

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

- Sign in the signature box that has YOUR name printed on the envelope.
- If you registered to vote online, or when you obtained your driver’s license, the signature on your driver’s license is the signature in your voter registration record.
- If you are unsure about the signature in your voter registration record, we encourage you to call the Elections Office at 564-397-2345. We can provide a description of the signature you used when you registered to vote.
- Do NOT sign someone else’s name, even if you have power of attorney.
- Voting over the phone by having someone else fill out and sign your ballot is against the law. Voters can call us at 564-397-2345 to learn about the options for voting while they are out of town.
- Drop boxes are available if you don’t want your ballot or signature to go through the mail.
- Sign up to receive text messages regarding your ballot status. Text the word VOTE to 868392 (VoteWA).

Registering to vote

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

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, February 5, 2024.

Lost or damaged ballot?

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

Clark County Elections Office

Phone 564-397-2345

Relay 711 or 800-833-6341

Email elections@clark.wa.gov

Mailing address

PO Box 8815
Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

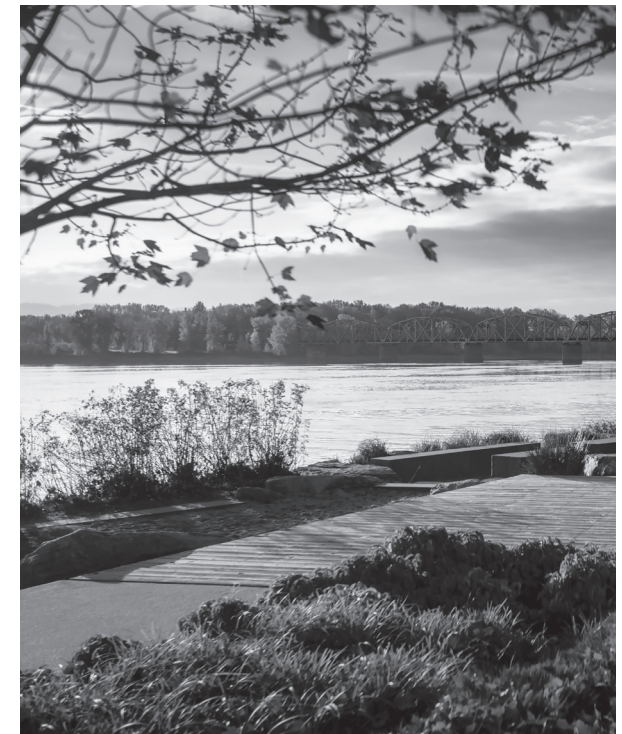
Street address

1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Official Local

Voters’ Pamphlet

February 13, 2024 Special Election
Battle Ground School District Edition



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Battle Ground School District

No. 119

Proposition No. 7

Capital Levy for Safety, Facility and Technology Improvements

The Board of Directors of Battle Ground School District No. 119 adopted Resolution No. H-23, concerning a proposition for capital improvements to support the learning environment. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, for making District-wide safety, facility and technology improvements (upgrading security, including cameras and entry controls; repairing roofs; improving heating/cooling; upgrading lighting and technology; creating learning spaces for construction trades, culinary, health sciences):

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|-----------------|--|--------------|
| 2025 | \$0.44 | \$8,500,000 |
| 2026 | \$0.44 | \$9,200,000 |
| 2027 | \$0.44 | \$10,000,000 |

all as provided in Resolution No. H-23. Should this proposition be approved?

To vote, use your official ballot.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Passage of this proposition would authorize Battle Ground School District to levy taxes over a three year period to make District-wide safety, facility and technology improvements, including: (1) upgrading security (cameras, entry controls, communication systems, parking/traffic circulation); (2) repairing roofs; (3) improving heating and cooling systems; (4) upgrading lighting and technology (computers, wireless network, other technology devices, equipment, software, phones, and infrastructure) and providing related training/support; and (5) creating learning spaces for construction trades, culinary, health sciences and middle school STEM. Further information is available at www.battlegroundps.org/capital-levy/. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clark County Assessor at (564) 397-2391.

STATEMENT FOR

Vote yes for Battle Ground students, teachers and schools! Like homes and cars, schools eventually need repairs and updates as part of the upkeep, but the state does not fully cover the costs. It's up to us to ensure that our children continue to have good learning environments. The capital levy would help improve safety and security, roofs, heating/cooling systems and technology. In addition, it would help build or upgrade spaces for students to learn the construction trades, culinary skills and health sciences. These spaces would enhance their ability to get jobs that pay well after they graduate. The capital levy is a positive step toward getting the most out of our investment in schools.

This capital levy would take the place of a bond measure that expired at the end of December 2023. The expired bond measure rate was \$0.44 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. The capital levy rate is projected to be the same: \$0.44 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for all three years. And Battle Ground already has the lowest tax rate of all school districts in Clark County.

Good schools help maintain strong property values and are essential to the health of our community. A yes vote is a vote for our children that will help them learn in safe, well-maintained schools that support their learning and help them build the skills needed for their future jobs. Thank you for voting yes!

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

A new bond could have a higher rate per \$1,000 for taxpayers than the estimated rate for the capital levy. Given the current economic climate, the levy is a fiscally responsible approach. It would extend the life of aging buildings and maximize taxpayer investment. It also would address major facility needs and help keep students safe, warm and dry. Please vote yes for our students.

Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Terry Dotson, chair
votebgschools@gmail.com
votebgschools.org

STATEMENT AGAINST

There are levy's and bonds. Levy's are for short term spending. Bonds are for long term projects (like roofs, HVAC, fencing and building repairs) that have lives of 10; 15; 20 years or more. This is a *new* levy called a Capital Levy. The money would be used for mostly long term capital projects. Why a Capital Levy? Because the past attempts at a Capital Bond failed to reach the required 60% approval. A levy only requires 50% + 1.

The existing capital bond was paid off in 2023. The new Capital Levy would be for 3 years and raise \$27.7 million on top of the existing EP&O levy which is 4 years (2022-2025) for \$115.8 million. They say that this new Capital Levy will not increase your taxes because it replaces the expired bond. In 2025 they will ask for a new 4 year Maintenance Levy. At some point they will likely ask for a new Capital Bond. This Capital Levy would be used to pay for safety (\$5,250,000); facilities (\$14,850,000) and technology (\$7,600,000).

They also get about \$10,000 per student from the State (plus these levy's).

They are using short term tax increases to pay for long term projects rather than running a bond. Fiscally that's not ideal. Why not ask for the Capital Bond? The potential for it failing. Do they need roofs, HVAC, security, computers, etc.? Probably. You must need to decide whether long-term financing or a new levy should be used to pay for expenses.

REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Maintenance like they describe should come out of the existing EP&O levy of \$115 million. Why isn't that money being used to pay for these updates? Where is the money for maintenance going? The state gives over \$10,000 per student per year to the district for education. Property owners already pay 2 school taxes to the State to fund districts. When will the next Capital Bond be? This is a new tax.

Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Richard Rylander
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For the complete text of the resolutions, please visit: clark.wa.gov/elections/february-13-2024-special-election

Measure statements are printed exactly as submitted. Clark County Elections does not correct punctuation, grammar, typos or inaccurate information.