

**For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit:**  
[clark.wa.gov/elections/april-26-2022-special-election](http://clark.wa.gov/elections/april-26-2022-special-election)

*You must sign and date your return envelope in order for your ballot to be counted!*

- Sign in the signature box that has YOUR name printed on the envelope.
- If you registered to vote online, or when you obtained your driver's license, the signature on your driver's license is the signature in your voter registration record.
- If you are unsure about the signature in your voter registration record, we encourage you to call the Elections Office at 564-397-2345. We can provide a description of the signature you used when you registered to vote.
- Do NOT sign someone else's name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else fill out and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters can call us at 564-397-2345 to learn about the options for voting while they are out of town.
- Drop boxes are available if you don't want your ballot or signature to go through the mail.

## Registering to vote

Registering takes only a few minutes, and you may do it by mail or online at **VoteWA.gov**.

A Washington driver's license or ID is required to register online. You may also complete a new voter registration form. Contact the Elections Office by mail, email, or phone for more information.

The deadline to receive new voter registrations and voter updates to existing registrations online, by phone or by mail is 5 pm Monday, April 18, 2022.

## Lost or damaged ballot?

If you lose your ballot, or it becomes damaged, you can obtain a replacement ballot by contacting the Elections Office.

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## Clark County Elections Office

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**Phone** 564-397-2345

**Email** [elections@clark.wa.gov](mailto: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**  
Ridgefield School District




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Clark County Auditor's Office

# 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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#### 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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