

For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:
clark.wa.gov/elections/april-26-2022-special-election

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Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Speech-to-speech relay
800-833-6388

Mailing address
PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

Street address
1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Official Local

Voters' Pamphlet

April 26, 2022 Special Election
Evergreen School District



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Published by the
Clark County Auditor's Office

Evergreen School District No. 114

Proposition No. 6

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Evergreen School District No. 114 adopted Resolution No. 6604 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 6 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, as provided in Resolution No. 6604.

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate Per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$1.70	\$42,900,000
2024	\$1.70	\$45,500,000
2025	\$1.70	\$47,800,000

Should this levy proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This proposition authorizes the Evergreen School District to replace an expiring educational programs and operations levy. This is a replacement (not new) tax. The funds collected by this three year levy will continue to support educational programs and operations not fully funded by the State, including staff to reduce class sizes, safety programs, security staff, school nurses, 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. This levy provides approximately 11% of the District's General Fund budget. Information is available at <https://www.evergreenps.org>.

STATEMENT FOR

The past two years have been extremely difficult for children. The Covid-19 pandemic took away not only in-person classroom time, but kept them from participating in valuable extracurricular activities that help them become well rounded citizens and better people. Voting Yes for the Evergreen School District EP&O replacement levy shows commitment to the well-being of our students and allows them to not lose out again on these experiences.

The levy, which accounts for approximately 11% of the overall Evergreen School District budget, specifically targets areas the state does not provide full funding towards. These areas include art and music at all grade levels, middle and high school athletics and school security. It also helps pay for special education programs and social emotional support, which many of our students have needed over the past couple years.

As good stewards of your tax dollars, understanding this commitment is a partnership and listening to feedback, this replacement levy was lowered by 17.5% from the previous election. The proposed \$1.70 replacement levy rate is the exact same rate as what currently exists and, paired with the dropping school bond rate, will result in an overall lower school tax rate than what currently exists. This is a replacement levy and not a new tax.

Saying Yes to the levy means you believe in supporting our children, who will one day be our community leaders. We must provide them with the resources and opportunities that they will need to succeed.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

This generation of students needs support as the pandemic has been challenging. They need the athletics, music and social emotional support this levy provides. This *isn't* a new tax. The levy rate is *reduced* and overall school tax rate *goes down*. There's no evidence of Critical Race Theory being taught in our district. Comprehensive Sexual Health Education is state mandated in grades 4 – 12. Evergreen Public Schools teaches in ways that match our community values.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against submitted by:

Patrick Connolly
pwconnolly1991@yahoo.com

STATEMENT AGAINST

Current levy operating results...
Costing average homeowner \$1,000/year. Per OSP's website: Far less than half of ESD Students met standards: *English 39.2%, Science 45.5% and Math 20.5%** (80% Failure rate*). Renewed academic focus, not more money is warranted. Since last approved levy (2019) these percentages dropped 20% due to *less* class time spent on *academics*;

While *increasing* amount of *time/resources* spent on: '*Social Emotional Learning*', '*Diversity, Equity and Inclusion*' (which causes children to question their gender: fostering Gender Confusion). '*Cultural Responsive Practices*' or *Trainings* per ESD, paves the way for Critical Race Theory which judges people by the color of their skin (Racism). And Sexually explicit FLASH/Planned Parenthood '*Comprehensive Sex Ed*' curriculum.

ESD created an '*Equity Policy*'...
Which rather than giving *all* students equal opportunities to succeed, attempts to create equal outcomes, lowering those succeeding to match others (keeping more students from meeting standards). All students are created (and should be treated) as equals and given the same chance to succeed. Sadly, some don't put in the time and effort necessary, so equal outcomes are not justice, but rather injustice for all.

Please Vote 'No' again...
Send school board a message *again* to '*Focus on Academics*' (sadly, *like most ESD Math students* they still don't get it*). Did ESD protect a former teacher/convicted child molester? (See ESD Students Instagram page: '*youfailedtoprotectus*'). Don't forget last years fired superintendent 305K salary still being paid to him for the rest of this year (*after all, it's only taxpayer money*).

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Sadly, Voting 'No' is the only way *this* school board will listen. We've spoken at several board meetings about the *Failure* of students meeting standards: (Math 20.5%) *with No response*. Also, what happened to *11/2 years* of the current levy funding Art, Music, & Athletics while schools closed for Covid-19...? Same levy rate with property values up = inflation. Check Evergreen School taxes due *this* month. *Imagine...* \$0.00 (lower taxes... lower escrow... lower rent...).

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For submitted by:

Kevin Wence
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Ridgefield School District



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Ridgefield School District No. 122

Proposition No. 8

General Obligation Bonds – \$62,565,000

The Board of Directors of Ridgefield School District No. 122 approved Resolution No. 2021-2022-006 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. 2021-2022-006.

Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Proposition No. 8 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

Ridgefield has grown tremendously over the past decade. The Washington State Office of Financial Management tabbed Ridgefield the fastest growing city in the state. It's no wonder why; Ridgefield is consistently a top achieving school district in Clark County while maintaining fiscally responsible governance.

Of the nine K-12 districts in Clark County, Ridgefield has the second lowest overall school tax rate. Ridgefield's more-bang-for-the-buck approach is verified. Of the 295 Washington school districts audited by the Office of Washington State Auditor (SAO), Ridgefield was one of just two school districts to earn SAO's coveted financial *Stewardship Award*. This is clear evidence that our tax dollars are expertly managed.

The last time Ridgefield passed a school bond, 2,823 students were enrolled in Ridgefield schools. Today, enrollment is approximately 3,800 students, an all-time high. Approximately 1,000 additional students have enrolled in Ridgefield schools since voters authorized the construction of additional classroom space. With all of these new kids, it just makes sense that we need more classrooms.

This Bond is necessary to build additional classrooms and enable Ridgefield to keep pace with this incredible growth. It's not a matter of *if* new schools will be built in Ridgefield, it's *when*. That time *is now*. Through proactive planning, the district purchased the land for the new elementary school, designed the school, and prepped the site using developer impact fees. With your *yes* vote, construction can still start this spring, ensuring an opening in time for the Fall of 2023.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

485 additional students enrolled in Ridgefield schools this year compared to last year (OSPI Report Card). With hundreds of new homes currently under construction and thousands more planned, growth will clearly continue. The district has tried to pass a bond for three years, always working to minimize the impact on students and families as our schools became increasingly overcrowded. We are at a point where another bond failure will result in ramifications for our community.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against submitted by:

Garry Payne
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Audrey Scott
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STATEMENT AGAINST

Overall, to reject the Ridgefield School District (RSD) bond is to want a better yet economical education for our children. COVID-19 has affected everyone, including our schools, but the fallout is still unknown. More than 55,000 students have been pulled from Washington schools and no one knows how many are coming back. Yet, Ridgefield continues to focus on expanding expensive school facilities, claiming the need based on the potential of student headcount projections which have been wildly high and incorrect in the past.

This bond didn't pass in the last election, but instead of producing a lower cost plan, RSD decided to put the *same* bond forward. This time, with threats of cutting services to students and parents.

RSD has a passion for building elaborate facilities rather than educating our children which is shown in the 2021 OSPI standard testing in which scores have dropped in *all* subjects. Voters have been, for the most part, generous and have paid for expensive expansions in the past, but it hasn't equated to better education. Sadly, RSD doesn't respect parents or acknowledge the fact that our nation is in a downward spiral economically and just can't afford going \$62 million more in debt.

RSD needs to partner with and respect the voters, reduce spending regarding building needs, put attention towards basic education, wait to see the fallout of COVID withdrawals, and revise growth projections based on new economic realities that are still unfolding. *Vote no on this capital bond again.*

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Expensive buildings don't equate better education. RSD admitted they made the decision without voter approval. This kind of leadership has to stop because OSPI standardized test scores are dropping and so is enrollment statewide. Growth is happening in Ridgefield, but RSD has a bigger problem... not listening to taxpayers regarding the education of our children. Inflation and the economy is in a freefall, and RSD must tighten their belt not go on a spending spree.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For submitted by:

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