

April 26, 2011 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Tahoma School District No. 409



For more information call
206-296-VOTE (8683) or visit
www.kingcounty.gov/elections



King County
Elections

Registering to vote is easy

Requirements

To register to vote you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington state;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day, April 26.

Deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. To vote in the April 26 Special Election, you must have registered by March 28.

If you are not currently registered to vote in Washington, you may register in person at the King County Elections office by April 18.

How to register

Visit the King County Elections website for information and registration forms, or visit in person weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila.

Register online at the Secretary of State website, www.sos.wa.gov.

Keep your registration current

Update your voter registration if you've moved or changed your name by filling out a new registration form, available online and at King County Elections.

Tips for voting

- Read the instructions on the ballot and envelope carefully
- Use a black ink pen to vote
- Remove and recycle the stub at the top of the ballot
- Sign the voter's oath on the return envelope
- Track your ballot's progress on the King County Elections website
- Questions? Lost or damaged ballot?
Call 206-296-VOTE (8683)

Returning your ballot

Voting begins as soon as you receive your ballot in the mail. Consider returning it early to be counted in election night results and to have time to resolve any issues with your signature.



Through the mail

Use a first class stamp to return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service. Ballots must be postmarked by April 26.



Ballot drop boxes

Return your ballot at a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on April 26. For exact drop box placement please visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

By law, ballots cannot be accepted at ballot drop box locations after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

**Regional Justice Center -
near parking garage entrance**
401 4th Avenue N, Kent 98032

Issaquah City Hall
130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah 98027

Earlington Business Center
919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057

King County Elections - East side of building
9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila 98108

King County Administration Building
500 4th Avenue, Seattle 98104

Accessible voting centers

Voters with disabilities can cast a private and independent ballot at our office, on the following dates and times:

King County Elections
9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila, 98108
April 6 - April 25
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
April 26
Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

More information inside



Proposition No. 1 General Obligation Bonds - \$125,000,000

The Board of Directors of Tahoma School District No. 409 adopted Resolution No. 2011-1 concerning this proposition for bonds. The proposition authorizes the District to construct a new elementary school, replace Lake Wilderness Elementary, renovate and expand Tahoma Junior High and Tahoma High School, and make certain capital improvements to other facilities of the District to issue \$125,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years; and collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 2011-1. Should this proposition be:

- APPROVED
 REJECTED

Statement in favor

Vote Yes. Our schools are full, and more kids are coming.

This issue affects all property owners – not just parents. Countless families say they moved to the Tahoma School District for one simple reason: a nationally recognized education. The district's reputation keeps property values strong.

Property values will suffer as word spreads that our schools are overcrowded and decrepit. Nearly all are at or near capacity due to our unprecedented growth. Our junior high, for example, is already stuffed 200 students beyond its intended capacity. Stages, cafeterias and even closets are used for teaching. One quarter of district students spend part of their day in aging portables (some purchased used from Kent schools for \$1 -- 20 years ago).

These conditions will only get worse. In the next 10 years, 1,700 new students will arrive. The district has nowhere to put them. Class sizes are projected to increase significantly; the district will be forced to cut critical course offerings.

Sensitive to trying times, district officials pinched every penny to maximize the money from the previous bond, designed to fund improvements through 2005. Six years later, we must reinvest in our buildings.

Vote yes for our community's future. This cannot wait.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Our schools are experiencing overcrowding now. It will only get worse unless we act today. This is not luxury, but necessity.

This investment is crucial to save our schools. Failure means the prospect of moving some schools to a multi-track, year-round system.

Construction costs are low in this economy. The cost for taxpayers equates to one fast food meal per month.

This bond is vital to maintain our property values and schools. Vote yes.

Statement submitted by: Erin Weaver and Wendy Castleman
• www.tahomavote.org

Explanatory statement

Tahoma School Board has authorized a \$125 million bond measure request on April 26, 2011. The bond measure is designed to build more classroom space to accommodate current and future students. It also will pay for major maintenance projects. The bonds would be repaid by school district taxpayers over 20 years. The cost is estimated at \$1.41 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation. Approval of the bond measure provides funds for the following: Construction of two elementary schools (an additional school and a new Lake Wilderness Elementary); classroom additions and interior alterations at Tahoma High School and Tahoma Junior High School; an auditorium at Tahoma High School; replacement of deteriorating siding at Cedar River Middle School, Glacier Park Elementary, Rock Creek Elementary and Central Services Center; replacement of the roof at Rock Creek Elementary and Central Services; upgrades to heating and ventilating systems at Rock Creek Elementary, Glacier Park Elementary, Cedar River Middle School and Central Services; replacement of gymnasium floors at Rock Creek Elementary, Glacier Park Elementary and Shadow Lake Elementary; and elimination of most portable classroom buildings as a result of building permanent classrooms. Passage of the bond measure makes the school district eligible for \$25.6 million in matching construction funds from the state. The award of those funds will be delayed by the state's budget crisis but when those funds become available there are several additional projects that will be completed. A full description can be seen on the Tahoma Web page: www.tahomasd.us

Statement in opposition

The Tahoma School District ranks 5 out of 216 districts, scoring 5 stars out of 5.

The community is proud of the school district and is very supportive. We love our kids. We care about their future. It is bright and it will still be bright if the levy fails.

This time around we need to think about all of the community. The State of Washington ranks 29 out of 50 states with an unemployment rate of 9.1%. Many of our neighbors have lost their homes to foreclosure or been forced to seek loan modifications to attempt to stay in them. Many homes are valued at much more than they would sell for. Other neighbors are seniors on fixed incomes or families living with three generations in the home. Fuel prices are rising rapidly. Even the water district revenue forecast requires a 7.25% increase to customers. This levy would mean an additional \$400 a year in taxes on the average \$300,000 home.

Economic analysts indicate many years before this improves. This is not a bad idea but it is bad timing. We need to think about the whole community not just the kids. Vote no.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Vote No. Tahoma School District is already rated in the top 3 percent. The district is part of the reason people choose to live in Maple Valley and all of us understand the importance of good schools. Being sensitive to trying times is not enough. Many of our neighbors struggle to stay in their homes and pay for basic necessities. They are pinching pennies too. Maybe it can't wait 10 years but it should wait.

Statement submitted by: Sharon Morris

Your *Signature* verifies your vote

Sign the voter's oath on the back of your return envelope before returning it. Take your time and sign carefully using your business signature.

Before any ballot is counted, state law requires that specially trained Elections staff make sure the signature on the ballot envelope matches the signature on file with your voter registration. If you forget to sign or if the signatures don't match, the Elections department cannot count your ballot. If this happens, Elections staff will contact you to take care of the issue.

Remember to sign your name!

Sign and date below

Jane Doe 4/11/11
signature of voter (required) date

Ballot return envelope

Read the oath

I do solemnly swear or affirm under penalty of perjury that I am:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of the state of Washington;
- At least 18 years old on election day;
- Voting only once in this election;
- Not ineligible to vote due to a felony conviction; and
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

It is illegal to forge a signature or cast another person's ballot. Attempting to vote when not qualified, attempting to vote more than once, or falsely signing this oath is a felony punishable by a maximum imprisonment of five years, a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both.

Sign and date below

Jane Doe 04/11/11
signature of voter (required) date

phone number (optional, in case there is an issue with your signature)

If you are unable to sign, make a mark in the signature area above. Have your mark witnessed and signed by two people below.

witness 1 _____ witness 2 _____

This envelope is for:

12892598 0034 VBM 0987 0003 / 0004

SEA 34-1251 27 12892598 4/26/11
JANE DOE
1111 SAMPLE AVE S
SEATTLE, WA 98108

Election date: April 26, 2011

Working receipt RM 1110

online voter guide

Use the Voter Guide on the King County Elections website to check your registration information and look up the races and measures that will appear on your ballot.

Your Voter Guide

Find your registration status and view your sample ballot

First name Last name

Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)

Search by address

www.kingcounty.gov/elections

Contacted by King County Elections?

If you are contacted by King County Elections regarding your signature, respond promptly in order to make sure your ballot can be counted. Even if Election Day has passed you may still have time to correct any issues or problems.

To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format please contact King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683).

In accordance with federal law, King County produces election materials in both English and Chinese. If you need election materials in Chinese please contact King County Elections.

根據聯邦法律，金郡編製的選舉資訊都有英文和中文版本。如果您需要中文選舉資訊，請與金郡選舉部聯絡。



Contact us

In person 9010 East Marginal Way S.
Tukwila, WA 98108

Phone 206-296-VOTE (8683)
1-800-325-6165
TTY: Relay: 711

E-mail elections@kingcounty.gov

By mail 919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

Online www.kingcounty.gov/elections



Please recycle your voters' pamphlet