

**Proposition No. 3  
School Bus Levy**

The Board of Directors of Issaquah School District approved Resolution No. 1180 authorizing a levy for school buses. This levy funds new and replacement school buses and authorizes the following excess levy on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$0.07	\$3,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 1180. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

*The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

**Statement in favor**

Submitted by: Dawn Peschek, Wright Noel, [www.visvote.org](http://www.visvote.org)

This levy is necessary to ensure that all students in the Issaquah School District are able to travel to and from school safely. The *only* thing this levy funds is buses for transportation. Issaquah School District services 110 square miles and transports students via school buses over 1.4 million miles per year. Approximately 10,000 students are transported each morning and afternoon. The 1-year transportation levy will replace old buses with new more efficient models that align with the state's safety standards and replacement cycle.

An efficient transportation fleet helps with fuel savings & lower maintenance costs, which means more dollars go into the classroom for our students. It is also part of the School District's efforts to make its fleet as green friendly as possible.

We are asking you to vote for this levy to ensure that all the students in the district are able to fully participate in school and to help the district in its efforts to run an efficient transportation system.

**Explanatory statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 3 would allow for the levy of \$3,000,000 in property taxes within Issaquah School District for collection in 2023. In accordance with Resolution No. 1180 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the Issaquah School District's Transportation Vehicle Fund to pay part of the costs of acquiring new school buses to meet projected population growth and allow for the retirement of older and more costly to operate buses of the District. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$0.07 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2023. The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify call the King County Assessor at (206) 296-7300.

For questions about this measure, contact: Martin Turney, Executive Director of Finance & Support Services, (425) 837-7011, [turneym@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:turneym@issaquah.wednet.edu)

**Statement in opposition**

No statement submitted.

Submitted by: Jeff Heckathorn

April 26, 2022 Special Election

# King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Issaquah School District No. 411

## Return your ballot by mail. No stamp needed!

We recommend dropping your ballot in the mail by the Friday before Election Day to make sure it gets postmarked in time to be counted.

**Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, April 26.**



### Ballot drop boxes

11 ballot drop box locations will be open for this election. To find the complete list, please see the other insert in your ballot packet or visit [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).

### Vote Centers

Vote Centers are available for voters that need assistance. Each center has voting machines that offer audio or large print ballots, and other assistive devices. Elections staff are available to assist as needed. Voters can also register to vote and get their ballots at Vote Centers through 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Location	Hours of operation
<b>King County Elections</b> 919 SW Grady Way Renton, WA 98057	Weekdays, April 18 - 25, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Election Day, April 26, 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

### Access Your Ballot Online

Access and print your ballot online! Those with disabilities or others who choose to do so may mark their selections on the ballot online before printing – or you can choose to print out a blank ballot to mark by hand. Online ballot access has been designed specifically to enable voters who are blind or have low vision to cast a private ballot and is available to all registered voters.

Just print, sign, follow the instructions for packaging, and return as you normally would – by mail or by drop box before boxes close at 8 p.m. sharp on Election Day.

Access your ballot at [kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp](http://kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp).

**If none of the above voting options work for you, please contact our office.**

### Register to vote

**Online**

You can register to vote online at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) -- all you need is two minutes and a Washington State Driver's License or ID. You can register online by April 18 for this election.

**In person**

You can register in person through April 26, Election Day, at King County Elections headquarters. More information about hours and services can be found at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections)

**By mail**

Download and print a registration form from [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections) and mail it to King County Elections. It must be received by April 18 for this Special election.



**Proposition No. 1  
Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Issaquah School District adopted Resolution No. 1178 concerning a proposition to support school programs and daily operations. This proposition authorizes the District to levy excess taxes on all taxable property within the District to maintain educational programs not funded by the state and support the District's General Fund programing, daily operations, teaching, classroom materials, extracurricular activities, and transportation:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$1.43	\$61,000,000
2024	\$1.43	\$64,000,000
2025	\$1.42	\$67,000,000
2026	\$1.42	\$70,000,000

as provided in Resolution No. 1178 subject to legal limits on levy amounts and rates at time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).

**Statement in favor**

Submitted by: Dawn Peschek, Wright Noel, [www.visvote.org](http://www.visvote.org)

Your vote for this *renewal* levy allows the Issaquah School District ("ISD") to continue its reputation for excellence. *The Educational Programs & Operations Levy (EP&O) provides 15.6% of our district's operating budget. Local levy dollars are needed to fund essential programs not fully funded by the State, such as mental health counselors, nurses, safety/security, special education, substitute teachers, custodial staff, and pre-K early learning. For example, State basic education pays for just 3 nurses for ISD's 19,000+ students in 26 schools. The EP&O Levy will fund the additional 23 nurses necessary for each school to have a nurse onsite.*

ISD uses your money wisely and has an exemplary record of fiscal management with 19 consecutive years of clean state audits and the highest quality Aaa debt rating by Moody's Investment Services, one of only 65 districts nationwide with that distinction.

ISD strives to support all of its students no matter their income level, ethnicity, race or religion. People move here to have their students attend schools in this district. Levy funding ensures *all* students have the same opportunities to learn, grow and succeed. Please join us in *strengthening our community by supporting our students* and voting yes!

**Rebuttal of statement in opposition**

Contrary to the opposition statement, here are the facts: (1) McCleary does not fund the education Issaquah desires with nurses and counselors, special education, or security; (2) the district has the lowest administrative overhead in King County and one of the lowest in the state; (3) salaries are in line with neighboring districts and needed to keep talent; (4) the tax rate is stable and funding is needed for our students. Vote Yes!

**Explanatory statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace an expiring levy and allow the levy of \$61,000,000 in property taxes within Issaquah School District for collection in 2023, the levy of \$64,000,000 for collection in 2024, the levy of \$67,000,000 for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$70,000,000 for collection in 2026. In accordance with Resolution #1178 approving this proposition, these taxes would pay part of the general expenses of operating the District that are not funded by the state. General expenses of the District include employee costs (such as salaries), instructional materials, special programs, activities and sports, technology systems operation, transportation costs, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District schools. If authorized by the voters, and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$1.43 (2023 collection), \$1.43 (2024 collection), \$1.42 (2025 collection), and \$1.42 (2026 collection). The exact levy collection will be subject to the legal limits at the time of the levy and the rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual amount certified and the assessed value of the property within the District at the time of levy.

If the District receives state COVID relief funding in excess of \$20,000,000 the 2023 levy collection shall be based on actual student enrollment rather than pre-pandemic enrollment, which may further reduce 2023 levy collections.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify call the King County Assessor at (206) 296-7300.

**Statement in opposition**

Submitted by: Jeff Heckathorn, [schooldataproj@gmail.com](mailto:schooldataproj@gmail.com)

Even though the McCleary Decision pumped billions of additional taxpayer dollars into the public school system, school districts incessantly demand more. There should be no more EP&O levies, period. Also, this levy is a 41% tax hike over the previous - hardly a "Replacement". The State School property tax category (which goes to the Issaquah SD in total) just rose 6% this year and has risen 30% in just the last 3 years. 67% of your property taxes (renters pay in their rent) now goes to the ISD, up from 60% a few years ago and heading higher.

This levy pays for bloated compensations. The median district admin compensation is over \$160K with a high of over \$420K. Per pupil expenditures including capital outlays and interest on debt are now at \$22.7K. That is more expensive than most private schools and more than tuition and books at UW! Other school districts in WA cannot compete and this is why the ISD and others are driving the state to McCleary 2.0

The district's \$700M debt is back loaded - required tax collections are scheduled to increase sharply from 2026-2032. This is irresponsible. For an honest, accurate financial report: [LevyNo.com](http://LevyNo.com)

**Rebuttal of statement in favor**

The district needs to be transparent with taxpayers. In closed negotiating meetings, without taxpayers present, the teachers' union and district administrators crafted deals that went beyond the McCleary budget. So please don't blame the constant need for more money on state legislators or on nurses.

The state will never be able to fulfill its constitutional obligation of fully-funding schools so long as local districts are allowed to spend more than the ample provision provided.

For questions about this measure, contact: Martin Turney, Executive Director of Finance & Support Services, (425) 837-7011, [turneym@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:turneym@issaquah.wednet.edu)

**Proposition No. 2  
Replacement Capital Projects Levy (Technology and Critical Repairs)**

The Board of Directors of Issaquah School District approved Resolution No. 1179 authorizing levies for technology/modernization. This levy funds educational technology, 1:1 student learning devices, critical repairs, school remodeling, completion of High School #4, and updating for safety, security and efficiency, and authorizes the following excess levies on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$0.73	\$31,472,000
2024	\$0.81	\$35,957,000
2025	\$0.78	\$36,561,000
2026	\$0.75	\$37,320,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 1179. Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).

**Statement in favor**

Submitted by: Dawn Peschek, Wright Noel, [www.visvote.org](http://www.visvote.org)

This levy is necessary to provide the funds needed to maintain our current schools, update technology for our students, and complete High School #4. Funding for critical repairs preserves the district's assets and is an essential, fiscally responsible measure, to maintain safety and fundamental standards of our buildings (HVAC, roof repairs, etc.).

The technology levy enables the district to acquire equipment and provide modern educational tools, including one-to-one computers, and to ensure that access to technology is *available and equitable to all students*.

High School #4 is essential to alleviate significant overcrowding at Skyline and Issaquah High Schools, which are both 500+ students over capacity. Construction costs have significantly increased due to supply chain issues and labor shortages. This school is being built to the same standards as other high schools in the district, including having sports fields and grandstands.

The District has used its funds carefully and responsibly in planning for High School #4. To address neighbors' concerns and the environment, the property buffer is more than three times what is required by city code. High School #4 completion is crucial and necessary for students in this district. Please vote yes and renew the Capital Levy!

**Rebuttal of statement in opposition**

Contrary to the opposition statement: (1) HS#4 construction delays in permitting due to litigation have been the largest issue in the project; (2) Skyline and Issaquah High *are* over capacity and the building of HS#4 is *necessary* to alleviate overcrowding; (3) Preparing the needed Elementary #17 site *now* for the future saves taxpayer money; (4) the district building was separately bonded (5) ISD clean water standards far exceed those of neighboring properties. Vote Yes!

**Explanatory statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of \$31,472,000 in property taxes within Issaquah School District No. 411 for collection in 2023, the levy of \$35,957,000 for collection in 2024, the levy of \$36,561,000 for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$37,320,000 for collection in 2026, to fund construction, renovation, improvement, critical repairs and expansion of new and existing facilities, and improvements to technology equipment and training for safety, security and efficiency. In accordance with Resolution No. 1179 approving this proposition, these taxes would be collected over the 2022-2023 through 2026-2027 school years, inclusive, and deposited in the District's Capital Projects Fund for such improvements to meet the current and future educational programs for its students. If authorized by the voters, and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.73 (2023 collection), \$0.80 (2024 collection), \$0.78 (2025 collection), and \$0.75 (2026 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify call the King County Assessor at (206) 296-7300.

**Statement in opposition**

Submitted by: Samuel Lin, Daniel Sreebny, Michele Williams, [ccare98027.com](http://ccare98027.com)

As retired educators, we support funding for students and teachers -- but we oppose the construction portion of the Technology and Capital projects levy as a means to cover up District bureaucrats' mismanagement of their Providence Heights schools project. The proposal includes \$44,000,000 for *\$78,000,000 cost overruns* for the high school and \$15,000,000 for work on elementary school 17, which the Board placed "on hold" indefinitely in November.

District bureaucrats bundled construction overruns and unwarranted costs with technology in an attempt to manipulate voters, just as they squandered \$34,000,000 on an extravagant and unnecessary headquarters building in 2017. Think of how this funding could be used for real student needs, including counselors, nurses and mental health professionals.

The District will use the \$15,000,000 for the unwarranted elementary school to remove 500 trees over three acres and fill this area with construction spoils. This irresponsible plan follows their rejection of obtaining an unbiased environmental impact study for a project that threatens Lake Sammamish, wetlands and Laughing Jacobs Creek, with its endangered Kokanee salmon spawning grounds.

Stop financial and environmental mismanagement. *Vote No.* Make the District come back with a responsible proposal consistent with taxpayers' needs and priorities. Contact us at [ccare98027.com](http://ccare98027.com)

**Rebuttal of statement in favor**

We all know that our School District's officials need to be more responsive to parents, teachers, and the community. Nearly all the Capital Levy will be spent on a high school project that hasn't started yet, but already has massive cost overruns. We can't afford to sacrifice other educational priorities to this ill-conceived plan.

Your "No" vote will make the District create an affordable plan that is better for students, teachers, community and the environment.