens<br>(near boat launch)         | 1800 Main St                    |
| Lakewood                                   | Not Open                        |
| Lynnwood<br>(Ash Way Park and Ride)        | 16327 Ash Way                   |
| Lynnwood<br>(Edmonds College)              | <b>NEW!</b> 20000 68th Ave W    |
| Lynnwood<br>(in front of City Hall)        | 19100 44th Ave W                |
| Marysville<br>(behind City Hall)           | 1049 State Ave                  |
| Marysville<br>(Grove Elementary)           | <b>NEW!</b> 6510 Grove St       |
| Mill Creek<br>(in post office turnaround)  | 159th PI SE and Mill Creek Blvd |
| Monroe<br>(near library)                   | 1070 Village Way                |
| Mountlake Terrace<br>(near library)        | 23300 58th Ave W                |
| Mukilteo<br>(near library)                 | 4675 Harbour Pointe Blvd        |
| Silvana                                    | Not Open                        |
| Smokey Point<br>(near Lowe's)              | 3300 169th PI NE                |
| Snohomish<br>(Glacier Peak High School)    | 7401 144th PI SE                |
| Snohomish<br>(near library)                | 311 Maple Ave                   |
| Stanwood<br>(near library)                 | 9701 271st St NW                |
| Startup<br>(near event center)             | 14315 366th Ave SE              |
| Sultan<br>(near library/City Hall)         | 319 Main St                     |
| Tulalip<br>(near youth center)             | 6722 Totem Beach Rd             |
| Woodinville<br>(Kokanee Elementary)        | <b>NEW!</b> 23710 57th Ave SE   |

## Accessible Voting and Other Services

Accessible voting equipment is available to assist voters in independently casting a private, secure ballot.

Voters may change their address or update an existing registration by mail or online ([votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov)) until January 31.

Voters may change their address, update an existing registration, pick up a replacement ballot, get a voters' pamphlet, vote on accessible voting equipment, and register to vote in person through 8 p.m. Election Day, February 8, at the locations and during the hours listed below:

| Locations                                                                                                                                               | Days/Hours                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Snohomish County Auditor's Office</b><br>1st Floor – Admin West<br>3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett                                                     | <b>Monday – Friday</b><br>9 a.m. – 5 p.m.<br><br><b>Tuesday, Election Day, February 8</b><br>8 a.m. – 8 p.m.    |
| <b>Alderwood Water &amp; Wastewater District</b><br>3625 156th St SW, Lynnwood<br><br><b>Wyndham Garden Hotel</b><br>16710 Smokey Point Blvd, Arlington | <b>Monday, February 7</b><br>9 a.m. – 5 p.m.<br><br><b>Tuesday, Election Day, February 8</b><br>8 a.m. – 8 p.m. |



For TDD service, please call 711.



For your safety and ours, all voters will be required to follow current Covid-19 guidelines.



## How you sign your return envelope is important

Sign your ballot envelope with the signature you used to register to vote. Pro tip – When in doubt, sign like your driver's license signature as it is the most common way people register to vote.

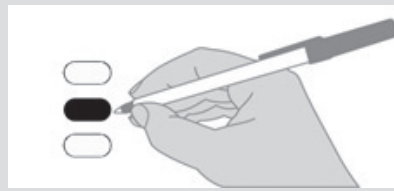
Snohomish County Elections compares the signature on every ballot envelope to the signature we have on file.

If your ballot envelope is unsigned or the signature does not match, we will contact you to get a matching signature.

You can check the status of your ballot at [votewa.gov](http://votewa.gov).

## How do I vote my ballot?

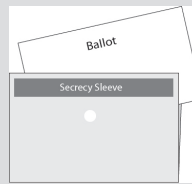
Fill in the oval to mark your vote as shown. You do not have to vote for everything on your ballot



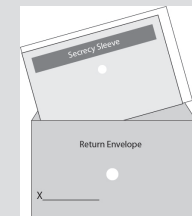
Remove the top stub. Stub is not used for tracking the ballot.



Place your voted ballot in the secrecy sleeve - the ballot will extend beyond the sleeve.



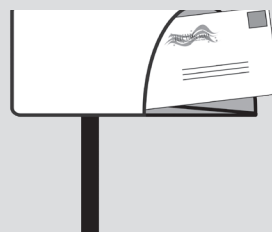
Place the secrecy sleeve into your return envelope.



Sign, date, and seal your return envelope. A Power of Attorney cannot sign on a voter's behalf.

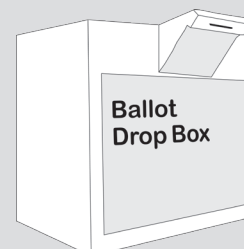


Place envelope in the mail - no postage necessary. Check the last pick-up time on the box if it's Election Day!



or

Drop your ballot at any Ballot Drop Box, Accessible Voting Site, or the Auditor's Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day!





**Darrington School District No. 330  
Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement Educational Programs and Operation Levy**

The Board of Directors of Darrington School District No. 330 adopted Resolution No. 424-11-21, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

| <u>Collection Year</u> | <u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u> | <u>Levy Amount</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023                   | \$1.67                                            | \$950,000          |
| 2024                   | \$1.59                                            | \$950,000          |
| 2025                   | \$1.52                                            | \$950,000          |
| 2026                   | \$1.45                                            | \$950,000          |

all as provided in Resolution No. 424-11-21. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the Darrington School District to replace an existing educational programs and operation levy that will expire at the end of 2022. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, including: expenses of teaching, student support, special education services, school nurses and counselors, textbooks and classroom supplies, student transportation, security, student activities (such as band, music, art, world languages and extra-curricular activities), professional development and training, and other school operations. Further information is available at <https://www.darringtonschools.org/>.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$950,000 each year from 2023 through and including 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.67 in 2023, \$1.59 in 2024, \$1.52 in 2025 and \$1.45 in 2026 (estimated levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value). The exact tax levy rate and amount to be collected is subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners, call Snohomish County Assessor (425)388-3433 or Skagit County Assessor (360)416-1780.

**Statement For**

Vote Yes for Darrington Kids!

As longtime Darrington residents we would like to give our support to the Darrington School District education and operations levy. This is a replacement levy. It will take the place of the current levy that is expiring at the end of 2022.

These levy funds are used to pay for expenses that are not covered by the state and federal government such as support staff, art, music, culinary arts, athletics, and the funds paid to the Darrington Community Center for gym use. The same gym that was built by and has been played in by many generations in Darrington. This levy will have a small increase from the expiring levy, however this will be offset by the capital levy expiring at the end of 2023.

We are so fortunate to live in a place and raise our children in a community that values education, athletics and extracurricular activities for our students. Some of whom who would not have these opportunities without the community's continued support. This same levy has been generously approved by the citizens of this community for many years. Please join us in voting yes once more for the replacement levy to help our children continue to succeed and receive the quality education they deserve. Vote yes for the levy!

*Statement prepared by: Traci Reuwsaat, Angel Blake, and Tracie Hoglund*

**Statement Against**

This levy should be rejected. There should be no tax measures whatsoever on the ballot in February. February is the lowest voter turnout election of the year. Understandably. Most citizens are just learning that there are levies to vote on - again. We just had the holidays. Citizens have voting fatigue. And, importantly, citizens won't even receive their property tax bills for the year until a month later in March.

In the interest of high voter participation, these important tax measures (which affect all property owners and renters in their rents) should be only on the November Election. It is irresponsible for the district to propose property tax measures a month before voters see their property tax bills.

The state will never be able to fulfill its constitutional obligation of fully-funding schools so long as local districts are allowed to spend more than the ample provision the state provides. Until that changes, citizens need to reject these local levies like the ones before you today. More details at [www.schooldataport.com](http://www.schooldataport.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Darrington SD - in total.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$16,105 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough. Reductions need to come from excessive salaries.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

Vote yes for kids! We agree that the state should fully fund education, unfortunately this is not a reality yet. While we work with the state towards this goal, we are asking our friends and neighbors to support this replacement levy in the interest of supporting our children's education. Without it the district will have to reduce current programs that are valuable for the success of these kids. Please vote YES for the replacement levy.

*Statement prepared by: Traci Reuwsaat, Angel Blake, and Tracie Hoglund*

**Edmonds School District No. 15  
Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Edmonds School District No. 15 adopted Resolution No. 21-29, concerning a proposition for educational programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational programs and operations expenses, not fully funded by the State:

| Collection Year | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023            | \$1.50                                      | \$63,500,000 |
| 2024            | 1.50                                        | 67,100,000   |
| 2025            | 1.50                                        | 70,800,000   |
| 2026            | 1.50                                        | 74,800,000   |

all as provided in Resolution No. 21-29. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Edmonds School District No. 15 requests voter approval of a replacement four-year educational programs and operations expenses levy to replace its expiring 2018 General Fund educational programs and operations expenses levy.

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of taxes over a four year period to pay for the District's General Fund educational programs and operations expenses. Such funds may be used only to support such expenses.

The total amount to be collected is estimated at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation which represents the amount allowed by law on a per pupil basis for the years 2023 through 2026, inclusive, for the total amounts of: \$63,500,000 to be collected in 2023, \$67,100,000 to be collected in 2024, \$70,800,000 to be collected in 2025 and \$74,800,000 to be collected in 2026.

**Statement For**

*This is a replacement levy, not a new tax, and will keep a consistent tax rate.* This funding bridges the gap to cover costs not provided by state or federal dollars. Failure to pass this measure would result in drastic cuts to educational programs, student support and services.

For example, this levy funds critical staffing for nurses, counselors, teaching assistants and support staff, as well as elective and advanced placement classes, textbooks and instructional materials. The levy also covers 100% of sports, music, and extracurriculars. Additionally, local levy dollars are critical to ensuring necessary staffing levels and small class sizes that are so important to student achievement.

We're proud of our schools in Edmonds SD! Quality schools make strong communities, and help keep this an attractive district to live and raise a family. Investing in our students and teachers has been shown to improve learning outcomes which is why voters overwhelmingly passed this measure four years ago. Now it's time to renew our commitment and ensure a *quality education for all of our students*.

Vote Yes to directly support the learning and teaching in each classroom across our district in Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Woodway and unincorporated portions of South Snohomish County.

Please vote yes for our students!

Statement prepared by: Kory DeMun and Sue Phillips

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Edmonds SD - in total.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$19,313 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough. Nurses and counselors aren't to blame.

Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district's administrators, the median total compensation was \$207,294 with a high of \$493,684. Median teacher compensation is at \$149,836 up 42% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn

**Response to Statement Against**

The con statement uses many inaccuracies. For example, their figure is 47% higher than the actual average teacher salary. Additionally, the total levy amount is capped, so *rising home values won't increase the median household's tax bill*.

The facts are: *this levy renewal is authorized by the Legislature to cover critical gaps in state funding such as nurses, special education, advanced placement, and sports. Supporting quality schools builds strong communities. Vote yes for our students.*

Statement prepared by: Kory DeMun and Sue Phillips

## Everett School District No. 2 Proposition No. 1

### Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Everett School District No. 2 adopted Resolution No. 1267, concerning a proposition for educational programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational programs and operations expenses, not fully funded by the State:

| Collection Year | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023            | \$2.20                                      | \$65,500,000 |
| 2024            | \$2.15                                      | \$67,000,000 |
| 2025            | \$2.14                                      | \$69,000,000 |
| 2026            | \$2.14                                      | \$71,000,000 |

all as provided in Resolution No. 1267. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

### Explanatory Statement

Everett School District No. 2 requests voter approval of a replacement four-year educational programs and operations expenses levy to replace its expiring 2018 General Fund educational programs and operations expenses levy.

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of taxes over a four-year period to pay for the District's General Fund educational programs and operations expenses. Such funds may be used only to support such expenses.

The total amount to be collected is estimated at \$2.20 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation which represents the amount allowed by law on a per pupil basis for the year 2023, \$2.15 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation which represents the amount allowed by law on a per pupil basis for the year 2024 and \$2.14 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation which represents the amount allowed by law on a per pupil basis for the years 2025 and 2026, for the total amounts of: \$65,500,000 to be collected in 2023, \$67,000,000 to be collected in 2024, \$69,000,000 to be collected in 2025 and \$71,000,000 to be collected in 2026.

### Statement For

*Vote yes to renew our commitment to quality education.* This measure funds essential services not covered by the state and accounts for nearly 14% of the district's budget. Failure to pass this measure would result in drastic cuts to educational programs, student support and services.

For example, *the state pays for only 3 nurses to cover our 27 schools! Local levy dollars cover the rest.* Local funds also cover 100% of sports and extracurriculars. The levy helps fund special education, transportation, substitute teachers, and student safety and security. It also funds early childhood education, which has been shown to significantly improve student learning and better life outcomes after graduating.

We're proud of our Everett SD students, teachers, and families. Our graduation rate is one of the highest in the state, and our Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and career pathway programs are putting students on the path to success after graduation. Better schools help build a stronger community and improve all of our quality of life, and that's why the voters overwhelmingly passed this measure 4 years ago. Now it's time to renew our commitment and ensure a *quality education for all of our students.*

*Please vote yes for our students!*

*Statement prepared by: Jennifer Black, Jared Kink, and Rich White*

### Statement Against

Everett voters should never approve another levy. Ever. After years of complaining – and winning in court – that dependence on levies is unconstitutional, the Everett School District has done everything it can to ensure its dependence on levies will continue forever. There are two common myths that need to be addressed.

The myth of underpaid teachers. For ESD teachers, for 2019-2020, the median total compensation was \$150,000 and the highest around \$200,000. And, they want this increased again, in 2 years, to 15% or more paid for by you from this levy.

The myth of underpaid administrators. For ESD administrators, for 2019-2020, the median total compensation was \$200,000 and the highest was \$375,000. Total compensation includes salary, insurance benefits, payroll taxes and pension funding, all paid for by taxpayers.

Dollars from this levy would be dumped into the General Fund where 85% goes to compensations for all district employees, not just nurses. This levy amount is above what is legally allowed. The ESD is counting on Olympia to raise the levy lid later. The ESD needs reining in. ESD's taxpayer cost charts showing a flat rate are laughable. A flat rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing property taxes. For an honest cost analysis <http://www.nolevy.com>. ESD's salaries are already generous. To demand yet another increase, on the backs of hardworking Everett area citizens, is wrong. Vote no on this levy.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn, Jeannie Magdua, and Janelle Burke*

### Response to Statement For

Only 14% of the district's budget covers essential services because more than 85% goes toward budget-busting compensation. ESD has chosen to be blind to the financial hardship of its families as they are hit with runaway inflation and the outcomes of a pandemic.

Instead, it has decided to raise property taxes rather than make necessary cuts to its bloated budget. A No vote is a vote for children and their families [www.nolevy.com](http://www.nolevy.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn, Jeannie Magdua, and Janelle Burke*

### Response to Statement Against

The con statement is highly misleading. All local districts have levies. This levy is specifically authorized by the Legislature to fill critical gaps in state funding like nurses and counselors, sports, special education, and academic support. Additionally, the total levy amount is fixed, so *rising home values won't increase the median household's tax bill.*

Failure would mean direct cuts to student learning. *Please vote yes to renew our commitment to a quality education.*

*Statement prepared by: Jennifer Black, Jared Kink, and Rich White*



## Everett School District No. 2 Proposition No. 2

Replacement Capital Levy for Safety, Building and Instructional  
Technology Improvements

The Board of Directors of Everett School District No. 2 adopted Resolution No. 1268, concerning a current capital levy to fund necessary capital improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's Capital Projects Fund for safety, security, building, renewal and upgrade projects for capacity and educational programs, including instructional technology:

| Collection Year | Approximate Levy<br>Rate/\$1000<br>Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023            | \$1.18                                            | \$35,061,000 |
| 2024            | \$1.75                                            | \$54,808,000 |
| 2025            | \$1.75                                            | \$56,237,000 |
| 2026            | \$1.73                                            | \$57,513,000 |
| 2027            | \$1.76                                            | \$60,251,000 |
| 2028            | \$1.75                                            | \$61,629,000 |

all as provided in Resolution No. 1268. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

### Explanatory Statement

Everett School District No. 2 requests voter approval of a replacement six-year capital improvements levy to replace its expiring 2016 Capital Projects Fund levy.

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of taxes over a six-year period to pay for the costs of acquiring, constructing, and installing capital improvements for safety, security, building renewal and upgrade projects, and enhancing educational programs including instructional technology equipment and systems.

The total amount to be collected is estimated at \$1.18 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the year 2023, and \$1.75 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the years 2024, 2025 and 2028, \$1.73 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the year 2026, and \$1.76 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for the year 2027, for the total amounts of: \$35,061,000 to be collected in 2023, \$54,808,000 to be collected in 2024, \$56,237,000 to be collected in 2025, \$57,513,000 to be collected in 2026, \$60,251,000 to be collected in 2027 and \$61,629,000 to be collected in 2028.

### Statement For

Thanks to our community's support in passing the Technology and Capital Projects Levy 6 years ago, *Everett SD is a leader in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and career pathway programs*. Because we're able to maintain a 1:1 student to device ratio, our district quickly delivered laptops to every single one of our 20,000 students when the pandemic struck, avoiding the shortfalls experienced by students in many other districts. Now that kids are back in full time, in-person school, those technology resources remain essential to providing a modern education.

Renewing this measure allows the district to replace aging and outdated technology, maintain our 1:1 student to device ratio, and modernize science classrooms for STEM education to better prepare them for the jobs of tomorrow. This levy improves equity by ensuring that every student has the tools they need to learn effectively regardless of background or family income.

Additionally, *voting yes funds critical capital projects around the district*. It replaces 2 aging elementary schools, expands classrooms at 3 high schools, updates HVAC, fire alarms, and security systems across the district, and replaces failing roofs at 6 schools. Our students deserve to be safe, warm, and dry at school. Failure to pass would lead to significantly higher costs down the road due to deferred maintenance and more expensive repairs or replacement.

*Please vote yes for our students by renewing our technology and capital projects levy!*

*Statement prepared by: Jennifer Black, Jared Kink, and Rich White*

### Response to Statement For

Nearly half of our students did not meet minimum math standards. Merely handing out laptops will not solve that problem.

Our students need safe buildings, but ESD somehow came up with cash, using funds meant for classrooms, for an administration building that keeps the adults comfortable. ESD administrators prioritized themselves before students with our hard-earned money. Vote no on this levy and make them come up with a leaner proposal we can trust. [www.nolevy.com](http://www.nolevy.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn, Jeannie Magdua, and Janelle Burke*

### Statement Against

The Everett SD has two elementary schools in need of repair. However, the ESD used funds meant for construction of school buildings to build the administration building, paid in full, and without voter approval. It still has that new-building smell, is warm and cozy, has underground gated VIP parking, and advanced technology built in.

During COVID closures last year, ESD administrators and school board members worked from home using their taxpayer funded computers. The school board even won a major award with a plaque and everything.

So how about the following – administrators and board members need to pack their file cabinets and take their keisters out of the building. They are taking up valuable space. The admin building can then be converted to a new elementary school. Or it and the land under it can be given back to the Coast Salish people as a tangible gesture as opposed to the board's meaningless reading of a land acknowledgment paragraph at every board meeting.

Then the capital levy price tag needs to be reduced by \$100M. The technology portion needs to be separated from the General Fund to ensure it doesn't go to bloated salaries. A clause needs to be added to all levies that any project overestimates need to be returned to taxpayers. Then, and only then, with a new smaller levy proposal, hardworking Everett taxpayers can vote in the affirmative and can be proud of where their tax dollars are going.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn, Jeannie Magdua, and Janelle Burke*

### Response to Statement Against

The con committee tells you to "...never approve another levy. Ever." and yet acknowledges the need for new school construction, repairs, and technology – *none of which are covered by the state*. They don't address what this measure actually does, instead focusing on an administration building finished 9 years ago.

*This is not a new tax; it replaces the expiring technology and capital projects levy, addressing critical building maintenance and capacity issues. Vote yes for students.*

*Statement prepared by: Jennifer Black, Jared Kink, and Rich White*

**Granite Falls School District No. 332 Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement of Expiring School Programs and Operation Levy**

The Board of Directors of Granite Falls School District No. 332 adopted Resolution No. 21/22-03, concerning a proposition to finance school programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to support school programs and operation not funded by the State of Washington (such as instructional materials, supplies, utilities, transportation and athletics) by levying the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2023            | \$2.11                                     | \$5,000,000 |
| 2024            | \$2.11                                     | \$5,000,000 |
| 2025            | \$2.11                                     | \$5,000,000 |
| 2026            | \$2.11                                     | \$5,000,000 |

all as provided in Resolution No. 21/22-03. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Granite Falls School District to replace an existing school programs and operation levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2022. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be deposited in the District’s General Fund and used to meet the educational needs of students and pay expenses of school programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State. These expenses include, but are not limited to, instructional materials, supplies, utilities, transportation and athletics. Further information is available at the District’s website <https://www.gfalls.wednet.edu/>.

The proposed four-year replacement school programs and operation levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$5,000,000 each year from 2023 through and including 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amount to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Snohomish County Assessor at 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

Please renew this critically needed Granite Falls School District (GFSD) School Programs and Operations Levy. Its passage is vital to delivering an excellent quality of education required to support the 2,135 students currently enrolled and the nearly 400 additional students projected by Davis Demographics to register in our schools by 2026.

The children of our small and close-knit community must have great public schools to learn and achieve their potential. This levy benefits both elementary schools, junior high, and high schools. It replaces our current Levy and provides essential funding to pay for things that Washington State does not fully fund, such as teachers, school staff, instructional materials, curriculum, STEAM education, and special education services.

If we, the public, do not renew the School Programs and Operations Levy, the District may have to reduce costs in ways, which could jeopardize our students’ ability to learn and enhance their futures. Without the passage of the Levy, it would be likely that teachers and staff may face layoffs, and the District may need to cut or even eliminate valuable programs that support students.

Washington State recently changed how it funds schools, and although our neighboring school districts saw a significant increase in funding, our District did not. **This Levy is not a new tax. It replaces the expiring School Programs and Operations Levy.** Please vote to renew this Levy!!! Without this Levy, we will not be able to support our children by providing our teachers with the resources they need to do their jobs.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Balentine and Carol Panegas*

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Granite Falls SD - in total.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$17,480 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough. Reductions need to come from excessive salaries.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

*The statements are printed as submitted.*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district’s administrators, the median total compensation was \$179,422 with a high of \$280,134. Median teacher compensation is at \$122,087 up 14% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

- The McCleary Decision created a regionalized allocation to districts. Our District falls significantly short of our neighbors and underfunds our students.
- The stated compensation numbers include payroll tax, healthcare, and mandatory benefits and typically run at ~45% of gross payroll (standard in commercial industries.) The District dedicates the majority of payroll costs for teacher pay. Thus, the approximate annual teacher gross income is \$82,197.93. Prior pay increases helped to correct the pay gap.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Balentine and Carol Panegas*



**Granite Falls School District No. 332  
Proposition No. 2**

Replacement of Expiring Technology and School Improvements Levy

The Board of Directors of Granite Falls School District No. 332 adopted Resolution No. 21/22-04, concerning a proposition to finance technology and school improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to acquire computers and other technology equipment for student learning, make safety, energy efficiency and other capital improvements to school facilities, and acquire major equipment, by levying the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2023            | \$0.32                                     | \$750,000   |
| 2024            | \$0.32                                     | \$750,000   |
| 2025            | \$0.32                                     | \$750,000   |
| 2026            | \$0.32                                     | \$750,000   |

all as provided in Resolution No. 21/22-04. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow Granite Falls School District to replace an existing levy for technology and school improvements that will expire at the end of calendar year 2022. The proposed replacement levy authorizes the District to continue funding acquiring and installing computers and other technology equipment for student learning throughout existing school facilities and making other technology improvements to the District's technology systems and facilities. Additionally, the replacement levy will allow the District to continue making safety, energy efficiency and other capital improvements to school facilities and acquiring major items of equipment. Further information is available at the District's website <https://www.gfalls.wednet.edu/>.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes of \$750,000 each year from 2023 through and including 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$0.32 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Snohomish County Assessor at 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

Modern-day, reliable, and accessible technology delivering learning-based platforms is not a luxury but an absolute necessity for a teacher to provide adequate student instruction. Most importantly, it levels the playing field for our students' ability to stay current with emerging technology.

This Levy, coupled with the instruction from our great teachers, helps the students of Granite Falls School District continue to perform at a high level. This Levy will provide them with the tools needed to conduct online research, complete class projects, communicate remotely, and continue to maintain the competitive edge they need to gain acceptance into vocational schools, colleges, universities, or enter the workplace. To do so, our students must learn in an environment that most closely simulates current and future technology. Additionally, the Granite Falls School District must maintain servers, purchase relevant software licenses, provide our students with technology to include Chromebooks, and provide devices for our teachers, such as computers, printers, projectors, and monitors.

The Levy provides technology-related funds the District desperately needs to upgrade computers, network servers, and other obsolete equipment. It will also fund educational and support software, safety and security software, and equipment maintenance. The Levy also funds some of the District's more minor and occasional emergency operational projects such as boiler, HVAC, and appliance replacements.

**This Levy is not an additional tax; this Capital Projects Levy replaces a tax we are currently paying.** Please support our students and educators by voting Yes!!!

Statement prepared by: Jeff Balentine and Carol Panegas

**Response to Statement For**

In 2019-2020, per pupil expenditures (including capital outlays and interest on debt) for the district were already at \$17,480. That's above tuition and books at many universities let alone most private K-12 schools.

In 2018, because of the McCleary Decision, state legislators pumped billions more dollars into our public schools, largely from increased property taxes. There is no amount of money monopoly school districts will be satisfied with. Citizens are crying uncle. Enough!

Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn

**Statement Against**

These cap levy items should come out of the General Fund. If salaries were not so bloated this would be possible.

These levies should be rejected. There should be no tax measures whatsoever on the ballot in February. February is the lowest voter turnout election of the year. Understandably. Most citizens are just learning that there are levies to vote on - again. We just had the holidays. Citizens have voting fatigue. And, importantly, citizens won't even receive their property tax bills for the year until a month later in March. How convenient.

In the interest of high voter participation, these important, large tax measures (which affect all property owners and renters in their rents) should be only on the November Election. It is irresponsible for the district to propose property tax measures a month before voters see their property tax bills.

The state will never be able to fulfill its constitutional obligation of fully-funding schools so long as local districts are allowed to spend more than the ample provision the state provides. Until that changes, citizens need to reject these local levies like the ones before you today. More details at [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn

**Response to Statement Against**

- The General Fund is dedicated to everyday educational and operating expenses and, per OSPI (audited by the State Auditor's Office,) is not a fund for capital expenses. The District may only pay for capital expenditures out of the Capital Fund. Therefore, any money the District transfers from the General Fund decreases student resources.
- The District minimizes supplemental levy requests and is not asking for incremental capital funds. There is no increase from prior levies.

Statement prepared by: Jeff Balentine and Carol Panegas

**Index School District No. 63  
Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Index School District No. 63 adopted Resolution No. 2021-02 concerning a replacement levy for educational funding. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes to fund necessary educational programs and operations that are not funded by the state and replace an expiring levy on taxable property within the District:

| Collection Years | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2023             | \$0.45                                     | \$88,000    |
| 2024             | \$0.45                                     | \$99,000    |
| 2025             | \$0.42                                     | \$103,000   |
| 2026             | \$0.42                                     | \$106,000   |

subject to legal limits on levy amounts and rates at the time of the levy.  
Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$88,000 in property taxes within Index School District No. 63 for collection in 2023, the levy of \$99,000 for collection in 2024, the levy of \$104,000 for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$106,000 for collection in 2026 to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support the District's educational programs and operations. In accordance with Resolution #2021-02 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the District's General Fund. If authorized by the voters, and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.45 (2023 collection); \$0.45 (2024 collection); \$0.42 (2025 collection), and \$0.42 (2026 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Snohomish County Assessor at (425) 388-3433.

**Statement For**

Please vote YES for Educational Programs And Operations Levy, which is critical to the success of young students attending Index School District. This is not a new tax; it replaces the expiring levy. In fact at \$0.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value it is much smaller than the previous levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000. This reduction is because a new state levy took effect. However, state funds to the district do not include enough funding for necessities such as

- Building Maintenance (our building is 70 years old)
- Technology (i.e. computers, internet)
- Nurse (particularly now to keep school open during pandemic)
- Enough funding needed to provide necessary instruction

Taxpayers in Index School District have a long history of strong support for our children. Let's continue supporting this value. Investing in their future - and ours - is a wise use of our taxes. Please vote YES.

*Statement prepared by: Susan Cross, Connie Fehrenbach, and Brad Jernberg*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, the median teacher compensation is at \$118,257 up 72% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Index SD. The pro levy committee forgot to mention those rates.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$34,836 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

The anti-levy group wrote boilerplate statements across Washington. Being unfamiliar with rural Index, their information is inaccurate. We don't receive sufficient funds from the legislature to fully fund special education, technology, personnel, etc. Our teachers' salaries fall well below the "average" quoted in their rebuttal, despite decades of experience and advanced degrees. We have recently made many budgetary cutbacks including staff.

Let's continue to support our local school and our own future. Vote YES.

*Statement prepared by: Susan Cross, Connie Fehrenbach, and Brad Jernberg*

**Lake Stevens School District No. 4 Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Lake Stevens School District No. 4 adopted Resolution No. 24-21, concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for education. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State (including reduced class sizes, nurses, mental health specialists, counselors, special education, arts, athletics, extracurricular activities):

| <u>Collection Year</u> | <u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u> | <u>Levy Amount</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023                   | \$1.92                                            | \$18,150,000       |
| 2024                   | \$1.94                                            | \$19,800,000       |
| 2025                   | \$1.96                                            | \$21,550,000       |
| 2026                   | \$1.98                                            | \$23,600,000       |

all as provided in Resolution No. 24-21. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Lake Stevens School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire in 2022. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including, but not limited to, reduced class sizes, substitutes, nurses, mental health specialists, counselors, special education, the arts, athletics, extracurricular activities, transportation, and professional development. Further information is available on the District's website at <https://www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/>.

The proposed replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$18,150,000 in 2023, \$19,800,000 in 2024, \$21,550,000 in 2025, and \$23,600,000 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.92 in 2023, \$1.94 in 2024, \$1.96 in 2025, and \$1.98 in 2026 (estimated levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value). The exact tax levy rate and amount to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners, call Snohomish County Assessor at 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

On February 8, 2022, voters in Lake Stevens will be asked to approve two replacement levies, one for Educational Programs & Operations, and one for Technology. Both important levies are crucial to maintain the excellent work that the Lake Stevens School District is doing in these respective areas. These are NOT new taxes, rather renewals of levies that voters already passed to support our schools.

The renewal EP&O Levy funds critical operating costs within our schools, including locally-funded salaries, early learning and special education programs, safety and security systems, and extracurricular activities including arts, athletics, music and more. Without these crucial supports, the district would have to face cuts in operational funding, not be able to hire quality staff, and students would miss out on wonderful programs.

The renewal Technology Levy provides funding for classroom technology as well as student devices, including maintenance and repair. We know that having innovative, future-forward technology in our classrooms is essential for preparing our students for the world outside of their K-12 education. Equipping students with the tools to help them be successful is vitally important.

Lake Stevens is a great place to live. The uniqueness of the natural beauty surrounding us along with our excellent, award-winning schools are top of the list of reasons why. Our Lake Stevens School District has excelled at providing high-quality instruction to the learners of tomorrow with the support of our incredible community, from which we all benefit. Please vote YES! for our schools on February 8.

*Statement prepared by: Carrie Blankenship and John Boerger*

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Lake Stevens SD - in total.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$17,628 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough. There should be no locally funded salaries.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district's administrators, the median total compensation was \$207,916 with a high of \$496,235. Median teacher compensation is at \$139,740 up 20% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

Proposition 1, the Educational Programs and Operations Levy is NOT a new tax, but a renewal of the expiring current levy. Your support of this measure will continue the funding our school district needs to keep providing our excellent early learning & special needs programs for students, pay locally-funded salaries for essential staff, and other expenses the state does not fund for our children. Vote YES on February 8th!

*Statement prepared by: Carrie Blankenship and John Boerger*



**Lake Stevens School District No. 4  
Proposition No. 2**

**Replacement of Expiring Capital Levy for Instructional Technology Improvements**

The Board of Directors of Lake Stevens School District No. 4 adopted Resolution No. 25-21, concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for instructional technology improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to acquire and install instructional technology equipment and infrastructure, replace and upgrade computers, devices, hardware and software, provide staff training and support, and make security upgrades:

| <u>Collection Year</u> | <u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u> | <u>Levy Amount</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023                   | \$0.26                                            | \$2,500,000        |
| 2024                   | \$0.24                                            | \$2,500,000        |
| 2025                   | \$0.23                                            | \$2,500,000        |
| 2026                   | \$0.21                                            | \$2,500,000        |

all as provided in Resolution No. 25-21. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow Lake Stevens School District to replace an existing capital levy for instructional technology improvements that will expire at the end of calendar year 2022. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to support the continued modernization of school facilities by making instructional technology improvements, including, but not limited to: acquiring and installing instructional technology equipment and infrastructure; replacing and upgrading computers, personal computing devices, hardware, software and telecommunication systems; providing related staff training and support to implement such technology improvements; and making security upgrades, including cybersecurity enhancements, cameras, card readers, doors and other security and safety equipment and improvements. Further information is available on the District's website at <https://www.lkstevens.wednet.edu/>.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$2,500,000 each year from 2023 through 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$0.26 in 2023, \$0.24 in 2024, \$0.23 in 2025, and \$0.21 in 2026 (estimated levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value). Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners, call Snohomish County Assessor at 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

On February 8, 2022, voters in Lake Stevens will be asked to approve two replacement levies, one for Educational Programs & Operations, and one for Technology. Both important levies are crucial to maintain the excellent work that the Lake Stevens School District is doing in these respective areas. These are NOT new taxes, rather renewals of levies that voters already passed to support our schools.

The renewal EP&O Levy funds critical operating costs within our schools, including locally-funded salaries, early learning and special education programs, safety and security systems, and extracurricular activities including arts, athletics, music and more. Without these crucial supports, the district would have to face cuts in operational funding, not be able to hire quality staff, and students would miss out on wonderful programs.

The renewal Technology Levy provides funding for classroom technology as well as student devices, including maintenance and repair. We know that having innovative, future-forward technology in our classrooms is essential for preparing our students for the world outside of their K-12 education. Equipping students with the tools to help them be successful is vitally important.

Lake Stevens is a great place to live. The uniqueness of the natural beauty surrounding us along with our excellent, award-winning schools are top of the list of reasons why. Our Lake Stevens School District has excelled at providing high-quality instruction to the learners of tomorrow with the support of our incredible community, from which we all benefit. Please vote YES! for our schools on February 8.

*Statement prepared by: Carrie Blankenship and John Boerger*

**Response to Statement For**

In 2019-2020, per pupil expenditures (including capital outlays and interest on debt) for the district were already at \$17,628. That's above tuition and books at many universities let alone most private K-12 schools.

In 2018, because of the McCleary Decision, state legislators pumped billions more dollars into our public schools, largely from increased property taxes. There is no amount of money monopoly school districts will be satisfied with. Citizens are crying uncle. Enough!

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Statement Against**

These cap levy items should come out of the General Fund. If salaries were not so bloated this would be possible.

These levies should be rejected. There should be no tax measures whatsoever on the ballot in February. February is the lowest voter turnout election of the year. Understandably. Most citizens are just learning that there are levies to vote on - again. We just had the holidays. Citizens have voting fatigue. And, importantly, citizens won't even receive their property tax bills for the year until a month later in March. How convenient.

In the interest of high voter participation, these important, large tax measures (which affect all property owners and renters in their rents) should be only on the November Election. It is irresponsible for the district to propose property tax measures a month before voters see their property tax bills.

The state will never be able to fulfill its constitutional obligation of fully-funding schools so long as local districts are allowed to spend more than the ample provision the state provides. Until that changes, citizens need to reject these local levies like the ones before you today. More details at [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

Proposition 2, the renewal of the expiring Technology Levy, is NOT a new tax. Saying YES to this levy means continuing the meaningful and important access to and support of technology that students in our school district benefit from every day and help to prepare them for the technology they will encounter on their chosen career paths. Please vote YES for our schools on February 8th!

*Statement prepared by: Carrie Blankenship and John Boerger*

**Marysville School District No. 25  
Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Marysville School District No. 25 adopted Resolution No. 2022-11 concerning a replacement levy for educational funding. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes to fund necessary educational programs and operations that are not funded by the state and to replace an expiring levy on taxable property within the District:

| Collection Years | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023             | \$2.20                                     | \$25,680,780 |
| 2024             | \$2.19                                     | \$26,066,005 |
| 2025             | \$2.18                                     | \$26,483,055 |
| 2026             | \$2.18                                     | \$26,986,270 |

subject to legal limits on levy amounts and rates at the time of the levy.  
Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$25,680,780.00 in property taxes within Marysville School District No. 25 for collection in 2023, the levy of \$26,066,005.00 for collection in 2024, the levy of \$26,483,055.00 for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$26,986,270.00 for collection in 2026 to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support the District’s educational programs and operations. In accordance with Resolution No. 2022-11 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the District’s General Fund. If authorized by the voters, and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$2.20 (2023 collection); \$2.19 (2024 collection); \$2.18 (2025 collection), and \$2.18 (2026 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy. In the event that a program is implemented that would increase State funding to the District, the District would, therefore, review and determine the need to roll back the levies.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Snohomish County Assessor at (425) 388-3433.

**Statement For**

This replacement of an existing tax will cost 30 cents per thousand less than the current rate and will continue to provide funding for extra-curricular activities such as sports and music. This levy renewal will also ensure that class sizes remain low, nurses, librarians and desperately needed counselors as well as provide additional staffing support to students with disabilities.

This levy replacement measure will also help with transportation, and will allow for the expansion of Early Learning across the district. Big improvements, with a lower cost.

*Statement prepared by: Christopher Davis*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the state Supreme Court ruled that the legislature had fulfilled its constitutional obligation to fund basic education. Consequently, in the Marysville School District, median staff compensation increased from 21.4% - 31.5% for the 2020-2021 biennium with the exception of the maximum district administrator compensation, which declined by 13.9% to \$337,000.

Despite the increase in state expenditures for local education, the Marysville School District No. 25 is asking voters to approve, by simple majority, a \$106.3 million tax levy for 2022-2025 (for a total of \$134 million in two measures). The district has provided no specific information on how the funds would be invested or why the state allocation is insufficient.

Any request for an increase in local property tax levies for education should clearly outline how the monies will be invested and why the state has declined to make the investment. In addition, given that these measures affect all property owners, they should appear on the November ballot, which is when most voters participate in elections (voter turnout of 40%-85%) rather than February (30%-40%). For additional information, see [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com).

*Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill*

**Response to Statement For**

The Marysville SD superintendent collected a salary of \$309,794 last year. This is 65% more than the governor’s salary (\$187,353) and more than twice that of the state superintendent of public instruction (\$153,000).

The school district website does not explain why local levies are needed given state funding nor how the monies would be allocated among six bulleted points. The levy request contains big promises, but the district is short on details. Please vote no.

*Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill*

**Response to Statement Against**

Increases in median staff compensation is due predominately to the injection of ESSER funds to hire additional staff to help with COVID response. Prop one would allow Marysville athletics, art, and music programs to continue as well as develop Pre-k for all.

Running a levy is expensive and the filing fee is shared by all districts running during the election in order to conserve funding, that’s why it is on the February ballot.

*Statement prepared by: Christopher Davis*

**Marysville School District No. 25  
Proposition No. 2**

Technology and Capital Projects Levy

The Board of Directors of Marysville School District No. 25 adopted Resolution No. 2022-12 concerning technology levies. This proposition would authorize the acquisition, installation, and management of computer technology systems, projects and facilities, including enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, implementing applications and training for the District's technology systems, projects or facilities; other authorized capital projects; and the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Years | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023             | \$0.60                                       | \$ 7,000,000 |
| 2024             | \$0.60                                       | \$ 7,150,000 |
| 2025             | \$0.60                                       | \$ 7,260,000 |
| 2026             | \$0.59                                       | \$ 7,350,000 |

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

The Marysville School District seeks voter approval to re-authorize the district's technology and capital facilities levy. If approved, the proposition authorizes the collection of excess taxes in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026, totaling \$28,760,000.00. The levy will provide funds to continue replenishing computers in schools and offices, provide assistive technology for special needs students, invest in improved administrative productivity, and support teachers as they integrate new and upgraded technology into classrooms. The levy also includes funds to make other necessary capital equipment purchases and facility improvements to modernize District facilities and safety systems.

If authorized by the voters and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.60 (2023 collection); \$0.60 (2024 collection); \$0.60 (2025 collection); and \$0.59 (2026 collection).

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Snohomish County Assessor at (425) 388-3433.

**Statement For**

The replacement Technology and Capital Projects levy will ensure that student devices are kept up to date, connected and available for learning. Maintaining hardware, software licensing and training, this Levy will allow each student in the district benefitting from one-to-one computers.

This Levy will be at 60 cents per thousand, remaining the same as the current level and will additionally provide security improvements, HVAC and Boiler improvements, Fire System Updates, Roof and Siding Replacements and provide new Playground Equipment.

Statement prepared by: Christopher Davis

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the state Supreme Court ruled that the legislature had fulfilled its constitutional obligation to fund basic education. Consequently, in the Marysville School District, median staff compensation increased from 21.4% - 31.5% for the 2020-2021 biennium with the exception of the maximum district administrator compensation, which declined by 13.9% to \$337,000.

Despite the increase in state expenditures for local education, the Marysville School District No. 25 is asking voters to approve, by simple majority, a \$28.8 million tax levy for 2022-2025 (for a total of \$134 million in two measures). The rationalization conflates investment in long-term assets, such as replacing the roof on an elementary school; the purchase of short-term assets, such as computers and software; and the intent to use levy funds for variable costs, such as training staff to effectively integrate technology in the classroom. The district has provided no specific information on how the funds would be invested or why the state allocation is insufficient.

Any request for an increase in local property tax levies for education should clearly outline how the monies will be invested and why the state has declined to make the investment. In addition, given that these measures affect all property owners, they should appear on the November ballot, which is when most voters participate in elections (voter turnout of 40%-85%) rather than February (30%-40%).

Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill

**Response to Statement For**

The Marysville SD superintendent collected a salary of \$309,794 last year. This is 65% more than the governor's salary (\$187,353) and more than twice that of the state superintendent of public instruction (\$153,000).

The school district website does not explain why local levies are needed given state funding nor how monies would be allocated between capital improvements and technology. The levy request contains big promises, but the district is short on details. Please vote no.

Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill

**Response to Statement Against**

The McCleary decision still relies on local Levy efforts to fund education. Furthermore, it relies heavily on local impact fees paid by developers for new construction. Our local government has removed impact fees regarding schools and education (Title 22D.040 MMC – updated with Ord. 2976) which has resulted in MSD 25 having to compete with a deficit that other communities do not have to face.

Please see: <https://www.marysvillewa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7300/Impact-Fee-Schedule---11172020> for more details.

Statement prepared by: Christopher Davis



**Monroe School District No. 103  
Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement of Expiring School Program and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Monroe School District No. 103 approved Resolution No. 14-2021 concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for education. This proposition would authorize the District to meet the educational needs of its students by levying the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State, as provided in Resolution No. 14-2021:

| Collection Years | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023             | \$1.71                                     | \$15,890,376 |
| 2024             | \$1.72                                     | \$16,767,086 |
| 2025             | \$1.73                                     | \$17,672,509 |
| 2026             | \$1.73                                     | \$18,607,442 |

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 1 would authorize the Monroe School District to replace an expiring levy for school programs and operations by levying \$15,890,376 for collection in 2023, \$16,767,086 for collection in 2024, \$17,672,509 for collection in 2025, and \$18,607,442 for collection in 2026. In accordance with Resolution No. 14-2021 approving this proposition, these amounts would be used to pay for day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, including, but not limited to, arts, athletics, extracurricular activities, transportation, special education, school safety & security, professional learning for staff, operations & building maintenance costs, and additional staff including teachers, nurses, para-educators, mental health specialists, and counselors.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$1.71 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2023, \$1.72 per \$1,000 in 2024, \$1.73 per \$1,000 in 2025, and \$1.73 per \$1,000 in 2026. 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 Snohomish County Assessor at (425) 388-3433.

**Statement For**

The **Monroe School District's Commitment** is a promise to ensure that **EVERY student within the district is provided with powerful instruction, equitable access to opportunities, and is held to high standards.** Your "Yes" vote to renew the Monroe School Program & Operations Levy is critical in upholding this commitment and vital to the quality of education provided to the 6,000+ students currently enrolled.

**This is not a new tax** but a renewal of the 4-year levy approved by voters in 2018, that is set to expire in 2022. The levy bridges the gap between what the state funds as basic education, and the critically needed funding to pay for day-to-day operations, programs, and services not fully funded through state and federal sources, including:

- Athletics and extracurricular activities such as band, choir, and drama
- Nurses, counselors, paraeducators
- Additional teachers to keep class size small
- School safety and security
- Student transportation
- Special education programs
- Academic programs such as dual-language, running start, and Career and Technical Education
- Ongoing professional development for staff
- Diversity and inclusion training and programs for staff and students
- Operations and building maintenance
- Supplies and materials
- Salaries and benefits to compete with surrounding districts in attracting and retaining quality staff

Levy funding makes up 15% of the school district budget, If not renewed, these programs and services that support our students will need to be significantly cut back or eliminated altogether.

Please vote "Yes" to renew the school levy and support our commitment to our students and the community.

*Statement prepared by: Theresa Burch*

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Monroe SD - in total.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$18,003 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough. Nurses and counselors aren't to blame.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district's administrators, the median total compensation was \$181,418 with a high of \$311,085. Median teacher compensation is at \$124,666 up 20% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

In the 4 years preceding McCleary implementation, State+ Levy taxes averaged \$5.565 / \$1,000. 2019-2021 averaged \$4.36 / \$1,000. Levy dollar amounts are capped annually meaning exceptional property values will decrease corresponding tax rates.

**Total compensation** is significantly impacted by escalating healthcare costs. 2020-2021 average teacher **salary** (\$85,369) represents 1.2% increase, remaining competitive but slightly below neighboring districts.

Please don't distract school leadership from today's critical challenges with a budget deficit. Vote YES. [HTTPS://www.citizensformonroeschools.org/](https://www.citizensformonroeschools.org/)

*Statement prepared by: Theresa Burch*

**Mukilteo School District No. 6  
Proposition No. 1**

Replacement of Educational Programs Levy

The Board of Directors of Mukilteo School District No. 6 adopted Resolution No. 4/2021-22 concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for educational enrichment. This proposition would authorize an excess tax levy in the levy amounts and at the rates below to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District for enrichment of the state's statutory program of basic education, all as described in Resolution No. 4/2021-22:

| Collection Years | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023             | \$1.76                                     | \$43,425,750 |
| 2024             | \$1.79                                     | \$45,179,064 |
| 2025             | \$1.83                                     | \$47,003,169 |
| 2026             | \$1.86                                     | \$48,900,922 |

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Mukilteo School District No. 6 to renew an expiring levy for educational programs and operations by levying \$43,425,750 in property taxes for collection in 2023, \$45,179,064 in property taxes for collection in 2024, \$47,003,169 in property taxes for collection in 2025, and \$48,900,922 for collection in 2026.

In accordance with Resolution No. 4/2021-22 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the District's General Fund and used to pay for day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, elementary instrumental music programs, athletics and extra-curricular programs, extended-day lessons for students, pay for substitutes, new curriculum, funds to support services for special-needs students in accordance with the Basic Education Funding Act (Laws of 2017, 3d Spec. Sess., ch. 13), as amended, and other applicable law.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$1.76 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2023 collection); \$1.79 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2024 collection); \$1.83 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2025 collection); and \$1.86 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2026 collection).

For information regarding exemptions, call the Snohomish County Assessor at (425) 388-3433.

**Statement For**

Please vote YES to renew the Education Programs Levy for the Mukilteo School District.

Our community approved the previous levy in 2018, but it will expire at the end of 2022. This is a replacement levy, not an additional tax. The difference in your tax amount for this levy will be nominal.

The Education Programs Levy funds programs and services that are not fully funded by the state. These programs and services include but are not limited to:

- Athletics
- Music Programs
- Special Education Programs
- Extra-Curricular Activities like Art, Debate, Tutoring Services, and Social/Emotional Clubs, etc....
- Substitutes and Staff

Without a renewal of the existing Education Program Levy, the Mukilteo School District will lose 15% of its budget and have to cut programs and staff. This would be extremely detrimental to the quality of education for the more than 15,000 children in our community. These impacts will be felt for years to come by all 24 schools in the district if this Levy is not passed.

These Education Programs are especially needed now as we continue to navigate these challenging times. The positive impacts these programs have on our kids have been instrumental to their learning and development.

Education is the cornerstone of our local economy and community, and our community needs to be committed to providing the best level of education to our students. Please vote YES for the renewal of the existing Education Program Levy.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Statement prepared by: Ed Hansen, Amberley Snyder, and Hannah Holman*

**Statement Against**

A statement against this measure was not received prior to the deadline.

**Mukilteo School District No. 6  
Proposition No. 2**

Replacement Capital Projects Levy

The Board of Directors of Mukilteo School District No. 6 adopted Resolution No. 5/2021-22 concerning a proposition for a capital levy. The proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District to modernize, renovate, and improve existing facilities of the District, and to replace and improve its technology systems and equipment, including training for installation and classroom use:

| Collection Years | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023             | \$0.61                                     | \$15,000,000 |
| 2024             | \$0.59                                     | \$15,000,000 |
| 2025             | \$0.58                                     | \$15,000,000 |
| 2026             | \$0.57                                     | \$15,000,000 |
| 2027             | \$0.56                                     | \$15,000,000 |
| 2028             | \$0.55                                     | \$15,000,000 |

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow Mukilteo School District No. 6 to renew an expiring capital levy by levying \$15,000,000 in property taxes for collection in 2023, \$15,000,000 for collection in 2024, \$15,000,000 for collection in 2025, \$15,000,000 for collection in 2026, \$15,000,000 for collection in 2027, and \$15,000,000 for collection in 2028, to pay for capital improvements of the District.

In accordance with Resolution No. 5/2021-22, these taxes would be deposited into the District’s Capital Projects Fund and used to renovate, modernize, and improve educational facilities, including roofs, boilers, plumbing systems, HVAC, security and playgrounds. The District also would improve its technology systems, including replacing and enhancing servers, equipment and other infrastructure and training, and would make other capital expenditures deemed necessary by the District’s Board.

Based on projected assessed valuations, the District estimates tax rates of \$0.61 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2023 collection); \$0.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2024 collection); \$0.58 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2025 collection); \$0.57 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2026 collection); \$0.56 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2027 collection); and \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2028 collection).

For information regarding exemptions, call the Snohomish County Assessor at (425) 388-3433.

**Statement For**

Mark Twain said it best: “Out of the public school grows the greatness of a nation.”

In America nearly 50 million students attend public school, or about 10 in 11 kids ([nces.ed.gov](http://nces.ed.gov)). Public school graduates are the leaders who strengthen our neighborhoods, organizations, and democracy.

At the local level, we believe that our Mukilteo School District is the most important institution to equip our children to thrive and to give all kids – regardless of background, income level, or country of origin – the skills to become healthy, productive citizens. As the diversity and poverty rates of our District grow, our school leaders have worked hard to support the basic needs, social/emotional health, and education of nearly 16,000 children.

To build a thriving community, with leaders who can tackle the big challenges of tomorrow, we ask you to vote “Approve” for the Capital Levy.

Washington state doesn’t fully fund education, and this Capital Levy provides money for facilities and technology that a school bond doesn’t fund. Our District’s teachers, administrators and staff will use this Capital Levy to modernize technology systems throughout the district by providing computers for students and staff; essential classroom teaching tools; and critical facility needs, to ensure we’re always providing a safe, positive learning environment. These include essential components that keep your children safe: HVAC, electrical, plumbing, fire panels, and upgrades and replacements of security cameras.

A great nation starts with great communities, and great communities require funded, supported public schools. Join us and vote “Approve.” [www.yes4mukilteokids.org](http://www.yes4mukilteokids.org).

*Statement prepared by: Cory Armstrong-Hoss, Shelby Holzkecht, and Bridget Lewis*

**Response to Statement For**

Mark Twain stopped going to school at age 12 – should we really be listening to his “wisdom” on the greatness of our public school system? An institution that has not changed much in structure or funding since Twain’s heyday is not a system that should be maintained and upheld. These Capital Levies need another source of income that is not dependent on our taxpayers. Our community is great because of its residence, not its schools.

*Statement prepared by: Nicole Amor and Charles Stahl*

**Statement Against**

This is not Seattle – we do not want to price our community members out of here by allowing school districts to increase tax rates for their bonds and levies. This levy measure would require homeowners and renters to pay even higher taxes and rent rates for years to come. It is irresponsible for the district to propose property tax measures a month before voters see their property tax bills. Our beautiful city has a growing senior population whose incomes are limited, and a district with so many families living in poverty. Asking those families to spend more money is ridiculous and risks pricing people out of their own community.

The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same. What have schools been doing the past two years while our facilities were shut down and students were at home? So many of our taxpayers are still hurting from the COVID- 19 pandemic, another tax increase is not what we need. According to an analysis done by the Washington Policy Center in 2020, school districts often propose levies to voters based on incomplete and misleading information regarding property tax rates and assessed values. District officials should present its voters with transparent and complete information about the real cost of approving capital projects. Maybe then the public can be confident in their spending, but until then, vote no.

*Statement prepared by: Nicole Amor and Charles Stahl*

**Response to Statement Against**

This levy isn’t a new tax. It replaces one that’s been extremely beneficial, enhancing learning environments and increasing access to technology, like the 13,000 devices we’ve provided to students. Covid has had a significant impact on our students, and removing the support the levy provides would be detrimental to their learning. Our community is great because of our schools, which are exceptional because we make the choice to fund them. Vote “Approve” for our future!

*Statement prepared by: Cory Armstrong-Hoss, Shelby Holzkecht, and Bridget Lewis*



**Northshore School District No. 417  
Proposition No. 1**

Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Northshore School District adopted Resolution No. 839 authorizing a renewal educational levy. To continue high quality academic programs and other eligible activities not currently state funded, this proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount Up To |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 2023            | \$1.40                                     | \$62,500,000      |
| 2024            | \$1.40                                     | \$64,900,000      |
| 2025            | \$1.40                                     | \$67,500,000      |
| 2026            | \$1.40                                     | \$70,200,000      |

as provided in Resolution #839 and subject to legal limits on levy amounts and rates at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace the expiring levy. This proposed levy would be at a projected lower tax rate and would allow the levy of \$62,500,000 in property taxes within Northshore School District No. 417 for collection in 2023, the levy of \$64,900,000 for collection in 2024, the levy of \$67,500,000 for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$70,200,000 for collection in 2026, to enable the District to pay for its educational programs and services, such levies to be made for four years commencing in 2022 for collection in the school years from 2022-2023 through 2026-2027. In accordance with Resolution No. 839 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the District's General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District not funded by the State. General expenses of the District include, instructional materials, special programs, activities and special education, technical education programs, transportation costs, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District's schools. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$1.40 per year in years 2023 through 2026, inclusive.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

**Statement For**

*Voting yes renews our commitment to quality education* in Northshore SD by directly investing in student services and classroom instruction. This levy renewal funds essential school programs and staff including nurses, counselors, special education, accelerated learning supports, multi-language learning, and emergency preparedness.

This measure fills critical gaps in state funding. Students require a safe and healthy school environment to learn effectively. Voting yes ensures that every school has a nurse, as well as providing mental health support. The state doesn't cover any costs for extracurriculars, putting the burden on local funding to support athletics, clubs, and music that enrich youth development outside of the classroom.

*Strong schools build strong communities.* Our thriving school district makes this a place where families want to raise their kids, and is part of what makes our whole community thrive. Not only did the voters overwhelmingly vote to renew this levy 4 years ago, but we're proud of the level of community and family support shown for our schools every day.

*Please vote yes for student success – vote yes to renew the educational programs and operations levy!*

*Statement prepared by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, and Jasmine Lee Frye*

**Statement Against**

Did you know in 2018, State courts ruled that *the State would fully fund education* via the McCleary Decision? That meant taxpayers were promised a levy swap: *State* school property taxes would *increase* but *local* school property taxes would be *nearly eliminated*. *Instead*, state school taxes and our local school taxes dramatically increased. Our district is out of control, taxing people out of their homes. In 2018 they asked for \$571M across 3 measures & now \$770M (a 35% increase).

The underpaid teacher myth needs clarification: Median NSD teacher compensation in 2020-2021 = \$135k (highest @ \$200k) for 10 months of work. Extrapolated to 12 months and it's \$163k. Teachers aren't restricted from securing supplemental income. Many of us are. They are well compensated and the Union is targeting another substantial increase in 2 years. Covered by this levy.

NSD discloses only headline spending. We need total transparency. This levy of \$265M will be dumped into the General Fund where 85% goes to compensations for *all* employees - not just nurses and mental health counselors as advertised.

NSD blames legislators for not fully funding their bloated budget. The legislators are correct in saying 'No more'. We should do the same. *Say no to excess.*

*Statement prepared by: Dominique France and Angela Chapman*

**Response to Statement For**

The community needs greater accountability for this funding. The General Fund does not earmark this Levy for the promised allocations. Instead, evolving budgets and salary hikes continue to absorb this growing tax. Our district is not thriving. In large part due to the district deciding what they believe is right for our families. Using taxpayer funding for political games and to support divisiveness, does not make for a stronger community.

*Vote no to irresponsible spending.*

*Statement prepared by: Dominique France and Angela Chapman*

**Response to Statement Against**

The opposition committee's statements are not accurate. Their figure is 40% higher than actual average teacher salaries. This local levy – *authorized by the Legislature* – fills critical gaps in state funding not covered by the McCleary Decision like nurses, extracurriculars, special education, and accelerated learning supports. The District's website ([www.nsd.org/our-district/overview/bond-levies](http://www.nsd.org/our-district/overview/bond-levies)) has a transparent list of all funded programs.

*This is not a new tax; voting yes renews our commitment to quality education and builds strong communities.*

*Statement prepared by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, and Jasmine Lee Frye*

**Northshore School District No. 417  
Proposition No. 2**

General Obligation Bonds - \$425,000,000

The School District No. 417 Board of Directors approved a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to modernize and expand at Crystal Springs, Fernwood, Kenmore, Maywood Hills, and Woodin Elementary Schools, Leota Middle, Inglemoor High School and Sorenson Early Childhood Center, improve health and safety, make building and improvements throughout the District, decrease portables by one-third, and issue \$425,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 21 years, and levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution #840. Should this proposition be:

Approved  
Rejected

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would be at a projected lower tax rate and would allow Northshore School District No. 417 to borrow \$425,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 840 approving this proposition, the bonds will pay for renovations, upgrades and new construction of school facilities to meet the needs of the growing District, decrease portables by one third, and improvements to energy efficiency of school buildings in the District. Capital projects include planning, developing, constructing and equipping renovations and additions at Crystal Springs, Fernwood, Kenmore, Maywood Hills, and Woodin Elementary Schools, plan phased replacement and undertake phase one at Leota Middle, and Inglemoor High Schools, add an accessible classroom addition at Sorenson Early Childhood Center, make health and safety upgrades, improve outdoor learning spaces, playfields, tracks, tennis courts, athletic fields, and inclusive playgrounds, classroom modifications, to meet instructional program needs. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 21 years. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

**Statement For**

The Capital Bond adds new permanent classroom space in response to growth, reduces the district's reliance on portables, modernizes outdated buildings, and makes critically needed HVAC and security upgrades across the district.

Due to rapid growth in our area for many years, Northshore relies on 172 portables for classroom instruction. Reducing the District's reliance on portables improves student safety in the event of a lockdown, and permanent classrooms are less expensive to heat and operate than portables. Voting yes adds classroom space, as well as replacing outdated fire alarms and installing secured entries across our district. It also funds critical building maintenance like roof repairs and replacing obsolete HVAC systems with energy-efficient upgrades to keep our students warm, safe, and dry.

Because it replaces expiring bonds and refinances higher interest school construction debt, the bond pays for all of this without increasing our tax rate.

*All students deserve a quality learning environment, and strong schools build strong communities. Voting yes for all three measures maintains our excellent schools and responds to growth, keeping our community an attractive place to live and raise a family. Please vote yes for student success!*

Statement prepared by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, and Jasmine Lee Fry

**Response to Statement For**

Fact check: Flat tax rate equals higher tax bill - Property values rose substantially, impacting all property owners (commercial and residential) including renters who absorb the tax costs; Expected student numbers declined and many pulled their children out! NSD regularly sells permanent structures instead of repurposing for classrooms and sporting facilities; NSD has documented declining growth and noted they are asking for more than they need.

*NSD is not fiscally responsible. Vote no on tax hikes!*

Statement prepared by: Dominique France and Angela Chapman

**Statement Against**

As parents and taxpayers of NSD, we all want sufficient capacity and well-maintained schools. To date, this district has failed to adequately plan for and maintain existing facilities. Priorities have been on acquiring land and building new facilities, while neglecting 'poor' schools, not maximizing existing investments, and leaving select schools and playgrounds derelict, unsafe, and with excessive portable usage.

The Capital Bond Planning Task Force recommended a baseline budget of \$275M. The district opted for the maximum scenario of \$475M that includes a frivolous, luxury \$48M district pool. Further misleading the public, this \$425M principal amount does not disclose fees and interest. With the district's estimations, the actual price tag runs \$580M. There should be no school bonds, only 6 year capital levies, saving taxpayers millions. Seattle does this.

The NSD website presents a half-baked cost analysis showing just 4 years' rates. This is a 21 year bond that will tax our children and grandchildren. We are still paying for the 20 year bonds that started in 2014 and 2018. We need transparent and responsible budgeting, not sneaking in >\$855M across 3 measures during the lowest voter turnout of the year, versus November general election.

*Vote no on frivolous spending.*

Statement prepared by: Dominique France and Angela Chapman

**Response to Statement Against**

The opposition committee says we aren't maintaining existing buildings, and then asks you to vote "no" on funding building maintenance. There is no pool in this measure! Instead, it funds critical maintenance, safety and security upgrades, and addresses overcrowding with new construction. Don't believe the opposition committee's false statements.

This is not a new tax; it replaces existing debt. Voting yes for all three measures means a decreased tax rate from \$3.63/1,000 to \$3.28/1,000.

Statement prepared by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, and Jasmine Lee Fry

**Northshore School District No. 417  
Proposition No. 3**

Renewal Capital Projects (Technology) Levy

The Board of Directors of Northshore School District No. 417 adopted Resolution No. 841 concerning a proposition for capital levies. To ensure all students have access to adaptive technology to prepare for careers of tomorrow, modernize technology systems, and train students and staff, the District shall levy the following excess levies in place of an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount   |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 2023            | \$0.45                                     | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2024            | \$0.43                                     | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2025            | \$0.42                                     | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2026            | \$0.40                                     | \$ 20,000,000 |

all as provided in Resolution #841. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 3 would replace the current levy set to expire in 2022. This proposition is projected to be approximately the same as the current rate and would allow the levy of \$20,000,000 in property taxes within Northshore School District No. 417 for collection for each of the years in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026, to pay for technology improvements and meet the current and future educational programs for its students. In accordance with Resolution No. 841 approving this proposition, these taxes would pay for enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, and implementing online applications and training related to the installation of the foregoing, and the application and upgrading of technology systems for operations and instruction, including the ongoing fees for online applications, subscriptions, software licenses, and ongoing training for students and staff related to the installation and integration of these products or services. If authorized by the voters and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.45 (2023 collection); \$0.43 (2024 collection); \$0.42 (2025 collection); and \$0.40 (2026 collection).

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

**Statement For**

Modern classroom technology and devices are essential to preparing students for their future pathways – whether directly to career or college. The Technology Levy Renewal ensures that every student will retain access to up-to-date devices for instruction. It also funds technology training and support for students, teachers, and families.

Thanks to the Technology Levy passing overwhelmingly 4 years ago, every student in Northshore SD is assigned a device matched to their grade level and curriculum needs. This 1:1 student to device ratio significantly streamlined the temporary shift to remote learning during the pandemic, helping insulate our students from worse educational shortfalls. The Family Tech Support services that were started in 2020 will continue under this levy.

This measure supports Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education that is so important to prepare all graduates for the workforce of tomorrow. The Technology Levy allows our district to offer programs like “Hour of Code” as well as adaptive technology for individual learning.

*Please vote yes for student success – vote yes to renew the technology levy!*

*Statement prepared by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, and Jasmine Lee Fry*

**Statement Against**

If the district could be trusted to spend this money as advertised, perhaps some portion of this levy should be passed. However, the 2018 \$62M Tech Levy was grossly abused, spending \$24M on unsubstantiated teacher training and staffing. The promise of a device per child was qualified as only for ‘those in need’, leaving non-district issued devices absent of security controls and exposure to countless hours exposed to unapproved online content during excessive at-home learning during the pandemic.

Of reference, state charter schools are not permitted to run bonds and levies. They must operate within their taxpayer funded budget and yet produce excellent academic outcomes. NSD should learn from them.

The reason we are voting on 3 measures is that separating technology and building costs from the General Fund, more budget can be allocated to salaries. The district bloats the budget with excessive compensation: Superintendent \$480k + the most (6) assistant superintendents in Washington averaging \$250k each. With 22.4k students, we are one of the most expensive and top heavy schools in Washington. Seattle, with 55k students operates with 2 assistant superintendents.

The district has abused our trust and funding. *Vote no on misappropriating taxpayer dollars.*

*Statement prepared by: Dominique France and Angela Chapman*

**Response to Statement For**

Student success isn’t contingent on low-end district issued devices and 1 hour of coding annually. It depends on a rigorous and focused education that is safe. The previous levy was supposed to solve this, but didn’t. Many devices were issued out-of-warranty and families fined for repairs. Saying the tech levy supports “Hour of Code” is disingenuous: foundations and corporations pay for this. NSD has been irresponsible with our tax dollars.

*Vote no to frustrating tech.*

*Statement prepared by: Dominique France and Angela Chapman*

**Response to Statement Against**

Just like the teacher salaries and pool falsehoods above, the opposition committee is presenting wrong figures here. *The facts are that Technology Levy funds go toward purchasing devices to maintain our 1:1 ratio, which helped our students during the temporary period of online learning. It also funds classroom technology and instructional technology training.*

*Voting yes to renew our Technology Levy is critical to ensuring a modern education that prepares students for the workforce of tomorrow.*

*Statement prepared by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, and Jasmine Lee Fry*



**Snohomish School District No. 201 Proposition No. 1**

**Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy**

The Board of Directors of Snohomish School District No. 201 adopted Resolution No. 16-21, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operations expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State of Washington, including instruction, special education and extracurricular activities:

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023            | \$1.80                                     | \$24,545,000 |
| 2024            | \$1.80                                     | \$26,999,000 |
| 2025            | \$1.80                                     | \$29,698,000 |
| 2026            | \$1.80                                     | \$32,668,000 |

all as provided in Resolution No. 16-21. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Snohomish School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire in 2022. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, including, but not limited to, instruction, special education, extracurricular activities, and other educational programs and operations. Further information is available on the District's website at <https://www.sno.wednet.edu/2022levies>.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$24,545,000 in 2023, \$26,999,000 in 2024, \$29,698,000 in 2025, and \$32,668,000 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.80 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call Snohomish County Assessor at 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

This is a REPLACEMENT levy, not a new tax. The current levy expires in December 2022. Renewing this levy (12% of schools' annual budget) is vital to maintaining quality education in Snohomish.

The total local school tax rate, with this levy and Prop 2, will be LOWER than that of the last 5 years – more than \$1.50 lower than in 2018.

This levy pays for academic help for ALL STUDENTS, from those who excel to those who struggle. It enriches and underpins special education and vocational programs. It pays for 56 highly qualified educators and school staff and enables schools to attract and retain "people power" necessary to prepare students to be learned, responsible, contributing citizens of the future.

The state pays for fewer than two school security staff; this levy helps pay for SROs and additional security. The state pays for fewer than two nurses for Snohomish's 9,300 students; this levy pays for 11 more. The state doesn't cover facility maintenance, leaving it up to us to protect our investment in our schools. The longer painting and minor maintenance projects languish, the more expensive they become.

The state pays NOTHING for extra-curricular and after-school activities. This levy funds athletics, tutoring, clubs, theatre/drama, Book Café, summer school programs, ACT testing for HS juniors, and more.

Strong schools mean strong communities. Keeping our schools strong while paying a lower local school tax rate is an easy decision and long-term investment in the future.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Judy, Candace McKenna, and Mark R. Myers*

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Snohomish SD. The pro levy committee forgot to mention those rates.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$16,505 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district's administrators, the median total compensation was \$201,622 with a high of \$358,771. Median teacher compensation is at \$143,806 up 21% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

Fluctuating property values don't impact school levy collections; districts collect ONLY published dollar amounts.

Legislators acknowledge McCleary as a step toward full state school funding, not a complete answer to the state's Constitutional obligation to do so, including salaries to attract/retain highly qualified educators. Technology, school maintenance, student safety, health needs, extra-curricular activities are not funded by the state. State shortfall is filled every 4 years by local voter levies approval. Please vote YES.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Judy, Candace McKenna, and Mark R. Myers*

**Snohomish School District No. 201 Proposition No. 2**

**Replacement Levy for Technology, Safety and Facility Improvements**

The Board of Directors of Snohomish School District No. 201 adopted Resolution No. 15-21, concerning a proposition to finance technology, safety and facility improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to continue funding instructional technology (equipment, infrastructure, classroom support) and make safety and facility improvements (security cameras, roofs, siding, HVAC, parking lots, elementary play areas, stadium):

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 2023            | \$0.60                                     | \$8,183,000  |
| 2024            | \$0.60                                     | \$9,001,000  |
| 2025            | \$0.60                                     | \$9,901,000  |
| 2026            | \$0.60                                     | \$10,891,000 |

all as provided in Resolution No.15-21. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow Snohomish School District to replace an existing levy that will expire at the end of 2022. The proposed replacement levy authorizes the District to make technology, safety and facility improvements throughout existing school facilities, including, but not limited to: (1) acquiring, installing and modernizing instructional technology equipment, infrastructure, systems and facilities; (2) providing technical support for student and teachers in classrooms, all to enhance student learning; (3) acquiring and/or upgrading security cameras and other safety and security systems; (4) upgrading, improving and/or replacing roofs and siding; (5) improving heating and ventilation systems (“HVAC”); (6) improving and replacing portable classrooms; (7) improving school parking lots and elementary play areas; (8) stadium improvements; and (9) making other health, safety and facility improvements to existing school facilities. Further information is available on the District’s website at <https://www.sno.wednet.edu/2022levies>.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$8,183,000 in 2023, \$9,001,000 in 2024, \$9,901,000 in 2025, and \$10,891,000 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$0.60 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners, call Snohomish County Assessor 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

This is a REPLACEMENT levy, not a new tax. The current levy expires in December 2022; the district asks voters to continue this vital local funding for three critical reasons:

- To maintain school facilities**  
This includes capital projects -- replacing roofs and siding and modernizing facilities systems like HVAC. The 2020 bond failure stalled major upgrades and replacements. The longer these projects are delayed, the more costly they become. Schools must be maintained timely and routinely, just as homes and businesses must be.
- To improve safety**  
In our changed world, keeping students, staff and visitors safe is increasingly important. Prop 2 includes buying and upgrading security cameras. It pays for major safety improvements to vehicle access into and out of school campuses, enhances safety of elementary school playgrounds, and portable classrooms.
- To continue educational technology access**  
We all learned during the pandemic the importance of technology and equitable access to equipment and the internet. Prop 2 continues providing local levy dollars for educational technology and access for students – what they need to be successful in school and to gain skills for their successful futures.

Approval of Prop 2 AND approval of Prop 1 adds up to a total local school tax rate for 2023-26 that will be LESS than what property owners have paid over the last five years. Strong schools mean strong communities; keeping our schools strong and doing so while paying a lower total local school tax rate is an investment in the future.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Judy, Candace McKenna, and Mark R. Myers*

**Response to Statement For**

In 2019-2020, per pupil expenditures (including capital outlays and interest on debt) for the district were already at \$16,505. That’s above tuition and books at many universities let alone most private K-12 schools.

In 2018, because of the McCleary Decision, state legislators pumped billions more dollars into our public schools, largely from increased property taxes. There is no amount of money monopoly school districts will be satisfied with. Citizens are crying uncle. Enough!

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

*The statements are printed as submitted.*

**Statement Against**

These cap levy items should come out of the General Fund. If salaries were not so bloated this would be possible.

These levies should be rejected. There should be no tax measures whatsoever on the ballot in February. February is the lowest voter turnout election of the year. Understandably. Most citizens are just learning that there are levies to vote on - again. We just had the holidays. Citizens have voting fatigue. And, importantly, citizens won’t even receive their property tax bills for the year until a month later in March. How convenient.

In the interest of high voter participation, these important, large tax measures (which affect all property owners and renters in their rents) should be only on the November Election. It is irresponsible for the district to propose property tax measures a month before voters see their property tax bills.

The state will never be able to fulfill its constitutional obligation of fully-funding schools so long as local districts are allowed to spend more than the ample provision the state provides. Until that changes, citizens need to reject these local levies like the ones before you today. More details at [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

Fluctuating property values don’t impact school levy collections; districts collect ONLY published dollar amounts.

School budget/financial years end Aug. 31. Therefore, each spring/early summer districts set next school year’s budget. Snohomish levies fund 16% of schools’ budgets. Every 4 years in February, we ask voters to fill the gap between state funding and actual local costs of educating our communities’ children in safe schools. February elections align with state-set budget approval deadlines. Please, vote YES.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Judy, Candace McKenna, and Mark R. Myers*

**Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401 Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy**

The Board of Directors of Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 2021/2022-001 concerning a capital projects/technology levy to replace an expiring levy. This proposition would authorize the District to modernize and repair District facilities; modernize and upgrade District technology and computer systems for instruction and operations; other capital project expenditures, and the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the district:

| Collection Years | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2023             | \$0.27                                       | \$2,448,925 |
| 2024             | \$0.27                                       | \$2,546,901 |
| 2025             | \$0.27                                       | \$2,648,746 |
| 2026             | \$0.27                                       | \$2,701,705 |

all as provided in District Resolution No. 2021/2022-001. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace the Stanwood-Camano School District's expiring levy and allow the District to levy \$2,448,925 in property taxes within the District for collection in 2023, \$2,546,901 in 2024, \$2,648,746 in 2025, and \$2,701,705 in 2026 to fund the acquisition, installation, implementation, and management of safety and security systems, technology systems, facilities and projects, including but not limited to enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, online applications, staffing and training related to the foregoing, and other capital project expenditures as found necessary by the Board of Directors. These taxes would be collected over the 2022-2023 through 2026-2027 school years, inclusive, and deposited in the District's Capital Projects Fund for such improvements to meet the current and future educational programs for its students. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation per year in years 2023 through 2026, inclusive. The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

**Statement For**

In passing the Capital Project and Technology Levy for SCSD, as a voter you will help support the future of our students by increasing safety, updating facilities and continue to move the District forward with it's Technology needs.

Your "yes" vote will help provide better learning environments for our students, by increasing their safety and well-being by helping to replace aging Sprinkler systems, roofs and PA systems. Fencing and sidewalks will continue to keep our students protected.

The Levy will provide Technology updates that will help with staffing and staff training, software and machine updates and will help keep the infrastructure (servers, wifi and network) current to continue to support both on-site learning and any distance-learning needs.

Since there is no increase to our local school tax rate, and this will replace an existing expiring levy - there is no financial consequence to voters. In fact, as the years progress that school tax rate for this Levy will continue to go down.

As a Community, if we desire to invest in our students (which past history has demonstrated with the passing of our 2017 High School Bond and other levies), continuing to help fund our schools with the passing of this Levy should be our commitment to the students of Stanwood-Camano School District.

We need to continue to give our students the resources, both tangible and intangible, to build into their future. By passing this Levy, your vote will help contribute to that goal.

*Statement prepared by: Kirsti Daniels*

**Response to Statement For**

The Stanwood-Camano SD superintendent collected a salary of \$309,794 last year. This is 65% more than the governor's salary (\$187,353) and more than twice that of the state superintendent of public instruction (\$153,000).

Voters have approved \$37.2 million for capital improvements since November 2013. No annual report details how those monies have been spent. The levy request contains big promises, but the district is short on details. Please vote no.

*Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the state Supreme Court ruled that the legislature had fulfilled its constitutional obligation to fund basic education. Consequently, in the Stanwood-Camano School District, median staff compensation increased from 21.3% - 34.4% for the 2020-2021 biennium.

Despite the increase in state expenditures for local education, the Stanwood-Camano School District No 401 is asking voters to approve, by simple majority, a 22% increase in the current local levy for education. The offered rationalization conflates investment in long-term assets, such as replacing the roof on an elementary school; the purchase of short-term assets, such as computers and software; and the intent to use levy funds for variable costs, hiring teachers "to facilitate the work of professional development." In addition, the district does not indicate how the \$10.3 million would be allocated between the three types of investments. The district has not explained why the state allocation is insufficient.

Any request for an increase in local property tax levies should clearly outline how the monies will be invested and why the state has declined to make the investment. In addition, given that these measures affect all property owners, they should appear on the November ballot, which is when most voters participate in elections (voter turnout of 40%-85%) rather than February (30%-40%). For additional information, see [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com).

*Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill*

**Response to Statement Against**

The State does not provide adequate funding for major facility repairs and technology systems for students and permits school districts to propose levies to address those needs. The replacement levy will allow the District to make facility improvements and provide needed instructional technology for students.

Stanwood-Camano School District voters are encouraged to visit the District website for complete details on how this election serves all students and vote YES by February 8th.

*Statement prepared by: Kirsti Daniels*



**Sultan School District No. 311  
Proposition No. 1**

Replacement Educational Programs and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of Sultan School District No. 311 adopted Resolution No. 21-05, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------|
| 2023            | \$1.50                                     | \$3,912,643 |
| 2024            | \$1.50                                     | \$4,382,161 |
| 2025            | \$1.50                                     | \$4,820,377 |
| 2026            | \$1.50                                     | \$5,206,007 |

all as provided in Resolution No. 21-05. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Sultan School District to replace an existing educational programs and operation levy that will expire in 2022. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, including, but not limited to, expansion of Basic Education, Alternative Learning, Special Education, nurses, mental health specialists, security, reduced class size, instructional materials, extracurricular activities, transportation and professional development. Further information is available on the District's website at <https://www.sultanschools.org/>.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$3,912,643 in 2023, \$4,382,161 in 2024, \$4,820,377 in 2025, and \$5,206,007 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call Snohomish County Assessor at 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

Please vote Yes to continue local support for Sultan-Sky Valley Students. Educational Programs & Operations levies stay right here in the community to support maintenance and building quality programs. The Operations Levy helps pay for items such as teachers, supplies, school nurses, special education services, security and student activities such as music, drama, clubs and athletics.

The Sultan School District has one of the lowest levy rates in the region. In fact, in 2018 the community paid \$3.57 per \$1,000 whereas, Proposition 1 in the current levy (2022) is set at \$1.50 per \$1,000. We don't have any Bond debt. Even with passing the much-needed Prop 2 Capital levy we will only be at \$2.75 combined. Passing the Levy demonstrates local commitment to education and will continue to benefit Sultan Graduates and community members for decades to come. Today's students deserve the opportunity to thrive like the generations before them.

This is a replacement levy, NOT an additional tax. Providing support for students while protecting our capital investment by taking good care of our facilities.

We all benefit from a well-educated society. The doctors, plumbers, police officers, electricians, firefighters and teachers who have provided service to you throughout your life were students first. As students, it was the support of their communities, with levies like this one, that improved the quality of their education so that they could become contributing members of society after graduation.

Please Vote Yes on Prop 1 and Prop 2

*Statement prepared by: Debbie Copple and Rob Tutor*

**Response to Statement For**

The pro levy committee fails to mention the fact that we had the McCleary Decision and resulting, substantial, property tax increases in 2018. Your property tax bill categories of State School all end up, along with the other school categories, at the Sultan SD - in total.

In 2019-2020, the district was already spending \$16,247 per student including capital outlays and interest on debt. More than enough. Reductions need to come from excessive salaries.

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

*The statements are printed as submitted.*

**Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district's administrators, the median total compensation was \$143,781 with a high of \$265,265. Median teacher compensation is at \$133,297 up 20% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

*Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn*

**Response to Statement Against**

In 2018, the McCleary decision increased state funding for 'necessary' basic education programs but doesn't cover everything. Sultan parents and students would argue that college in the high school, agriculture, shop classes, music & life skills classes are necessary. The McCleary decision doesn't cover those and many more expenses schools incur. We agree that school funding needs to be revisited. Sultan isn't Mill Creek where Mr. Heckathorn lives and his numbers come from.

Vote yes.

*Statement prepared by: Debbie Copple and Rob Tutor*

**Sultan School District No. 311  
Proposition No. 2**

Capital Levy for Safety, Critical Infrastructure, Technology and Transportation Facility

The Board of Directors of Sultan School District No. 311 adopted Resolution No. 21-06, concerning a proposition to finance capital improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District to make District-wide safety, security and critical infrastructure improvements (security cameras, fencing and roof improvements), continue funding instructional technology equipment, infrastructure and improvements, and construct a new transportation facility:

| <u>Collection Year</u> | <u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u> | <u>Levy Amount</u> |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2023                   | \$1.25                                            | \$3,184,889        |
| 2024                   | \$1.25                                            | \$3,503,378        |
| 2025                   | \$1.25                                            | \$3,783,648        |
| 2026                   | \$1.25                                            | \$4,010,667        |

all as provided in Resolution No. 21-06. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy Yes  
Levy No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of taxes over a four-year period to pay for safety, critical infrastructure, technology and transportation facility, including, but not limited to: (1) acquiring, installing, implementing and modernizing security cameras, fencing and other safety and security systems/improvements; (2) making roof improvements; (3) making other safety, security, health and athletic fields and facilities improvements; (4) making other District-wide critical infrastructure improvements; (5) continuing to fund instructional technology equipment, infrastructure and improvements; and (6) constructing a new transportation facility to replace the existing transportation facility. Further information is available on the District's website at <https://www.sultanschools.org/>.

The proposed four-year capital levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$3,184,889 in 2023, \$3,503,378 in 2024, \$3,783,648 in 2025, and \$4,010,667 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call Snohomish County Assessor at 425.388.3433.

**Statement For**

The Community Facility Advisory Committee (CFAC) for Sultan School District consists of 20-25 citizens from our community and key school district staff. We're your friends and neighbors, and we, like you, also pay taxes to support our local school district. Many of us on the committee have background in public works, construction, maintenance, building, and other applicable fields which we used to inform our efforts on this committee. The CFAC has put many hours and meetings over the last two+ years working to put on the ballot what we believe to be the bare minimum needed to propel our district forward for the next few years. You have no doubt noticed the explosive growth recently in Sultan. Bringing with it several new families and their children. We are going to be looking into the future soon to find new and exciting ways to support our community with our SSD resources.

Today your action is required to vote YES on both **Proposition 1** – Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy this continues to build on what we have here already in place. **Proposition 2** – Capital Levy for Safety, Critical Infrastructure, Technology, and Transportation Facility which infuses funding for much-needed repairs, improvements, and other items required to continue to support our children's growth and education in a safe, and secure environment. When the local funding is secured for the Transportation Facility, the State will match it by contributing almost \$4,000,000 to the project. A great value!

Statement prepared by: Rob Tutor and Debbie Copple

**Response to Statement For**

In 2019-2020, per pupil expenditures (including capital outlays and interest on debt) for the district were already at \$16,247. That's above tuition and books at many universities let alone most private K-12 schools.

In 2018, because of the McCleary Decision, state legislators pumped billions more dollars into our public schools, largely from increased property taxes. There is no amount of money monopoly school districts will be satisfied with. Citizens are crying uncle. Enough!

Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn

**Statement Against**

These cap levy items should come out of the General Fund. If salaries were not so bloated this would be possible.

These levies should be rejected. There should be no tax measures whatsoever on the ballot in February. February is the lowest voter turnout election of the year. Understandably. Most citizens are just learning that there are levies to vote on - again. We just had the holidays. Citizens have voting fatigue. And, importantly, citizens won't even receive their property tax bills for the year until a month later in March. How convenient.

In the interest of high voter participation, these important, large tax measures (which affect all property owners and renters in their rents) should be only on the November Election. It is irresponsible for the district to propose property tax measures a month before voters see their property tax bills.

The state will never be able to fulfill its constitutional obligation of fully-funding schools so long as local districts are allowed to spend more than the ample provision the state provides. Until that changes, citizens need to reject these local levies like the ones before you today. More details at [www.schooldataproject.com](http://www.schooldataproject.com)

Statement prepared by: Jeff Heckathorn

**Response to Statement Against**

Capital projects cannot be funded through the general fund. These are loans that schools take out in order to build large projects today, that might take 30 years to save up for. This is a responsible levy that comes with millions in matching state funds.

Go to <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/5167/Assessor> and review your present property tax allocations anytime. You cannot build with reduced salaries. Vote Yes on Prop 2.

Statement prepared by: Rob Tutor and Debbie Copple

**Fire District 15  
Proposition No. 1**

## Restoring Regular Property Tax Levy

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District No. 15, Snohomish County, Washington, adopted Resolution No. 2021-14 concerning a proposition to restore the District's regular property tax levy. This proposition would authorize the District to impose a regular property tax levy at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2022 (the same level as in 2018) and thereafter subject to any otherwise applicable statutory dollar rate limitations. The dollar amount of this levy would be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies under RCW 84.55.050.

Should this proposal be approved?

Yes  
No

**Explanatory Statement**

This measure restores the levy for Fire District 15 at the level previously approved by voters in 2018. This levy is the primary source of funding for emergency services provided by Fire District 15. State limitations on funding increases do not allow the Fire District to keep up with increasing labor and operational costs. Passage of Proposition No. 1 will allow the Fire District to restore its levy rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation as otherwise authorized by law. Voter approval of Proposition No. 1 will provide funding for the District to maintain its existing level of service for fire and emergency medical services.

**Statement For**

Dear fellow Tulalip area Residents.

Providing life and property saving protection to our community requires qualified personnel with specialized training & equipment. Our Firefighters & Emergency Medical Technicians are always on duty to respond to your 911 calls, in our ever-growing community.

With the addition of recently added FF/Paramedic staff, Tulalip Bay Fire is better prepared than ever. Over the past eight years, the Fire District has transitioned from relying primarily on volunteer Firefighters that responded from home, to being staffed 24/7/365. Calls for service continue to rise and to meet that need requires solid funding. One of the many benefits is that we now have Fire and EMS personnel responding within minutes, compared to the past when most of the staff were Volunteers and had to respond from home or work. This can mean the difference between saving life and property, or not.

Snohomish County Fire District 15 (Tulalip Bay Fire) is asking its voters to restore the previously approved 2018/2019 levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000.00 assessed value, which has declined, while costs have increased. With the passing of this proposition, current services can be maintained and additional highly skilled Paramedics can be trained, providing the highest possible level of service to our community.

As fellow citizens and community members, we understand and support the need for additional trained emergency responders. Please join us in supporting our local Fire Department by voting YES on this proposition. Thank you!

*Statement prepared by: Steve Jahn and Ashlynn Danielson*

**Response to Statement For**

Fire District 15 has a \$1.3 million budget surplus "to start the 2022 budget." The Tulalip Tribe also provides \$1.3 million for the 2022 budget.

Minutes reflect a request from the fire chief for a "levy lid lift" without identifying specifics and without Commissioners having a 2022 budget to review. There is no publicly accessible copy of the budget: historical, current or projected. Voters do not have data needed to assess this request. Vote no.

*Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill*

**Statement Against**

In February 2020, voters approved a 25 percent increase in the levy that Fire District 15 uses for emergency services and related expenses (from \$0.38 to \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value). About 80% of 1,000 annual calls are medical emergencies according to the Fire District website.

The Board of Fire Commissioners is now proposing an additional 22 percent increase in a different property tax levy that supports Fire District 15. From 2017 to 2020, the consumer price index has increased only 6.23 percent. The proposed levy of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value is the maximum that Washington state allows.

The Board has not provided details as to what parts of the budget might suffer a shortfall in the next four years, stating only that "certain money ... would be insufficient." Any request for an increase in local property tax levies should clearly outline how the monies will be invested.

In addition, given that these measures affect all property owners, they should appear on the November ballot, which is when most voters participate in elections (voter turnout of 40%-85%) rather than February (30%-40%).

*Statement prepared by: Kathy Gill*

**Response to Statement Against**

While it's agreed that voters approved the EMS Levy increase, however, this does not negate the need for fire suppression, rescue calls, extrication from motor vehicle collisions, Hazardous Materials alarms, service calls, wildfires, etc.

The CPI inflation rate for 2021 alone eclipses 6% in 1-year with no end in sight, quickly eating operational funds. These costs create hardships on all, and the fire service is not exempt. Pro Statement states plans for funding use.

*Statement prepared by: Steve Jahn and Ashlynn Danielson*



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A Division of the Auditor's Office

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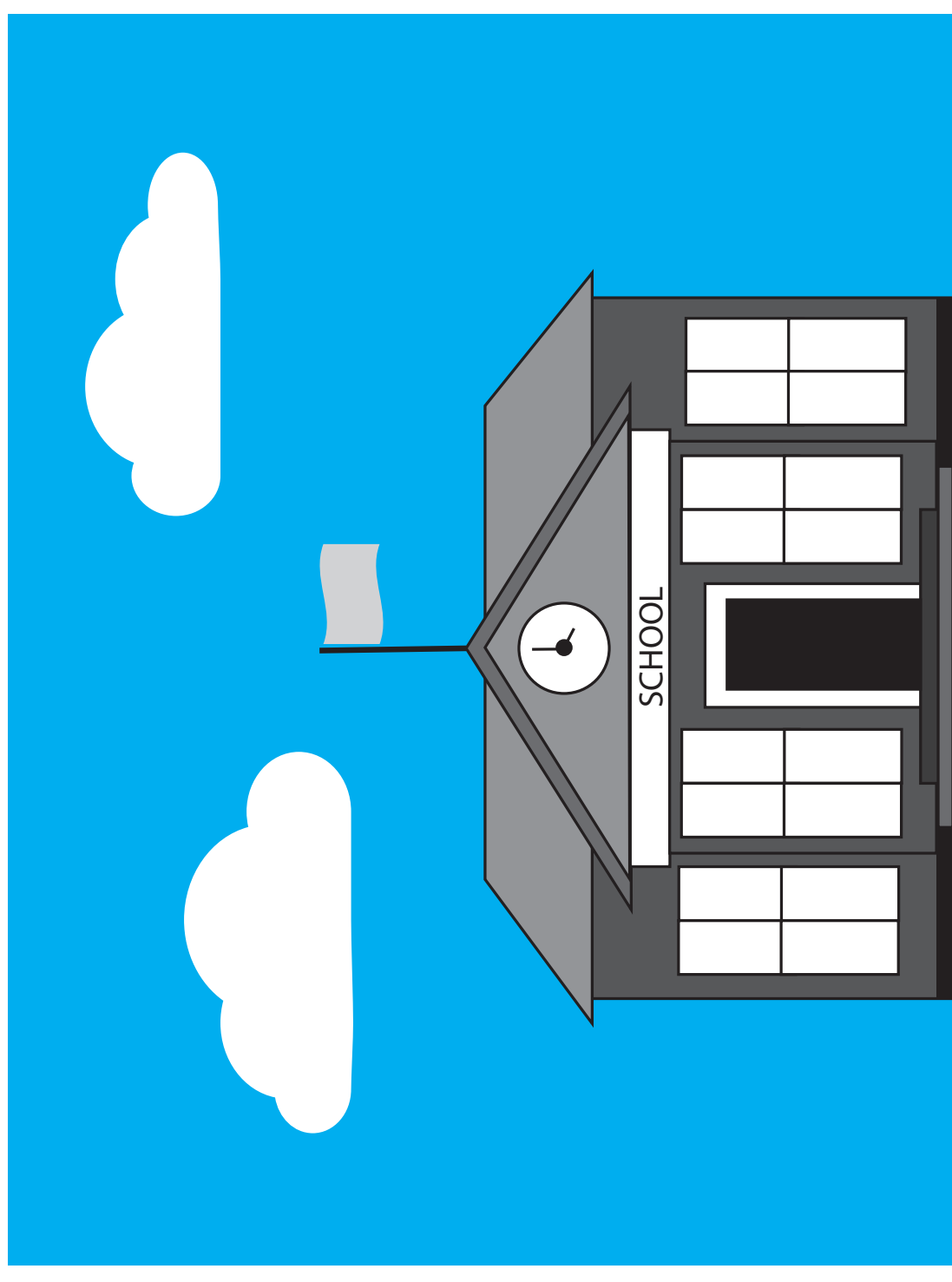
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# Official Snohomish County Local Voters' Pamphlet

## Feb. 8 Special Election



**Ballots Mailed Jan. 20**

Voters in the Arlington and Lakewood School Districts are not in the February election and will not receive ballots.