

## 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](https://VoteWA.gov).

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 4 pm Monday, February 3, 2025.

## 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

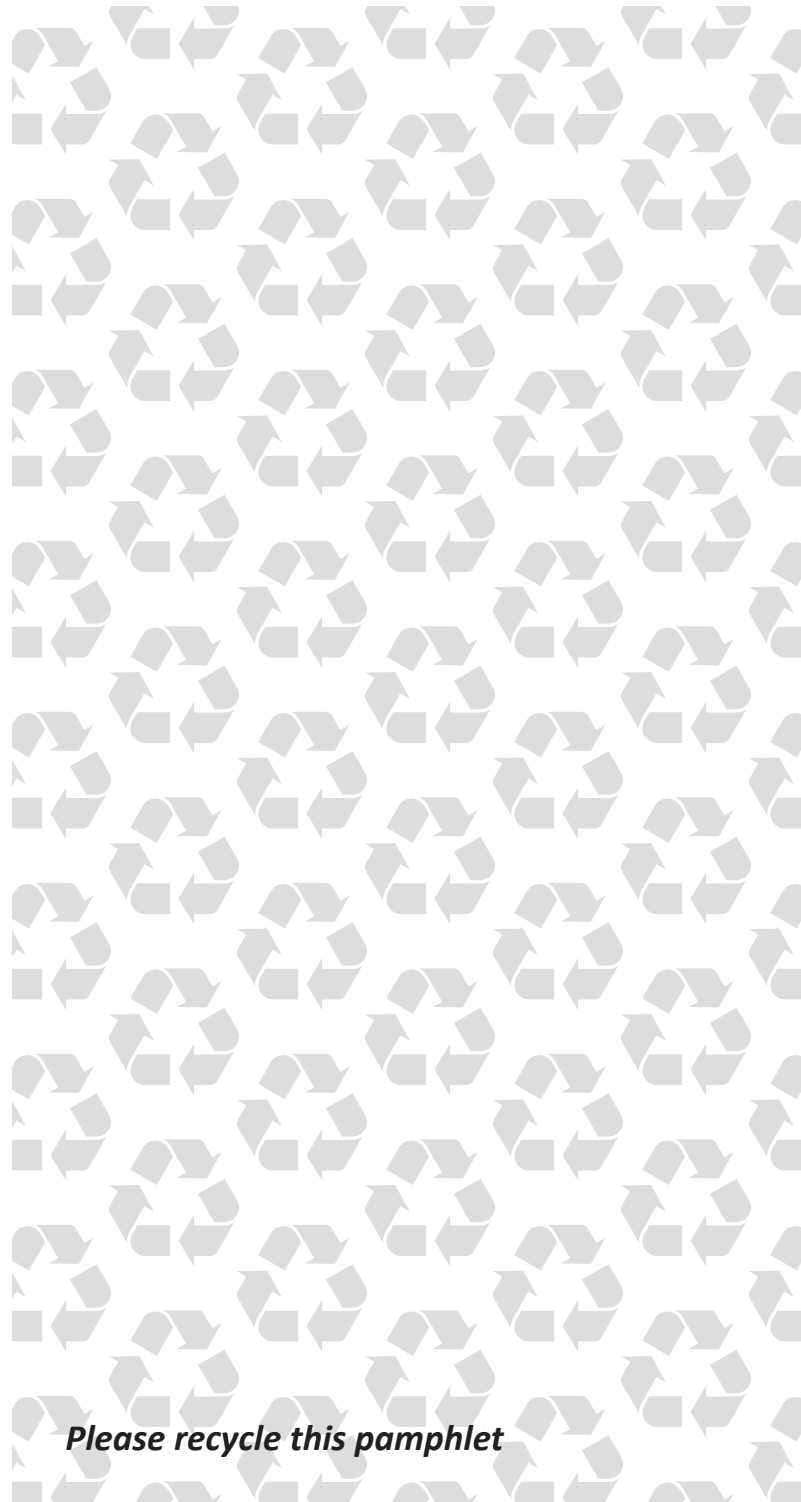
**Phone** 564-397-2345

**Relay** 711 or 877-833-6341

**Email** [elections@clark.wa.gov](mailto:elections@clark.wa.gov)

**Mailing address** PO Box 8815, Vancouver, WA 98666-8815

**Street address** 1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver



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Clark County Official Local

# Voters' Pamphlet

February 11, 2025 Special Election

Vancouver School District Edition



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# Vancouver School District No. 37

## Proposition No. 7

### Technology, Safety and Capital Projects Levy

The Board of Directors of Vancouver School District No. 37 passed Resolution No. 928, concerning a proposition for a technology and capital projects levy. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District, to fund updated technology infrastructure, software, and digital safety and learning tools, including training for staff, and to fund capital infrastructure projects to enhance student safety and extend the useful life of District facilities:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2026	\$0.29	\$9,624,500
2027	\$0.36	\$12,664,500
2028	\$0.38	\$14,174,200
2029	\$0.38	\$14,878,700
2030	\$0.38	\$15,622,700
2031	\$0.38	\$16,403,800

all as provided in Resolution No. 928. Should this proposition be approved?

**To vote, use your official ballot.**

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Proposition #7 would renew an expiring capital projects levy, allowing the District to continue its future-ready student technology initiatives, make safety enhancements to schools and extend the useful life of District facilities. If approved, estimated property tax levy rates would be \$.29 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (AV) in 2026, \$.36 per \$1,000 of AV in 2027, and \$.38 per \$1,000 of AV in 2028 through 2031. The District's debt service fund levy for the 2017 voter-approved bonds is projected to decrease by approximately \$.40 per \$1,000 of AV between 2027 and 2031, offsetting this proposed replacement levy.

#### STATEMENT FOR

Supporting Proposition #7, a replacement capital levy, is a smart investment in our schools and community. By voting Yes, you're ensuring our children have safe, well-equipped schools that reflect our community's commitment to their success in higher education, the workforce, and beyond—all while maintaining a stable tax rate.

This levy replaces an existing expiring levy, continuing vital funding for technology, safety, and building repairs with a consistent overall school tax rate. Schools, like homes, require ongoing maintenance and updates to remain functional and effective, and this replacement levy ensures that essential resources remain available to address these needs.

The levy provides funding for essential technology repairs, replacements, and software updates, ensuring students gain the skills they need to thrive in a modern world. Rapid technological advancements mean students need access to current tools to compete in college and the workforce. It also supports critical safety updates, such as improved building locks and upgraded security cameras, creating a secure learning environment for all. Additionally, it funds essential building repairs, like fixing leaking roofs and HVAC systems, to prevent costly emergencies and keep classrooms comfortable.

Replacing this levy is part of a long-term, thoughtful plan to maintain our schools and address evolving needs. Quality schools strengthen our community by attracting families, preserving property values, and preparing future leaders. By voting Yes, you're continuing to invest in safe, well-maintained schools and giving students the tools they need to succeed.

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT AGAINST

This renewal levy keeps our local school tax rates steady. Rising costs and limited state funding make this levy crucial for safety, technology, and maintenance needs. A "no" vote risks cutting essential services, higher emergency repair costs, and reduced educational quality. While challenges remain, voting "no" makes them worse. This measure is a smart investment because it saves money long-term and ensures a stronger future for everyone. Thank you, voters, for investing in our children.

#### Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against Submitted by:

Jennifer Rhoads  
 Chair of the Citizens for Good Schools  
 jenrhoads@msn.com  
 360-903-2403  
 ccgsvancouver.com  
 Allison Pauletto  
 John McDonagh

#### STATEMENT AGAINST

This is a renewal levy that raises taxes. 2026 to 2031 they will collect \$83,348,400. On top of there is the EP&O levy (\$270mm+) along with the Capital Bond taxes *Plus* the State of Washington school taxes. Capital Levy \$.29/\$1000; Bonds \$1.14/\$1000; EP&O levy \$2.13/\$1000; \$2.25/\$1000 State School taxes. Total is \$5.81/\$1000. For a \$600,000 home that equals \$3,486.

Statewide we spend over \$18,500 per student (2x private school cost). 60.7% of english language; 71.1% of math and 50.7% of science students are failing. Only 62% attend classes on a regular basis. Student headcount is falling with a loss of 6% in the last 5 years. Student headcount is down by over 2,000 +but personnel numbers are up 1,000 since 2020?

The district has empty classrooms due to overbuilding you are paying for the next 16 years along with maintenance costs. The district is running a deficit and may need to reduce work force further. Over 80% of every dollar goes to personnel. We have a systemic funding issue the legislature needs to address. This levy should be for 2 years and not push the spending problem down the road for 6 years.

Your pocket book is nearly empty. Every tax from government is going up. The State is projecting a deficit of \$10 to \$12 billion. Why shouldn't the school district have to deal with your pain? Inflation continues marking it harder for you to pay your bills. Vote no. More info at [www.swweducation.org](http://www.swweducation.org)

#### REBUTTAL OF STATEMENT FOR

Replacement means higher taxes. Schools and classrooms sit empty due to falling headcount (down 6%) which you pay for. Repairs? The district got nearly \$1 billion from taxpayers in the last bond. Personnel numbers are up nearly 1000 while students leave. Major budget issues get pushed down the road with a 6 year levy. Tell them 2 years. Force them to address the shortfalls now and not push down the road.

#### Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For Submitted by:

Katie Bauer, Chair  
 Katie0000@protonmail.com  
 swweducation.org