

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
City of Vancouver



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For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:

[clark.wa.gov/elections/
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Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

Proposition No. 2

Fire and Emergency Services and Facilities Levy Lid Lift

The City Council of the City of Vancouver adopted Resolution No. M-4155 concerning a levy lid lift to fund fire and emergency services. This proposition would fund only fire and emergency services, including additional firefighters, equipment, and construction and seismic retrofitting of facilities to improve response times. This proposition would increase the City’s regular property tax by \$0.50/\$1,000 assessed valuation; not exceeding a total rate of \$2.56/\$1,000 for collection in 2023. The 2023 levy amount, less expiring levies, will be the permanent basis to calculate subsequent levies, per RCW 84.55. Qualifying seniors, veterans, and others would be exempt, per RCW 84.36.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The City of Vancouver has proposed a ballot measure to fund improvements to fire and emergency services. If approved, this proposition would authorize an increase to the City’s regular property tax levy by \$0.50/\$1,000 assessed valuation, not to exceed a total rate of \$2.56/\$1,000 for collection in 2023. Increased revenues would fund additional personnel to improve response times, equipment, the replacement and seismic retrofitting of fire stations, and other enhancements to fire and emergency services. The 2023 levy amount would be used to calculate subsequent levies, per RCW 84.55. Qualifying seniors, veterans and others would be exempt, per RCW 84.36.

STATEMENT FOR

Our firefighters and paramedics save lives and protect property. The City of Vancouver is asking voters to lift the levy lid for our fire and emergency services to hire additional firefighters and paramedics, construct and seismic retrofit facilities, buy additional and updated equipment.

VFD responses totaled 29,605 in 2020, over 81 responses per day, and 67% of those were emergency medical incidents. VFD serves over 288,000 individuals within the 89 square miles that includes 22 miles of shoreline and one million square feet of dockside warehouses and facilities. 1500 ocean-going vessels visited those facilities in 2020 and our railways transport hazardous materials including crude oil and ethanol.

VFD covers the Regional 911 Dispatch Center, the emergency radio tower system, and the BPA complex with its high voltage capacity from 31 dams, 15,000 miles of electrical lines and 260 substations. VFD covers natural gas pipelines, eleven main water stations, 40 wells and two hospitals that serve over 110,000 emergency patients a year.

We’re facing high-risk natural disasters including an active volcano, earthquakes, flooding, landslides, wildfires, and extreme weather. The VFD needs trained personnel and equipment to ensure community protection and firefighter safety. This levy lift will provide for these necessary services. Please vote yes on Proposition 2. The amount is \$0.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. If passed, an owner of a \$440,000 house would pay \$18.33 per month starting in 2023. More than ever, we need these vital services for our community.

Submitted by:

Mary Elkin
Bart Hansen
Anne McEnerny-Ogle
Vfdfirelevy2022@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

This levy is permanent because the need to hire and retain additional firefighters to improve the safety of our community is permanent. Other revenue sources are insufficient, unreliable, temporary or unsustainable over the long term, or they are dedicated by law to other purposes and cannot be used for fire and EMS services. This levy will provide a dedicated sustainable source of funding for these critical services to our community. Vote yes on Proposition 2.

STATEMENT AGAINST

\$.50/\$1000 of assessed value more. The median home price in 2021 is \$439,000 (was \$399,000 in 2020). That’s another \$219.50 per year. Not much right? What are the not telling you?

The increase is permanent. (1) Why doesn’t it sunset? (2) They can raise taxes 1% per year, however, new construction income is on top of the 1%...which they don’t tell you. The average increase average per year for each of the past 5 years is 3.12% or triple what they claim; (3) There is \$8 million in unplanned revenue that isn’t allocated; (4) The city is getting \$33 million in Covid funds to use that they aren’t talking about; (5) Clark County’s property taxes are the 3rd highest in the State; (6) Look at the last report on taxes: <https://www.vancouverannualreport.org/property-taxes>; (7) Just a few years ago Vancouver School District got you to approve nearly \$1 billion for new schools; (8) 2020 City Utility Tax Rate: 28.9%. \$41.99mm in utility taxes collected in 2020; (9) \$8.4 million in affordable housing taxes; (10) \$40 per car fee (\$5.5 million); (11) 8.5% sales tax; (12) Inflation in the last 12 months is over 7% and the highest in 30+ years and projected to go higher; (13) Capital gains tax coming? (14) New payroll tax; (15) New real estate excise tax.

They have more than enough revenue on hand to pay for the fire work but just want more. Is your income increasing as fast as all the taxes? Vote No.

Submitted by:

Richard Rylander
swweduction@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

67% of the calls are for medical. A large percent of those calls don’t need a fire response when AMR would do. Revise the 911 call procedures and save millions. Citing natural disaster potential as a reason for more spending is ridiculous. What do you need to give up to pay this bill? They actually get triple the revenue they claim. Make them use existing money and stop soaking the taxpayers. Vote No.

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Evergreen School District



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Published by the
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Evergreen School District No. 114

Proposition No. 5

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Evergreen School District No. 114 adopted Resolution No. 6578 concerning renewal of an expiring levy for educational programs and operations. This proposition provides funding for educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State. If approved, Proposition No. 5 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, as provided in Resolution No. 6578.

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate Per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$1.92	\$48,500,000
2024	\$2.12	\$56,900,000
2025	\$2.12	\$59,700,000

Should this levy proposition be approved?

Levy, Yes Levy, No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes the Evergreen School District to replace an expiring educational programs and operations levy. The taxes collected by this three year levy will continue to fund existing educational programs and operations not fully funded by the State, including staff to reduce class sizes, safety programs, security staff, school nurses and counselors, performing arts, field trips, athletic and extracurricular activities, and local support to bridge funding gaps in Special Education, English Language Learners, Highly Capable and Transportation programs. The educational programs and operations levy provides approximately 12% of the District's General Fund budget. Additional information is available at <https://www.evergreenps.org>.

STATEMENT FOR

Quality Education is a Community Benefit

Investing in education – and programs that engage our children in learning and personal growth – is foundational to healthy and vibrant communities. By funding quality education, your continued investment leads to higher paying jobs, attracting employers, supporting a stable and diverse local economy, reduces crime rates, and leads to happier and healthier communities. *Saying “Yes” on this measure means saying Yes to quality education.* Healthy schools lead to healthy communities, and this virtuous cycle of reinvestment makes quality education more affordable for all.

Education is a Partnership

Approved by OSPI, this *replacement* levy – not a new tax – maintains quality education in Evergreen Public Schools and maintains current property tax level while maximizing return on investment. Levy money directly benefits our students and classrooms and doesn't go to administrative costs.

Your continued commitment to education allows our children to enjoy smaller class sizes, equal access to extra-curricular activities like music, art and athletics, and critical supports like social emotional learning, and specialized education to ensure every child has a safe and meaningful experience. Failure is not an option when it comes to the well-being and equitable outcomes for our students.

Saying Yes = Support for Children and Our Future

We are not swayed in our support for our students and public education. On behalf of all our children, *thank you* for your continued support.

Submitted by:

Tanisha Harris
tanishah268@gmail.com

Patrick Connolly
Pwconnolly1991@yahoo.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Expecting student results to increase while decreasing funding in critical areas is reckless. Evergreen School District continues to be a good steward of the communities' financial commitment to our students, and will continue to do so without an increase to your total local tax rate. By voting Yes, you are ensuring students, not adults, directly benefit from the funds allocated for essential programs. This is what is vital to increasing and growing student success.

STATEMENT AGAINST

Per OSPI's website

Less than half of ESD (Evergreen School District) students met standards for English 49.7%, Math 39.3%, and Science 40.6% (10% below Washington's state averages). *Until focusing on academics, no more money is warranted.* This resolution increases levy from \$1.72 to \$2.12 (23% over 2 years). \$15K/child is already State/Federally funded. Your ESD Superintendent and \$305K salary was terminated December 16th but will be paid \$305K for another year. Dividedly, your ESD board decided *paying him off was better than transparency and litigation* (possibly for not dealing with former ESD teacher recently convicted of child molestation since several student complaints against him for possible sexual abuse went undisciplined for years?). *For more info see ESD student's Instagram page 'youfailedtoprotectus'.*

Additionally an ESD middle school teacher Publically wished *Death on the Unvaccinated (including children)* violating Resolution 6365 your ESD board signed last year condemning 'Hate Speech'. *Repeatedly, your board refused reporting any disciplinary action.* Whether believing Masks/ Vaccines are Good or Bad, students should be allowed valid Medical/Religious Exemptions. *Children are low risk.*

“Culturally Responsive ‘Training’

Or *‘Practices’* per ESD, paves the way for *Critical Race Theory* which parents of all races denounced at school board meetings as *Racist (students judged by color of skin)*. ESD was also asked but ignored *‘Check the Facts’ (more factual/family friendly sex education curriculum than Planned Parenthood/Flash)*.

Please Vote *‘No’*

Let your school board know we deserve better. *Parental Rights are ours not theirs!*

Submitted by:

Gary Wilson
keeptheschoolsafeforchildren@yahoo.com
www.keepthelibrarysafeforchildren.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

‘Quality Education’ isn't what ESD students receive. Per OSPI's website, less than half of ESD students met standards: English 49.7%, Math 39.3%, Science 40.6% (Verifiable facts, *not rhetoric about ‘Quality Education’*). *‘Education is a Partnership’* (ESD's failed its part). Don't continue throwing *good money after bad*. Renewed focus on academics not *more money* is required. *‘Failure's not an option’* (but it's been the reality). *Saying Yes = Supporting continued failure.* (Saying No = Clear Message).

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Green Mountain School District



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Published by the
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Green Mountain School District No. 103

Proposition No. 3

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Green Mountain School District No. 103 adopted Resolution No. 2021-09, concerning this proposition to support current education funding. This proposition would authorize the District to continue funding students' educational needs (including instructional materials, special education and technology) and operational expenses (including essential teachers and staff, and transportation) not funded by the State by replacing an expiring levy with the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$1.99	\$419,920
2024	\$1.99	\$432,298

all as provided in Resolution No. 2021-09. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy...Yes Levy...No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Green Mountain School District to replace an expiring levy to continue funding students' educational programs and operational expenses that are not fully funded by the State, such as, instructional materials, special education, technology, essential teachers and staff, and transportation. The proposed replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes of \$419,920 in 2023 and \$432,298 in 2024. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Dear Voter:

The gem of North Clark County; Green Mountain School (GMS) needs your continued support to keep our unique, rural, high performing school operational. This proposed levy would replace the existing levy that expires at the end of the 2022. Voting yes for this maintenance and operations levy will allow our school district to continue to provide the excellent educational programs our students currently enjoy.

Washington State finances a portion of the revenue needed, but does not fund the level of staffing and programs our families have come to expect from our school. GMS provides our students with access to smaller class sizes and more support staff than funding from the state allows for small schools. Currently, a principal and part-time superintendent are needed to keep our school viable. State funding allocations provide 30% of these administrative costs. This levy will also pay for normal operational expenses including maintenance staff, transportation, and food service staff. Each hard-working staff member provides valuable educational experiences for our kids!

We the community, can be very proud of our district for providing students the best K-8 education in Clark County. GMS has achieved the Washington School of Distinction award many times while maintaining a low overall tax rate in comparison with other school districts in Clark County. Green Mountain School leaders have a long, consistent history of stretching our tax dollars to maintain a high-quality program for our students.

Submitted by:

Dawn Shinn
larrydawnshinn@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Green Mountain School is not participating in the public-school establishment. Washington State funding is supposed to provide basic education. The legislature and the teacher's union have lobbied to provide funding at a higher level for larger school districts. Rural districts were short changed. Many would like to see small school districts with greater community control disappear. Green Mountain School District is not increasing funding by 140%. Please research to find actual costs and expenditures.

STATEMENT AGAINST

Green Mountain School District is a small school district with just 153 students enrolled. It spends an average of \$14,440 per student. Of this amount, just \$1,167 was funded through local levies such as this one. However, this new levy authorizes spending of almost \$2,800(!) per student. That's an increase of 140% even as Green Mountain has seen a pandemic induced decline in enrollment. Don't be scared about voting No on this unaffordable levy. Voting No will not impact state funding which guarantees basic education for our children.

It's no coincidence that a school levy of this size is being snuck onto a special election in February - the lowest voter turnout month of the year. Yet all will pay these large property tax bills. This is indicative of the strategy used by the public school system establishment. The teachers' unions bankroll the politicians in Olympia who then funnel more of your dollars toward increasing salaries and administration. Yet more popular "elective" school programs such as technology, materials, and even some operating expenses go unfunded. Voters are then held hostage to fund these programs through a local levy such as this.

We have to break this cycle. Vote No. Then *demand* your representatives support the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program which empowers parents with a \$10,000 grant to direct toward education of their choice, whether through public schools, private schools, or home schooling. Until then, save your money and reject this levy.

Submitted by:

Dick Rylander
Tom Goldman
tbgoldman@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Unfortunately, it is simply not cost-effective to operate a tiny school district. The result is GMS with just 153 students requiring more money for additional administrative staffing. With the cost of living out of control, this is not fair to the taxpayer. Vote *No*. Green Mountain Schools will still provide quality classroom instruction via state funding. Administrative and non-essential spending is avoided. Taxpayers save in the process. Vote *No*.

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Hockinson School District



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Published by the
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Hockinson School District No. 98

Proposition No. 8

School Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Hockinson School District No. 98 adopted Resolution No. 21-22-02, concerning a proposition to continue funding current school programs and operations. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for school programs and operations expenses not funded by the State (including extracurricular activities, athletics, technology, advanced courses, music, nursing, transportation, special education and student safety):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$1.89	\$4,075,000
2024	\$1.89	\$4,300,000
2025	\$1.89	\$4,525,000
2026	\$1.89	\$4,775,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 21-22-02. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy...Yes Levy...No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes Hockinson School District to replace an expiring school programs and operations levy. The taxes collected by this levy will continue funding current school programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including extracurricular activities, athletics, technology, advanced courses, music, theater, nursing, transportation, special education and student safety. Further information is available: <https://www.hocksd.org>. Taxes collected by the proposed levy, together with State levy equalization money that is contingent upon passage of the levy, will provide approximately 10% of the District's General Fund budget. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Hockinson is a community that is stronger together. The HSD is the district that families move to for the best schools in Clark County; let's continue that tradition of excellence. The HSD Replacement Levy ensures our students will receive the quality education, extracurricular opportunities and services that define our community.

State and federal funds do not fully offset the costs associated with school services for students, such as counselors, nurses, recess aides, coaches, and custodians. Passing this levy provides for smaller class sizes, building maintenance, security, and transportation. Levy funds continue support for special education, social emotional learning, technology, advanced courses, and learning support programs. Additionally, extracurricular activities have a strong correlation with student engagement and academic success. Supporting this levy will provide access to music, athletics, theater, and a wide range of clubs and activities for our students. If this levy fails, many programs will be cut and our students won't have the same opportunities as others who came before them.

At \$1.89/\$1,000 assessed value this 4-year replacement levy fills gaps while maintaining the second-lowest levy rate in Clark County. The HSD Board remained fiscally responsible to their promise of not raising your levied dollars even though they're authorized to take more.

Voting Yes isn't about anything else except providing our students what they deserve. Students need more than the bare minimum; they need our support to thrive with a high-quality education that prepares for a lifetime of success. Vote Yes! For information visit forhockschools.com.

Submitted by:

Brian Hebert

Ambra Peters

Sara Williams

forhockschools@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

HSD is more than fiscally responsible; it's reduced its programs and personnel three consecutive years. In 2019-20, Hockinson collected the second-lowest funding per student in Clark County and spent \$1,350 /student less than average. Hockinson has shown it can accomplish great things with less. Voting "Yes" is critical to continuing essential services and experiences for our students. The statement against contains inaccuracies. Visit www.forhockschools.com/rebuttal for additional facts about this levy.

STATEMENT AGAINST

Even if you support schools, there are good reasons to reject this 17 million dollar school levy. You should vote *No* until the District proves it is financially responsible. District decisions have been questionable. For example, the 2018 teacher's strike resulted in 25% increases in pay. The Board also set aside more than a million dollars, the union took it. Do you really believe the new Board will resist union demands? There's more. The Covid related Esser fund money is unaccounted for. The Superintendent thinks the District should consider providing food and shelter to students. All of this in the face of uninspiring test scores. Finally, there is no guarantee the District will fund the identified programs you are voting for. Under Washington law the Board can set a different course after the vote.

Voting "yes" lets the State evade its Constitutional obligation to fund schools. Because the State pays on a monthly basis per student, when students leave, the District loses money. Fixed costs for "basic education" remain and State money won't be enough. But your taxes won't decline. You pay based on property value, not on the number of students. What do you expect happens to athletics, band, art, and school nurse when State "basic education" money stops?

You have a right to have your money spent wisely. In an election the action should match the sales pitch. Will it? Moreover, what kind of District holds the band and school nurse hostage? One that deserves a *No* vote.

Submitted by:

Richard Rylander

Bill Eling

Tom Goldman

tbgoldman@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The district endorses all the State Superintendent's pronouncements and mandates except one: The money needed to fund a "basic education." Furthermore, instead of seeking a one or two year levy, Hockinson seeks a massive four year levy, leaving the District unaccountable to voters for four full years. If approved, your taxes will be spent however the Board, a Board under the spell of the Unions and Superintendent, decides to spend it. Retain Accountability. Vote *No*.

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election

La Center School District



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La Center School District No. 101

Proposition No. 4

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of La Center School District No. 101 adopted Resolution No. 2021/2022-1, concerning a proposition to continue funding current educational programs and operations. 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 technology, advanced courses, athletics, extracurricular activities, music, nursing, transportation, special education and student safety):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$1.50	\$2,635,172
2024	\$1.50	\$2,819,501
2025	\$1.50	\$3,016,734

all as provided in Resolution No. 2021/2022-1. Should this proposition be approved?

Levy...Yes Levy...No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes La Center School District to replace an expiring educational programs and operations levy. The taxes collected by this levy will continue funding current educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including technology, advanced courses, athletics, extracurricular activities, music, nursing, transportation, special education and student safety. Further information is available at <https://www.lacenterschools.org/>. Taxes collected by the proposed levy, together with State levy equalization money that is contingent upon passage of the levy, will provide approximately 10.4% of the District's General Fund budget. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Vote Yes in support of our youth and educational resources. The La Center Schools are one of our most valued assets and the cornerstone of our community. Without an increase to your taxes we can continue to support our local efforts, and build upon the previous years success. Our district has achieved a notable 89% of our incoming 9th-grade students graduating on time, and boasts a 92% in regular attendance.

Levy dollars build our future. They introduce our youth to the fields of Construction, Music, Technology, Fine Arts, Automotive Repair, Drama, Science, Extra-Curricular Activities, Horticulture, and Aquaculture. This new Levy replaces the current La Center School District Maintenance and Operations Levy after it expires in 2022. These Funds help us meet student needs by providing Tutoring, One-on-One support for Special Needs Students, School Nurses, and School Counselors. Our Yes votes on February 8th continues the support of our youth's fine schools and safe community. When approved, this levy is \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a \$400,000 home, the levy is \$600 per year in 2023, 2024, and 2025. Your support for this levy pays the difference between the funds provided by our State and Federal Government and programs costs. This replacement levy won't increase your taxes and maintains the programs for our youth.

Citizens of La Center Schools greatly appreciates your support for this levy!

Senior citizens on limited budgets can request an exemption; Contact the assessor's office to see if you qualify 564-397-2391.

Submitted by:

Melinda Mazna
mmazna@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

The La Center School District is not fully funded by the State of Washington. We rely on local levies to support enrichment programs to develop confident and self-reliant lifelong learners who can thrive. Please vote Yes in support of our youth and education resources. We have maintained the current ask of \$1.50 per thousand of assessed value. By not increasing the ask we are working to maintain our spending within our current budget.

STATEMENT AGAINST

La Center School District spends an average of \$13,217 per student. Of this amount, just \$1,052 was funded through local levies such as this one. However, this new levy authorizes spending of approximately \$1,800 per student. That's an increase of over 70% even as La Center has seen a pandemic-induced decline in enrollment. Don't be scared about voting No on this unaffordable levy. Voting No will not impact state funding which guarantees basic education for our children.

It's no coincidence that a school levy of this size is being snuck onto a special election in February - the lowest voter turnout month of the year. Yet all will pay these large property tax bills. This is indicative of the strategy used by the public school system establishment. The teachers' unions bankroll the politicians in Olympia who then funnel more of your dollars toward increasing salaries, staffing, and administration. Yet more popular school programs such as athletics, special education, and extracurricular activities go unfunded. Voters are then held hostage to fund these programs through a local levy such as this.

We have to break this cycle. Vote No. Then *demand* your representatives support the Family Empowerment Scholarship Program which empowers parents with a \$10,000 grant to direct toward education of *their* choice, whether through public schools, private schools, or home schooling. Until then, save your money and reject this levy.

Submitted by:

Dick Rylander

Tom Goldman
tbgoldman@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Proponents must believe we live in a world with flat home values and levies that never expire. Only then could they honestly claim this levy will not increase your taxes. With the cost of living out of control, this is a rare opportunity to actually control those costs. La Center will still provide quality classroom instruction via state funding. Save your money. Vote No.

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Mount Pleasant School District



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For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:

[clark.wa.gov/elections/
february-8-2022-special-election-0](http://clark.wa.gov/elections/february-8-2022-special-election-0)

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Mount Pleasant School District No. 29-93

Proposition No. 1

Maintenance and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Mount Pleasant School District No. 29-93 approved a proposition for educational levies. This proposition provides for the support of educational programs, facilities, maintenance and operations by authorizing the levy of the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District, as specified in District Resolution No. 2021-2022-7

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$2.11	\$155,000
2024	\$2.00	\$155,000
2025	\$1.85	\$155,000

Should this levy be Approved?

Levy...Yes Levy...No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Board of Directors of Mt. Pleasant No. 29-93 approved Resolution No. 2021-2022-7 requesting voter approval of a renewal of the current rate for a three-year maintenance and operation levy of \$2.11/\$1,000 2023, \$2.00/\$1,000 2024 and \$1.85/\$1000 in 2025. Passage would allow the levy of property taxes over a three-year period to support educational programs and operation costs that are not adequately funded by the state and a reduction in federal forest funds and elimination of levy equalization funds.

STATEMENT FOR

Mt. Pleasant school District is requesting a simple renewal of its current Maintenance and Operations Levy for the years, 2023, 2024, and 2025. There is no increase over the current rate.

These levy funds fill the gap between the amount provided by the State and Federal Sources for operation of the school. These funds have been declining for many years.

The school is being run in as efficient manner as possible. We have 4 teachers offering 9 grades.

Washington State law requires that all property be incorporated into an educational taxation district. Mt. Pleasant residents have the long-term choice of operating their own school district, or being consolidated into Washougal district, which has a higher total M/O, Technical levy and capital bond rates.

Vote "Yes" to assure quality education and facilities for all kids now and in the future.

Submitted by:

Karl Kanthak, Chair

Milt Dennison, Superintendent
mdennison1956@gmail.com

NO STATEMENT AGAINST SUBMITTED

NO REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST SUBMITTED

NO REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR SUBMITTED

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

February 8, 2022 Special Election
Ridgefield School District



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Ridgefield School District No. 122

Proposition No. 7

General Obligation Bonds – \$62,565,000

The Board of Directors of Ridgefield School District No. 122 approved Resolution No. 2021-2022-003 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to construct and equip a new elementary school and 8-plex classroom building at the new school site, and a new vocational and general education building at Ridgefield High School, by issuing \$62,565,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years; and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 2021-2022-003.

Should this proposition be approved?

Approved Rejected

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Proposition No. 7 authorizes the District to issue up to \$62,565,000 of general obligation bonds to construct and equip a new K-4 elementary school, which will initially open as a K-6 school, an 8-plex classroom building at the new elementary school site, and an approximately 18,000 square foot vocational/general education building at Ridgefield High. The District expects to receive approximately \$9,700,000 in State matching funds for the projects. If approved, the District would be authorized to levy property taxes annually to repay the bonds.

STATEMENT FOR

“An investment in education always pays the highest returns.” This quote by Benjamin Franklin could not be more fitting for this moment in our community. We have the opportunity right now to make an investment for the prosperous future of Ridgefield.

Ridgefield prides itself on our strong community and education system and we as parents have experienced first hand the level of care, expertise, and knowledge the RSD pours into their staff and students. All children are challenged academically, safe, supported, and loved everyday they walk through the doors of all Ridgefield schools.

Anyone who drives by the schools during drop off or pick up will see the multiple buses and long car lines. It is obvious that our schools are quickly being outgrown and with good reason - our population has seen a 116% increase over the last 10 yrs. We all want to be a part of a thriving community. We all want our children to receive the best education possible and Ridgefield is known for both. However, we cannot keep the same standards of community and education if we do not invest in our future! The median projected costs per year is \$140.50 per household or \$11.71 per month. \$11.71 per month to provide much needed space and exciting, new educational opportunities for kids at all levels.

Our households are more than willing to vote yes and support the future of our schools and community. Make the investment, and we will yield high returns.

Submitted by:

Allison Templeton
allisontempleton86@gmail.com

Andrea Walker
wallace.andrea7@gmail.com

Jessica Jackson
jackson83014@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

Unlike nearby districts, Ridgefield continues being one of the fastest growing. K-4 enrollment grew by approximately 100 students within the last year. Our elementary schools are over capacity by a combined 200 students and climbing. Numbers show RSD spent \$13,458 per-pupil last year, the lowest per-pupil spending of all County districts. This Bond is a desperate *need* for Ridgefield and its continued growth. We encourage our community to vote yes for Ridgefield Schools.

STATEMENT AGAINST

We all want the very best for our children. Ridgefield has been focused on replacing school facilities claiming the need based on future potential for student headcount projections. Those projections have been wildly high and incorrect. Ridgefield has a history of asking for more and more money: Ridgefield Capital Bond – Feb 2020 (swwededucation.org) How many of us can afford a new car when we could spend a lot less and refurbish the one we have? Nice to have or need to have? If this bond is approved it will add over \$62 million in debt. Voters have rejected past bonds because they didn't see the value.

The district has over \$850,000 in ESSER funds (Covid) but where are they using them? They currently spend over \$21,000 per year per student (2x what it was a decade ago) which is the highest in Southwest Washington. Inflation is at the highest rate in 30 years. Wages are not keeping up with costs. Fixed income people are being forced out of their homes due to tax increases. What about the new capital gains tax? The new payroll tax? Higher property taxes?

Can they work with what they have? Should the focus be first and foremost on education rather than shiny new buildings? School enrollment is flat to falling in many districts. The issue may be less about the goals and more about the cost of implementing them. It's fiscally responsible to say *No*. Send a message that they must listen to you!

Submitted by:

Richard Rylander
swwededucation@gmail.com

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

The well is dry. You approved bonds and then they came back for more and you said no. When will they accept your choice? They cite the growth in new housing but they don't tell you the number of students is flat to falling. Inflation at 30 year highs. Gas approaching \$4 a gallon. Wages stagnate. Property taxes through the roof. The real question is this a need to have or a nice to have?