Thurston County Official

Local Voters' Pamphlet February 13, 2024 Special Election



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Introduction to Local Measures

This voters' pamphlet contains local measures certified to appear on the February 13, 2024 Special Election ballot.

For the measure in the Local Voters' Pamphlet, the legislative authority of the jurisdiction placing the measure on the ballot is required to formally appoint committees to prepare statements advocating the approval and rejection of the measure. If the jurisdiction is unable to make such appointments, the Thurston County Auditor advertises for such appointments.

The Auditor's Office encourages you to thoroughly review all statements and seek additional information from the jurisdictions, the appointed citizens' committees, and the local and regional media.

Notice to Voters:

Statements are published exactly as submitted to the Thurston County Auditor's Elections Office. We do not make corrections of any kind or verify statements for truth or fact.

Replacement Ballots

If you lost, damaged, or did not receive your ballot, replacement ballots are available. To get a replacement ballot:

By email: elections@co.thurston.wa.us

Online: VoteWA.gov

By phone: 360.786.5408

711 Washington Relay

In person: 2400 Evergreen Park Dr SW,

Olympia, WA 98502

January 24 through February 12

8-4:30 M-F

8-8 Election Day (February 13)

Ballots will be mailed on January 24.

For a list of the people and organizations that donated to ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.

Message from Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall



Dear Thurston County Voter,

This February election, you will vote on ballot measures for your school district. The decision you make will directly impact your local schools and community. If you have any questions about the measures on the ballot, please contact the school district.

Your vote matters in every election. This is especially true in smaller local elections. One vote can determine the outcome.

To ensure you can educate yourself and make informed decisions, we continue printing local voters' pamphlets every election. As your Auditor, I'm committed to bridging the gap between local government and citizens and making voting as accessible as possible.

We are fortunate to vote-by-mail. Ours is a national model. For example, we check every single envelope signature against the signature we have on file to protect against fraud.

Our mission is to run transparent, accessible and open elections with integrity. We want you to vote with confidence in the security of your ballot. I invite you to observe our Ballot Processing Center where you can see how ballots are processed. Your vote is secret. If you would like to take a closer look at how we conduct our elections, more information is available at ThurstonWAVotes.gov. You can also email elections@co.thurston.wa.us or give us a call at 360.786.5408 if you have any questions or concerns.

Election disinformation is the biggest problem we face as election administrators. It will take all of us to combat this threat to democracy. If you see election disinformation, please email us at disinfo@co.thurston.wa.us

For this February election, all ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, February 13, or deposited into a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on election night.

Ballots for the March 12 Presidential Primary will be mailed on February 21. This is a unique election. Keep your eye out for a Presidential Primary Voters' Pamphlet with specific information about how the primary will be different.

Respectfully,

Mary Hall

Thurston County Auditor

Mary Hall

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Returning Your Ballot

Ballot Drop Box Locations

Drop boxes are open 24 hours a day and close promptly at 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Lacey Area Lacey Fire 3, Station 34	NE SE SE / E
Olympia Area Church of the Good Shepherd	E E W W E E W W SE W
Tumwater School Administration	St
Tenino School District Administration	m ia W
Southwest County Grand Mound Center	

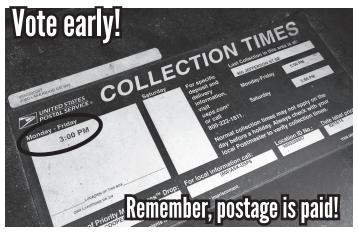
Grand Mound Center	19949 Old Hwy 99 SW, Rochester
Littlerock Fire 11	10828 Littlerock Rd SW, Olympia
Rochester Fire 1, Station 3	18346 Albany St SW

Steamboat Island

Griffin Fire 13, Station 13707 Steamboat Lp NW, Olymp	วเล
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North County

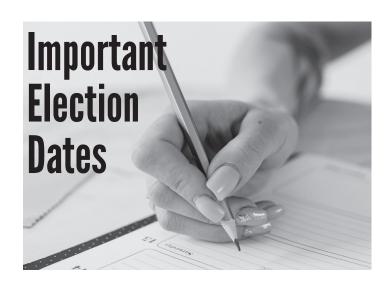
South Bay Fire 8, Station 81	3506 Shincke Rd NE, Olympia
South Bay Fire 8, Station 83	5046 Boston Harbor Rd NE, Olympia



Remember to check the pickup time listed on the mailbox!

Ballots must be postmarked by February 13 to be counted. No postage needed!

Missed the pickup time? Use a drop box!



February 5, 2024

Last day to register online, through DOL or other state agency, or via mail. Must be received by an election official by close of business.

February 13, 2024

You may register to vote or update your current registration in person up to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day at our office or any voting center in the state.

<u>February 23, 2024</u>

County Certification.

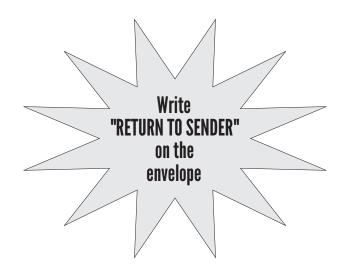
Did you receive elections mail for someone else? SEND IT BACK TO US!

Help safeguard democracy in Thurston County! Return all misaddressed mail to sender!

What is elections mail? Elections mail is anything we send out to voters.

It could be:

- A ballot
- A voter ID card
- A signature update form
- Anything you receive for a voter that ISN'T you or someone in your household



When you send back misaddressed elections mail, you help us keep the voter rolls up to date!

Questions? We're here to help! Contact our office: 360.786.5408, Elections@co.thurston.wa.us, or ThurstonWAVotes.gov

Griffin School District No. 324 Proposition No. 1

Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Griffin School District No. 324 passed Resolution No. 23-24-11 concerning educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support educational programs, district operations and non-high expenses for students attending high school in Olympia School District, which are not funded by the State:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.64	\$3,500,000
2026	\$1.70	\$3,750,000
2027	\$1.72	\$3,900,000
2028	\$1.75	\$4,100,000

as provided in Resolution No. 23-24-11.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Chris Rust crust@griffinschool.us

Explanatory Statement prepared by:

Cynthia Weed

For Committee Contact:

Yes for Griffin Kids Allison Adair aladair28@hotmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 allows the levy of: \$3,500,000 in property taxes within Griffin School District No. 324 for collection in 2025, \$3,750,000 in 2026, \$3,900,000 in 2027, and \$4,100,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. In accordance with Resolution #23-24-11, this levy would be deposited in the General Fund and used to maintain current educational programs and services, including teaching, school supplies, technology, athletics, buildings and transportation not funded or fully funded by the State. If authorized by the voters, property taxes for this measure would be collected and, based on projected assessed valuation information, be levied at an estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value of \$1.64 (2025 collection year), \$1.70 (2026 collection year), \$1.72 (2027 collection year) and \$1.75 (2028 collection year). Actual levy rates will be adjusted based upon the assessed value of property within the District at the time of each

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Argument For

Griffin students/staff are seeking your continued support with the passing of the Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy or Proposition No. 1. The passing of this levy is essential to address the shortfall of the McCleary decision created for districts like Griffin. It will replace the EPO Levy expiring in 2024.

A yes vote by Griffin voters would ensure the continuation of vital educational programs at Griffin including athletics and extracurricular activities, food service, teaching related costs, and operational related costs. In addition, this levy is also used to pay the non-high fee Griffin pays to Olympia School District so that high school students can continue to attend high schools in the Olympia School District. The non-high fee is paid annually and is based on the number of students attending high school.

If you vote yes, you will be voting for an estimated levy rate per thousand of \$1.64 collected in 2025, \$1.70 collected in 2026, \$1.72 collected in 2027, and \$1.75 collected in 2028. Griffin's mission is to create lifelong learners leading productive, healthy and responsible lives. A yes vote shows strong support of this mission. Vote yes for Proposition No. 1 on February 13th.

Yes for Griffin Kids.

Argument Against

No argument against was submitted.

Griffin School District No. 324

Proposition No. 2

Property Improvements, Capital Projects and Technology Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Griffin School District No. 324 adopted Resolution No. 23-24-12 concerning a school property improvements, capital projects and technology levy. This proposition authorizes modernization by implementing property, school, and facilities improvements including application and infrastructure improvements for technology, safety, operations and instruction, and payments to Olympia School District for high school capital improvements; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.63	\$1,350,000
2026	\$0.61	\$1,350,000
2027	\$0.59	\$1,350,000
2028	\$0.58	\$1,350,000

as provided in Resolution No. 23-24-12.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Chris Rust crust@griffinschool.us

Explanatory Statement prepared by:

Cynthia Weed

For Committee Contact:

Yes for Griffin Kids Allison Adair aladair28@hotmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of \$5,400,000 in property taxes within Griffin School District No. 324 for collection each year in the years 2025 through 2028, to fund modernization by implementing property, school, and facilities improvements including application and infrastructure improvements for technology, safety, operations and instruction, and payments to Olympia School District for high school capital improvements. In accordance with Resolution #23-24-12, these taxes would be deposited in the District's Capital Projects Fund for such improvements. If authorized by the voters, property taxes for this measure would be collected and, based on projected assessed valuation information, would be levied at estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value of \$0.63 (2025 collection year), \$0.61 (2026 collection year), \$0.59 (2027 collection year) and \$0.58 (2028 collection year). Actual levy rates will be adjusted based upon the assessed value of property within the District at the time of each levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Argument For

Please vote yes on February 13, 2024 for Griffin's School Safety, Property Improvements, Capital Projects and Technology Levy.

Proposition No. 2 is a replacement levy that will help continue funding school safety upgrades, including the continued modernization of Griffin's security and other facility systems. This Levy will continue to allow Griffin to pay its portion of Capital Projects to Olympia School District as well as begin to address major aging infrastructure needs within its own building. Griffin's initial focus will be replacement of its heating systems while meeting the mandates of the Green Building Act. Additionally, Safety is always a focus for schools and will allow Griffin to continue with securing the building for students and staff. Last, this levy will continue to allow Griffin to offer the most up-to-date technology for its students and staff.

This levy replaces the current two-year levy that expires in 2024. The rate per thousand are \$0.63 for 2025, \$0.61 for 2026, \$0.59 for 2027 and \$0.58 for 2028. This levy will allow the district to collect \$1,350,000 annually for the next four years.

Please vote yes.

Argument Against

No argument against was submitted.

North Thurston Public Schools Proposition No. 1 Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of North Thurston Public Schools adopted Resolution No. 7-23/24 concerning a proposition to support educational programs and operations expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to meet the educational needs of its students by levying excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to pay for day-to-day operations not funded by the State, including special education, transportation, additional staff, teachers, counselors, and nurses, arts and athletics.

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$52,401,000
2026	\$2.50	\$53,973,000
2027	\$2.50	\$55,592,000
2028	\$2.50	\$57,260,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Dr. Debra J. Clemens superintendent@nthurston.k12.wa.us

For Committee Contact:

North Thurston Citizens for Schools Ruth Weigelt, Mike Reid, Sam Hunt www.yesforntsdkids.org yesnorththurstonschools@gmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

Loretta Byrnes lbyrnes22nd@gmail.com

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 1 would allow North Thurston Public Schools to replace an expiring levy for school programs and operations by levying \$52,401,000 for collection in 2025, \$53,973,000 for collection in 2026, \$55,592,000 for collection in 2027, and \$57,260,000 for collection in 2028. In accordance with Resolution No. 7-23/24 approving this proposition, the District would use these funds to pay for day-to-day school operations and staff not funded by the State, including but not limited to, special education, transportation, teachers, para-educators, school psychologists, nurses, physical and behavioral therapists, counselors, social workers, athletics, activities, arts and music education, student nutrition, professional development, preschool programs, maintenance and operations, and supplies.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates a tax rate for this proposed levy of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in the years 2025 through 2028. Tax exemptions may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For information regarding exemptions, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Argument For

Join us in voting *Yes* to renew the four-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy for North Thurston Public Schools. State funding only covers about 55% of the cost to deliver high-quality educational programs and services. There are critical funding gaps between what the state funds and what our North Thurston students need to be successful in school and beyond. This levy bridges that gap by providing local funding that directly supports our students.

This is not a new levy, but a replacement that continues funding for our students. Now, more than ever, our students need this funding support. For example, when it comes to mental health support (school psychologists, nurses, physical and behavior therapists, counselors and social workers), our district size requires about 126, but state funding covers only 63.6. That's not nearly enough to meet the basic needs of our students.

This levy also funds our STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) education, career and technical education programs, and helps make sure our students graduate with both career and college ready options. Additionally, your "Yes" vote funds our schools' day-to-day needs, like special education services, meals, transportation, as well as access to athletics, arts and music, and more.

Our schools need us to continue our commitment. Here in North Thurston, we take pride in our schools and our community. Vote Yes to continue this critical funding for our students and schools.

Argument Against

Bi-partisan legislation was passed in 2017 that resolved the McCleary issue by increasing your state property tax, in exchange for a cap on the share of local property levies that could be spent on salaries. The purpose of the cap was to reduce the "inequity" between districts, but the Governor immediately vetoed the cap, allowing districts to again spend more local levy dollars on salaries instead of arts, athletics and special programs.

Staff salaries have increased every year since 2017 and the board approved another salary increase in December without any discussion. We now spend \$20,000 a year per student, and yet less than 49 percent of NTSD students read at grade level and only 34 percent can do math. This is a crisis, and yet it is taking the district 5 years to procure a new reading curriculum! More \$150,000/year directors and "specialists" do not lead to improved learning-just more meetings.

They call this a *replacement* levy, but it will collect \$31 million more for a total of \$219 million. The majority of funds will go toward administration, "social and emotional" support staff, and other salaries. Why does the district need 126 *emotional support* staff and 23 *psychologists*? Because, the state passed policies leading to decreased attendance, violent student behavior, lower learning standards, and an unsafe learning environment. They create the problems and you pay for them.

The only way to get the North Thurston School district to seriously address these challenges is to vote no.

Rebuttal of "For" Argument

State funding for education doubled from \$13 billion in 2013 to \$27.6 billion in 2023, while enrollment barely increased 6 percent. We now rank 1st in the nation for teacher salaries and compensation and 28th for student performance. And yet, teacher resignations are at their highest level in 3 decades. Why? Because teachers have no voice on the policies that make teaching more difficult and board members don't ask. Make them ask. Please Vote No.

Rebuttal of "Against" Argument

This is not a new tax. Our community has the opportunity to renew this funding, which maintains our current tax rate - the same amount the voters approved in 2020. Prop. 1 renews a four-year levy that bridges the gap between what the state funds and what our students need to be successful. Without this levy, our schools would see cuts in staffing, programs and funding for extracurriculars. Please support our students and vote yes!

North Thurston Public Schools Proposition No. 2 Capital Levy for Safety, Technology, and Facilities Improvement

The Board of Directors of North Thurston Public Schools adopted Resolution No. 6-23/24 concerning a capital levy for safety, technology, and facilities improvement. If approved, this proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, to provide funding for capital projects for student safety, security, instruction, classroom and support services, and technology needs.

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.77	\$18,100,000
2026	\$0.75	\$18,100,000
2027	\$0.73	\$18,100,000
2028	\$0.71	\$18,100,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Dr. Debra J. Clemens superintendent@nthurston.k12.wa.us

For Committee Contact:

North Thurston Citizens for Schools Ruth Weigelt, Mike Reid, Sam Hunt www.yesforntsdkids.org yesnorththurstonschools@gmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

Loretta Byrnes lbyrnes22nd@gmail.com

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the District to fund capital improvements through a four-year capital levy for safety, technology, and facilities improvement, by levying \$18,100,000 each year for four years, to be collected from 2025 through 2028. The District would use these funds for districtwide projects to improve student safety, security and health, replace educational technology, upgrade school infrastructure and building exteriors, and expand preschool capacity. These projects include, but are not limited to, fire alarm and video security upgrades, parking improvements, replacing student computers, updating classroom instructional technology, sewer and boiler upgrades, roof replacements, constructing preschool classrooms, and renovating and replacing nutrition, food preparation and refrigeration equipment.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$0.77 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2025 collection); \$0.75 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2026 collection); \$0.73 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2027 collection); and \$0.71 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2028 collection). Tax exemptions may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements.

Argument For

North Thurston Public Schools students are counting on us to approve the four-year capital levy to provide funding that directly improves school safety, provides technology for students, and continues our investment in schools by maintaining our school buildings.

During the district's community engagement process last summer, school safety emerged as a top priority for families and community. The levy provides direct funding to help ensure student, staff, and community safety, including parking lot improvements, security cameras, fire alarm upgrades, and fencing to help secure schools. Vote Yes to fund these important ongoing safety needs for our schools – funding that is not provided by the state.

A Yes vote on Prop. 2 also helps our community's youngest learners. The levy would build additional classrooms to increase capacity for high-quality preschool programs. This will help us make sure more children are kindergarten ready. The levy also provides funding for technology, including up-to-date student computers, modern classroom technology and improved wi-fi for schools. The levy funds our basic needs, too – new roofs, sewer systems, and boilers, plus repairs to critical infrastructure for our kitchens to prepare safe food for students.

Join us in voting Yes on Prop. 2 to provide this critical funding to improve school safety, fund technology, and create more opportunities for our youngest learners here in North Thurston.

Argument Against

In 2020, a Capital Bond for \$275 million (\$330 million over 20 years) was passed by you, but only \$145 million in bonds has been issued. The remaining will be issued in 2024, so why does the district need another \$72 million of your tax dollars now? There is no report on how these funds were or will be spent, let alone if they were well spent.

There is no detailed plan for this Capital Levy other than: technology updates, sewers, roof upgrades, new pre-school facility and food preparation. How much will be spent on each of these? No idea. The district's facility plan is based on a 7 percent enrollment increase, even though the state estimated a 5 percent decline.

Less than 49 percent of students read and do math at grade level in the NTSD, so why spend scarce resources and personnel on a centralized child care center that has not even been discussed with the community or parents? Pre-K has no long-term benefit on learning and this is only the next step toward state delivered universal childcare-paid for by you!

The NTSD board does not publicly review contracts, budgets, or levy proposals before giving their approval, because they take your consent and your money for granted. But it will never be enough! They were elected to represent the community and taxpayers. Until they do, please consider the elderly and low income who are already struggling with record high inflation and interest rates and please vote no!

Rebuttal of "For" Argument

Almost 40,000 students left the WA K-12 system since 2019 and many more would leave if they had a choice. It's easy to spend money on parking lots and technology, but there is so little serious engagement by this board that there is no indication that your tax dollars are being spent with the real learning needs of our students in mind. Unless you vote No, this NTSD board will never ask the hard questions.

Rebuttal of "Against" Argument

Our students need technology to be prepared for the jobs of tomorrow. This levy provides funding for classroom and student technology, like Chromebooks. In addition, Prop. 2 funds critical safety improvements to our schools, which the state does not fund. Without this levy, we would not have the funding for these technology and safety improvements. Our students and schools deserve our support. Join us in voting yes on this levy!

Olympia School District No. 111 Proposition No. 1 Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs and Operations

The Board of Directors of Olympia School District adopted Resolution No. 654 authorizing an educational programs replacement levy. This proposition authorizes the district to levy the following excess taxes on taxable property within the district, funding additional teachers and support for science, mathematics, fine arts and special needs education; school nurses; social, mental health and security staff; facility maintenance; athletics and extracurricular opportunities:

Collection Years	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Maximum Levy
2025	\$2.50	\$39,415,000
2026	\$2.50	\$42,529,000
2027	\$2.50	\$45,889,000
2028	\$2.50	\$49,514,000

as provided in Resolution #654. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Explanatory StatementPassage of Proposition

Passage of Proposition No. 1 allows the levy of: \$39,415,000 in property taxes within Olympia School District No. 111 for collection in 2025, \$42,529,000 in 2026, \$45,889,000 in 2027, and \$49,514,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy would be used to maintain current educational programs and services, including teaching and student support, arts and music, school supplies and curriculum, activities and athletics, administration, buildings maintenance and transportation. In accordance with Resolution #654, these taxes would be collected over four years and deposited in the District's General Fund. If authorized by voters, property taxes for this measure would be collected and, based on projected assessed valuation, be levied at an estimated levy rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2028. Actual levy rates will be adjusted based upon the assessed value of property within the District at the time of each levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Kate Davis KADavis@osd.wednet.edu

Explanatory Statement prepared by:

Cynthia Weed

For Committee Contact:

Olympia Citizens for Schools Drew Phillips, Ryan Betz, Hattie Osborne olympiacitizensforschools@gmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

Rhonda Looney rglooney1@comcast.net

Argument For

Vote Yes for Olympia Schools!

Vote yes and renew our commitment to help every child succeed. Your support of this replacement levy is a vote to continue funding quality education for our children. Olympia Schools continue to be a leader in on-time graduation, high performing students, committed staff in safe schools, students who participate in a wide variety of educational and extracurricular programs, and graduates who successfully go on to make meaningful contributions to our local economy and community.

Vote yes because this replacement levy accounts for 16% of the Olympia School District budget, funding critical education programs, such as middle and high school athletics and activities, extended transportation services, special education, visual and performing arts programs, and social and mental health supports. The levy also continues vital districtwide professional development opportunities, as well as operations and service not fully funded by the Washington's basic education allocation.

Vote yes because quality schools equal strong communities. By voting yes, you support OSD students and staff by creating a healthy and safe place to learn with funding for paraeducators, security, and custodial staff.

Vote yes because this is not a new tax. It replaces an expiring Levy which was approved by voters in 2020. Ensure continued support for all 9,000 Olympia School District students!

Argument Against

Stop the madness! Our educational system in Olympia is failing our students within the community. OSD has seen Increases in state and federal money, and per-pupil spending has been elevated from \$8,742 in 2012-13 to \$17,200 in 2022-23. Show me the academic achievement in dollars. More money doesn't seem to be the solution. OSD reports that 50.7% of the students are meeting state standards in English and 39.1% in math. It's time for the OSD to stop viewing the community as a bottomless purse. Increasing inflation has hit many families hard. Everyone has had to prioritize their wants and needs to stay within a budget. It's time for the OSD To prioritize their budget. And academic achievement should be at the top of their list.

Rebuttal of "For" Argument

The foundational structure for critical learning in the State of Washington per OSPI, is called *Basic Education*, which should focus on the strength of educational achievement in core academic areas for all students. Unfortunately, during the pandemic, our school system abandoned academic achievement in favor of DEI, to the detriment of academic excellence. No voter should agree to fund schools where indoctrination trumps academic excellence.

Rebuttal of "Against" Argument

Over the last decade, levy dollars have played a critical role in the district's operating budget and when combined with state investments, they help ensure all students have access to a quality and safe education with enriching extracurricular programs.

As voters and leaders, we have a responsibility to invest in the well-being and development of our local students. Our overall quality of life and the vibrancy of our economy and neighborhoods depend on it.

Rainier School District No. 307 Proposition No. 1

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Rainier School District adopted Resolution No. 296 authorizing a replacement educational programs and operations levy. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District to maintain and support the District's educational programs and operations, that are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$2,715,368
2026	\$2.50	\$2,849,372
2027	\$2.50	\$2,990,076
2028	\$2.50	\$3,137,815

all as provided in Resolution No. 296. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Bryon Bahr bahrb@rainier.wednet.edu

Explanatory Statement prepared by:

Cynthia Weed

For Committee Contact:

For Replacement EP&O Levy Jim Holmes elkhunter1@fairpoint.net

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 allows the levy of: \$2,715,368 in property taxes within Rainier School District No. 307 for collection in 2025, \$2,849,372 in 2026, \$2,990,076 in 2027, and \$3,137,815 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution #296, would be used to maintain current educational program funding and support the District's General Fund program and daily operations expenses, including athletic programs, extracurricular programs, remediation programs, special education, transportation, teachers, classified staff, administration, SRO - school safety, professional development, utilities, food services, custodial staffing and maintenance and renovations. If authorized by the voters, property taxes, based on projected assessed valuation information, would be levied at an estimated levy rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2028. The actual levy rates will be adjusted based upon the assessed value of property within the District at the time of each levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Argument For

Supporting the Replacement EP&O levy at a rate of \$2.50 for four years is an investment in the foundation of our community's future. Education is the cornerstone of progress, shaping the minds and talents of the next generation. By endorsing this levy, we affirm our commitment to providing our students with the resources necessary for a robust and well-rounded education.

In a rapidly evolving world, it is essential to equip our schools with the tools and facilities needed to foster innovation and critical thinking. The EP&O levy at \$2.50 for four years is a reasonable and measured approach, striking a balance between meeting the needs of our schools and being mindful of the financial considerations of our community.

This levy is not just about maintaining the status quo; it's about ensuring that our schools can adapt and thrive in the face of changing educational landscapes. The funds generated will support essential programs, faculty, and operational needs, enhancing the overall quality of education our students receive.

A four-year commitment provides stability, allowing schools to plan for the future with confidence. It demonstrates our dedication to a sustained investment in education, signaling to educators, students, and parents that we prioritize the long-term success of our community. By voting in favor of the EP&O levy at \$2.50, we send a powerful message that we value education as an investment in our community's prosperity. Let's unite in support of our schools.

Rainier School District No. 307 Proposition No. 2 Safety, Security and Capital Maintenance Levy

The Board of Directors of Rainier School District adopted Resolution No. 297 concerning a capital projects levy. This proposition authorizes capital projects fund levies for safety, security and capital maintenance at all District schools and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.00	\$1,100,263
2026	\$1.00	\$1,153,865
2027	\$1.00	\$1,210,146
2028	\$1.00	\$1,269,242
2029	\$1.00	\$1,331,293
2030	\$1.00	\$1,396,446

all as provided in District Resolution No. 297. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Bryon Bahr bahrb@rainier.wednet.edu

Explanatory Statement prepared by:

Cvnthia Weed

For Committee Contact:

For Capital Levy
Jim Holmes
elkhunter1@fairpoint.net

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of \$7,461,255 in property taxes within Rainier School District No. 307 for collection each year in the years 2025 through 2030, to fund safety and security and capital maintenance repairs, upgrades and replacement equipment on the High School Building, and the Middle School and Elementary Schools. In accordance with Resolution No. 297, these taxes would be collected in the 2025-2026 through 2030-2031 school years, and deposited in the District's Capital Projects Fund for such improvements. If authorized by the voters, property taxes for this measure would be collected and, based on projected assessed valuation information, would be levied at an estimated levy rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2030. The actual levy rates will be adjusted based upon the assessed value of property within the District at the time of each levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Argument For

Voting for the Capital Levy at a rate of \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed property value is a modest and responsible way to secure the future of Rainier's school buildings. This levy ensures that the financial burden is distributed fairly among the community while providing the essential funds required for safety, security, and maintenance improvements.

At just \$1.00 per \$1,000, the impact on individual taxpayers remains reasonable, yet the collective benefits are substantial. These funds will be instrumental in addressing pressing issues like repairing aging infrastructure, enhancing security measures, and creating an optimal learning environment for our students.

Supporting this levy is not just an investment in our schools; it's an investment in the prosperity and reputation of our community. With this approachable rate, we can ensure our schools remain safe, welcoming, and conducive to learning while also maintaining property values and attracting new families to our town. Please join us in voting for the Capital Levy at this accessible rate, securing a brighter future for Rainier.

Rochester School District No. 401 Proposition No. 1

Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 23-15 authorizing a replacement levy to continue support for educational programs. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District to maintain current educational programs and operations expenses not fully funded by the State (including special education, nurses, counselors, graduation readiness, technology, athletics, and extracurricular activities):

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$5,513,424
2026	\$2.50	\$5,886,159
2027	\$2.50	\$6,189,745
2028	\$2.50	\$6,400,128

subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Jennifer Bethman jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu

For Committee Contact:

Support Rochester Schools Amanda Bocook, Barbara Munsell, Mark Steelhammer YesRochesterSchools@gmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 allows the levy of: \$5,513,424 in property taxes within Rochester School District No. 401 for collection in 2025, \$5,886,159 in 2026, \$6,189,745 in 2027, and \$6,400,128 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Board Resolution #23-15, would be used to maintain day to day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, including teachers, college and skilled trades, readiness, arts and athletics, curriculum materials, technology, and additional staff, including nurses, counselors and school resource officers. If authorized by the voters, property taxes, based on projected assessed valuation information, would be levied at an estimated levy rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2028. The actual levy rates will be adjusted based upon the assessed value of property within the District at the time of each levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Argument For

As a small town, the schools are the backbone of our community. Rochester has a legacy of providing the best we can for our students, and we are proud of our schools. So let's keep them going strong! Your yes vote helps the district provide our students with great opportunities to learn and grow. It's our way of showing we believe in Rochester's future! The continuation of essential programs and services for Rochester students is dependent upon passing this replacement levy. The expiring levy was up to \$2.50 per \$1000 assessed value and the new levy asks for approval at the same rate \$2.50 per \$1000 assessed value.

Washington State does not cover all the costs to educate our kids. The levy provides 12% of the district's budget and covers items not fully funded by the state. We rely on the levy to support school safety, reduced class size, special education services, athletics, band, dual language, teaching materials, technology, clubs, activities, fine arts, nursing staff and more.

100% of levy funds stay in our district and go directly to support our kids. Strong schools = strong communities. Please join your neighbors in voting *Yes* and show Rochester students that we believe they can do great things.

Rochester School District No. 401 Proposition No. 2 General Obligation Bonds - \$89,190,000

The Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 23-16 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to make safety and security improvements at Rochester Primary, Grand Mound and Rochester Middle Schools; rebuild Rochester High School on existing property and other capital infrastructure improvements, to issue \$89,190,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 21 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 23-16.

Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Jennifer Bethman jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu

For Committee Contact:

Support Rochester Schools Amanda Bocook, Barbara Munsell, Mark Steelhammer YesRochesterSchools@gmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

Explanatory Statement

The Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 23-16 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to make structural updates to enhance safety and security in District schools, to update the water systems on High School and Elementary School campuses, to construct a new Rochester High School, including CTE instructional spaces and a performing arts center, to build outdoor play structures at Rochester Primary and Grand Mound Elementary Schools, to improve athletic fields/facilities at Rochester High and Rochester Middle Schools and to undertake other capital infrastructure and technology improvements as deemed necessary by the Board to enable District facilities to meet program needs, to issue \$89,190,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 21 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 23-16.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, contact the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.

Argument For

Good schools benefit everyone in our community. Rochester School District completed projects from the 2000 bond on time and on budget, and the 2000 bond expired in 2020. Those projects included a new Rochester Primary School, modernized Grand Mound Elementary and modernized Rochester Middle School.

Our community now has the responsibility of addressing the needs at Rochester High School, an aging school building that has exceeded its life expectancy. We have outgrown the space with more classrooms now in portables than inside the building. The classrooms are undersized, the main systems are failing, including the water system, and our facilities are no longer comparable to neighboring districts. The bond will provide a *New* safe, modern facility including updated, properly equipped academic and career and technical training spaces (such as robotics), a performing arts center, updated athletic facilities, and a security vestibule. This bond was recommended by our Facilities Task Force that was composed of a wide range of community members.

In addition to the new RHS building, RPS, GMES, and RMS will have safety and security upgrades including safety vestibules. To upgrade our outdoor safety and provide rain protected instructional spaces, this also will include a turf field at RMS, "Forever Lawns" and covered play areas for RPS and GMES that can be used by students, families, and neighborhood residents.

We urge you to vote *Yes* for the bond so all students in Rochester have access to a safe, high quality learning environment. Mail your ballot by February 13!

Tenino School District No. 402 Proposition No. 1

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Tenino School District No. 402 adopted Resolution No. 3:23-24, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operations expenses. 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 (school safety, athletics, extracurricular activities, art, music, special education, and staffing above the State allocation):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$4,893,164
2026	\$2.50	\$5,076,658
2027	\$2.50	\$5,267,033
2028	\$2.50	\$5,451,379

all as provided in Resolution No. 3:23-24.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Clint Endicott endicottc@tenino.k12.wa.us

Explanatory Statement prepared by:

Foster Garvey P.C. Lee Marchisio, Special Counsel

For Committee Contact:

Tenino Citizens for Schools Susan and Scott Barrett cwrail@aol.com

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

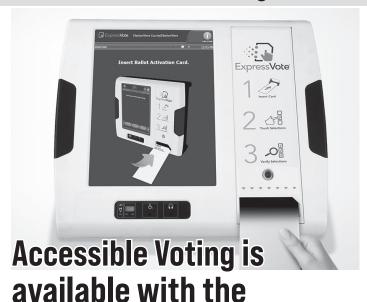
Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the Tenino School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2024. The taxes collected by this levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not funded by the State, including, but not limited to, school safety, athletics, extracurricular activities, art, music, special education, and staffing above the State allocation.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$4,893,164 in 2025, \$5,076,658 in 2026, \$5,267,033 in 2027, and \$5,451,379 in 2028. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Taxes collected by the proposed levy will provide approximately 20% of the District's General Fund budget. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Thurston County — 360-867-2200.

Argument For

Please vote yes to renew the essential Tenino School District Educational and Operations Levy. The school district relies on the funds to provide quality educational programs, additional opportunities such as art and athletics, and much needed student health supports. This levy is a replacement levy and benefits every Tenino student. As community members that raised four children who graduated from the district, we urge you to please support Tenino students by voting yes!



The ExpressVote[™] is a voting assistance device that enables voters with visual impairments, cognitive/learning disabilities, or limited mobility to vote independently and with privacy.

Voters are welcome to:

ExpressVote™.

- visit us at 2400 Evergreen Park Dr SW Olympia, WA 98502
- **call us** at 360.786.5408 711 Washington Relay
- email us at elections@co.thurston.wa.us



5 Ways We Keep Voter Registrations Up to Date

- **1. YOU!** We count on you to tell us when you move or change your name. It is the responsibility of the voter to maintain their voter registration, and we're here to help! Give us a call, or, if it's within 8 days of an election, come see us!
- 2. Through returned mail. When mail gets returned to us, we place the voter on an inactive status. This means we won't send out ballots until the voter contacts us. How will the voter know? You will receive a confirmation notice from us! Also, if you don't receive a ballot, contact us! If a voter doesn't contact us and misses two federal elections, their registration is cancelled.
- **3. Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC).**People move around a lot. ERIC is a non-profit organization operated jointly by election officials that allows for the sharing of registration information. Every 60 days, voter registration data is compared to the other member states' data, and duplicate registrations are updated or inactivated.
- **4. Department of Licensing (DOL).** When you update your license, we get notified. We use this information to update your voter registration. If you get married and change the name on your license, your registration will change too!
- **5. DOH, funeral homes, and families.** The Vital Statistics division at the Department of Health updates us with records of the deceased. Local funeral homes and families notify us. The deceased voter's registration is then cancelled.



Tumwater School District No. 33 Proposition No. 1

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Tumwater School District No. 33 adopted Resolution No. 04-23-24, authorizing a replacement levy to continue support for educational programs. 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 not fully funded by the State (including special education, nurses, counselors, safety staff, graduation readiness, career/technical, athletics, extracurricular activities):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Maximum Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$25,452,404
2026	\$2.50	\$26,725,025
2027	\$2.50	\$28,061,276
2028	\$2.50	\$29,464,340

all as provided in Resolution No. 04-23-24.

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Kevin Bogatin

kevin.bogatin@tumwater.k12.wa.us

Explanatory Statement prepared by:

Foster Garvey P.C.

Lee Marchisio, Special Counsel

For Committee Contact:

Tumwater Citizens for Better Education (TCBE) Jennifer Herrin

voteyestumwaterschools@gmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

Arsenio Escudero escuderoaj@gmail.com

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Tumwater School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2024. The taxes collected by this levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including special education, nurses, counselors, librarians, safety staff, graduation readiness, career/technical education, athletics, and extracurricular activities.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$25,452,404 in 2025, \$26,725,025 in 2026, \$28,061,276 in 2027 and \$29,464,340 in 2028. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Thurston County-360-867-2200.

Argument For

Vote "Yes" to Support our Tumwater Schools!
Tumwater students need your support to continue to provide quality programs and school facilities by passing the four-year Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy for educational programs and operations.

The Educational Programs & Operations Levy is not a new tax and replaces the four-year EP&O levy that was approved by voters in 2020 and expires in 2024. The overall TSD tax rates will remain stable and not increase above the 2023 or 2024 collections due to the voter-approved bond costs decreasing.

The replacement levy would continue to pay for programs and services that are not fully funded by the state's basic education funding model. This includes classroom and district-wide support staff, teachers, paraprofessionals, custodians, nurses, social and mental health support, and security staff. Levy funds also help us support enrichment activities such as music, middle and high school activities and athletics, visual and performing arts programs, and much more.

Tumwater School District has a proud history of supporting our schools. Your support has contributed to award-winning success in student achievement, athletics and activities. Strong schools build strong communities. Please vote "Yes" to show your continued commitment to our students and our community by providing our children with the best education possible.

Argument Against

When voters pass levies, they continue to be requested by school districts in subsequent years and include consistent increases with each solicitation. The costs of K-12 education are supposed to be compensated in large part by federal and state subsidies, which are determined formulaically using school enrollment. When enrollment decreases, these funding sources also decrease. If the school district does not adapt to this fiscal change, the public is burdened with paying for the deficit.

Incremental increases to levies add up and eventually lead to higher property taxes for everyone. With the current inflationary economy and stagnant wages that do not compensate for higher prices, it would be inappropriate to pass this proposition. The district should instead focus on using its money more effectively and adjust to provide services within its financial means.

More money does not always equal better quality. Finding innovative, creative, and beneficial ways to utilize current funding would help the school district make wiser decisions and would prevent future financial impositions on taxpayers. For schools to prove that they are proficient at teaching our children they should first demonstrate that they have learned the lessons of sound financial management.

Rebuttal of "For" Argument

According to Washington State law, specifically, WAC 458-19-005 and RCW 73.08.080, a levy is, for all intents and purposes, a tax. This levy will always have the possibility of increasing not only in its amount but also in its duration through indefinite requests for renewal. Continuing to enable the Tumwater School District to ignore fiscal discipline and responsibility, is not beneficial for our city. Please vote "No" and send a message for accountability. Thank you.

Rebuttal of "Against" Argument

This Replacement Levy is not an increase to current collections. The state is supposed to fully fund K-12 education, but does not. These levy funds are used to fill the gap left by inadequate state allocations.

Passing this levy is an investment in our community's future. It will enable our schools to address critical needs and provide better opportunities for our children. It's about securing a bright future for our students and our community.

Yelm Community Schools Proposition No. 1

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Yelm Community Schools adopted Resolution No. 03-23-24, authorizing a replacement levy to continue support for educational programs. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on taxable property within the District, for educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State (including special education, nurses, counselors, safety staff, graduation readiness, technology, athletics, and extracurricular activities):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Maximum Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$15,500,000
2026	\$2.50	\$16,150,000
2027	\$2.50	\$16,800,000
2028	\$2.50	\$17,450,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 03-23-24. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

Local Measure Contacts

Jurisdiction Contact:

Jennifer Carrougher jennifer_carrougher@ycs.wednet.edu

For Committee Contact:

Citizens for Support of Yelm Schools Amanda Munoz, Lisa Declercque, Ashley Brooks yes4yelm.com citizens4yelmschools@gmail.com

Against Committee Contact:

No committee could be found.

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the Yelm Community Schools to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2024. The taxes collected by this levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including special education, nurses, counselors, school resource officers and safety staff, graduation readiness, technology, athletics, extracurricular activities, and curriculum materials and training.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$15,500,000 in 2025, \$16,150,000 in 2026, \$16,800,000 in 2027, and \$17,450,000 in 2028. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call your county assessor for more information.

Argument For

The Current Situation:

Yelm Community Schools currently serves over 5,800 students with projected growth of 500 more by 2025. With increased enrollment, we must ensure students have adequate resources, programs, and services. Levy funds allow the district to continue programs and services that meet the needs of students. Key areas not fully funded by the state include learning, special education, mental/physical health and safety, athletic activities and the arts, technology, and operations. Levy funded programs and services are vital in ensuring student growth, both socially and emotionally. By investing in these areas, we not only meet the immediate needs of students but also lay the foundation for their future success, empowering them to become well-rounded individuals equipped with skills, knowledge, and a sense of community responsibility.

The Ask:

Vote Yes to continue funding the expiring levy on the February Special Election. Levy funding will fund key programs and support services for all students. Your vote is crucial in maintaining the trajectory of progress and ensuring that our schools remain pillars of excellence.

Taxpayer Considerations:

Individual tax rate depends on assessed home value. This replacement levy is not a new tax and will fund important programs and services for all students. The replacement levy will not exceed the amount of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Investing in education through levy funds is an investment in the future of our community. Quality education results in a skilled workforce, higher property values, and overall community prosperity.

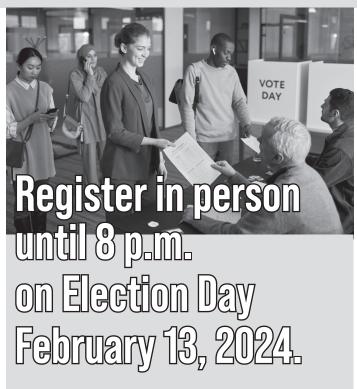
Drop boxes are the best way to ensure your ballot will get to us on time!

Drop boxes are securely locked and emptied by teams of two trained elections officials. Boxes are open 24/7 beginning January 24 and close promptly at 8 p.m. on February 13, Election Day.



Find the closest drop box at ThurstonWAVotes.gov or scan this QR code.





If you have questions or need assistance, contact the Auditor's Office at:

- · 360.786.5408
- Elections@co.thurston.wa.us
- 2400 Evergreen Park Dr SW Olympia, WA 98502

ThurstonWAVotes.gov







Thurston County Auditor 2000 Lakeridge Dr SW Olympia, WA 98502-6090



ECRWSSResidential Customer

The Auditor's Elections Office is located at 2400 Evergreen Park Dr SW Olympia, WA 98502

There is a drop box at the Courthouse and the Atrium, but there are no voter services at either location.

See page 2 for more detail!



Same Day Registration

You can now register to vote, update your address, or make other updates to your voter registration through 8 p.m. on February 13, Election Day.

Call 360.786.5408 or visit ThurstonWAVotes.gov for more information.

