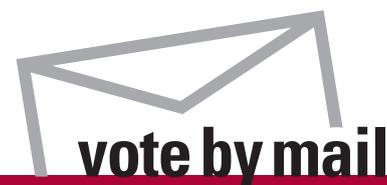


February 9, 2010 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet



Published by:



King County
Elections

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



King County

Department of Elections

Dear King County Voter:

It's election time again and even though there may be only a few issues to vote on in this election, each one is important. Make sure you read the directions and your ballot options top to bottom, front to back!

There have also been some changes made that may affect the way you return your ballot, beginning with this February special election. As many of you may be aware, King County had to make some hard choices to balance the 2010 operating budget. This included cuts to all departments in services that citizens want and depend on. Elections, like all other departments, was asked to identify services that could be reduced or eliminated without preventing our ability to successfully conduct elections.

As a cost savings measure, Elections has been asked to reduce the number of ballot drop boxes as well as the operational hours of accessible voting centers. We will continue to have two 24-hour ballot drop boxes available to voters who want to return their ballot without postage. (Locations and operating hours are listed on the next page of this pamphlet.)

Although there have been some cuts to services, we can all be proud of the strides made in our performance and the efficiencies achieved by becoming a vote-by-mail county. In last November's general election, there was not a single discrepancy in over 587,000 ballots counted. Conducting elections by mail has also substantially streamlined our election administration and, as a result, the need for so many temporary staff.

As we enter into a new decade, there will be many opportunities as voters for you to help shape it. Remember, every vote makes a difference. I encourage you to study the issues and cast your mail ballot by Tuesday, February 9.

Sincerely,

Sherril Huff
Director
King County Elections

Ballot drop boxes + accessible voting options

Attention: Elections has reduced the number of ballot drop boxes as well as the operational hours of accessible voting centers.

Ballot drop boxes

You can return your voted ballot at one of our drop box locations. Ballot drop boxes will be open on Friday, January 22 and **close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, February 9.**

King County Elections

9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila 98108

King County Administration Building

500 4th Ave, Seattle 98104

accessible voting centers

Voters with disabilities can cast a private and independent ballot at the following locations, dates and times.

King County Elections

9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila 98108

Weekdays, January 20 - February 8:

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, 98009

Seattle, Union Station

401 S Jackson St, Seattle, 98104

Monday, February 8: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday, February 9: 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Voter information

Registering to vote is easy

If you meet the following qualifications you can register to vote online, by mail or in person

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.

King County votes by mail

If you do not receive your mail ballot or lose your ballot, please notify King County Elections.

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. You must register by mail or online at least 29 days before an election. If you are a new voter in Washington State, you may register in person at the King County Elections office up to 8 days before an election.

Keep your voter registration current

You can use the online or mail-in voter registration form to let King County Elections know when you move or change your name. You must re-register or transfer your registration at least 29 days before the election to be eligible to vote in your new precinct.

For more information, King County Elections can be reached at the following:

Voter hotline: 206-296-VOTE (8683)
1-800-325-6165
TTY 206-296-0109

Online: www.kingcounty.gov/elections

E-mail: elections@kingcounty.gov

In-person: King County Elections
9010 East Marginal Way S
Tukwila, WA 98108

Mail: King County Elections
919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

King County Rural Library District

Proposition No. 1

The Board of Directors of the King County Rural Library District adopted Resolution No. 2009-11 concerning an increase in the District's regular property tax levy. In order to provide continued funding for the normal operation and maintenance of the King County library system, this proposition would authorize the District to restore regular property tax levy rate to \$0.50 per thousand dollars of assessed value for collection in 2011, and to increase the levy in each year thereafter as allowed by chapter 84.55 RCW. Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

Statement in favor

KCLS libraries are busier than ever, but I-747 revenue restrictions will force reductions in library hours, resources and services unless we restore full funding for 2011. One year of revenue restoration will help KCLS maintain quality service.

KCLS helps families raise strong readers

Early literacy programs help families teach babies language skills that last a lifetime.

KCLS helps students succeed

KCLS helps children love learning, and enables parents to guide children to their highest educational goals. KCLS is even more important as school libraries cut services.

KCLS helps job-seekers

In 2009, thousands of residents turned to KCLS for help finding job-related information, resume-writing resources, computer skills classes, small business support, and financial research.

Voting "no" will force cuts in library services

KCLS has maintained quality libraries within a severely reduced budget since 2001 despite a 43% growth in use. Failure to restore the full legal property tax level for 2011 will force reductions in materials, open hours, computers, and maintenance.

One year of restored funding will maintain quality service

Voting **'approved'** restores full library funding for one year. For a \$400,000 home, that's just \$32 more in 2011 for libraries--less than one hardcover book.

Vote **Yes** on Proposition 1!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Libraries offer more than entertainment.

More than 1.2 million residents use KCLS' 45 libraries, choosing from 4 million books.

Adults find job leads, resume help and business tools.

Preschoolers build lifelong learning skills.

Students in 18 school districts get homework help.

Seniors stay active and involved in learning.

About \$32 more for one year ensures books, computers and learning tools for all.

KCLS is a solid investment in our future.

Yes on Prop 1.

Statement submitted by: Dean Smith, Rachael Levine, Doris Townsend TruthInTaxation@aol.com

Explanatory statement

King County Rural Library District (King County Library System or KCLS) receives 96% of its operating revenue from property taxes. Since 2001, State law has limited growth in property tax revenues to 1% annually without voter approval (a levy lid lift). In 2002, voters approved a one-year levy lid lift for KCLS to restore the full legally authorized rate limitation of 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. This temporary restoration sustained operations as planned for eight years, during which library usage increased 43%. Proposition 1 would authorize KCLS to restore its property tax levy rate to 50 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, for collection in 2011, and to use that levy amount as the basis for KCLS's property tax limitations in subsequent years.

Approval of this Proposition would enable KCLS to sustain library service at current levels at all 45 libraries, including programs, building maintenance, computers, new books and other materials. The restored revenue also would enable KCLS to maintain outreach services to elderly and homebound, low-income daycares and community centers.

Rejection of this Proposition would lead to 10-15% budget cuts across the organization beginning in 2011 in order to operate within current revenue restrictions, limiting funding for books, computers and building maintenance. Effects of these cuts may include increased wait times for popular book titles, reduced availability of computers and less frequent maintenance and upkeep of libraries. Library staff and hours of operation will be affected in future years without this short-term restoration of revenue.

Statement in opposition

Public libraries are important – together with education, police and other valuable services.

However, as public schools and government agencies reduce expenses during the worst recession since 1929, library management coldheartedly disregards thousands of unemployed, including families losing homes overburdened already by overassessed property taxes.

This should not surprise anyone.

The state Public Disclosure Commission's Compliance Director documented this same management's unlawful misuse of tax dollars for "communications [that] were not a fair and balanced presentation of the facts. The effort constituted a campaign promoting passage of Proposition 1, in violation of RCW 42.17.130" (www.pdc.wa.gov/archive/compliance/reports/pdf/2005/KingCoLibraryMemo.pdf).

Library Board members disciplined that Machiavellian lawbreaking by raising its CEO's salary to \$160,620.82.

Library officials also negligently refuse to address costly nonessentials.

Indeed, KCLS continues to buy advertising for its "entertainment" diversions, which multiply discipline problems, e.g., children left to play videogames, for hours, abandoned repeatedly at closing time (including by parents gambling at Emerald Downs according to Board discussion on December 15, 2009).

Taxpayers apparently cannot stop public libraries from becoming videogame arcades – disrupting research and reading – but we can decide that financing "entertainment" by raising property taxes on citizens being foreclosed out of their homes is **"An Indecent Proposal"** (KCLS Call Number VT-Fic-I).

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Government revenues are down – along with incomes of many taxpayers already generously supporting libraries with \$173.60 in annual taxes on "average" \$395,000 family homes – so library officials authorize \$1 million for this Special Election's costs to raise library taxes higher repeatedly.

Board Minutes document abuse of taxpayers from failures to save \$500,000 by simply waiting for this year's Primary **because** the CEO insists wastefully expensive Special Elections "turn out a lot of supportive voters" (8/25/2009).

Statement submitted by: Will Knedlik

Seattle School District No. 1

Proposition No. 1

Capital Levy

The Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 passed Resolution No. 2009/10-4 concerning this proposition to fund the Buildings, Technology, and Academics III Program. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace the expiring Buildings, Technology, and Academics II levy, on all taxable property within the District, for construction and modernization of educational facilities throughout the District:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2011	\$.35	\$45,000,000
2012	\$.33	\$45,000,000
2013	\$.32	\$45,000,000
2014	\$.30	\$45,000,000
2015	\$.29	\$45,000,000
2016	\$.27	\$45,000,000

Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

Statement in favor

Vote YES for Seattle Public Schools CAPITAL LEVY Proposition 1

Our students and schools need your help. Proposition 1 renews our commitment to safe and healthy schools by replacing a similar, expiring levy.

Safer Schools Prop 1 ensures children have safe, well-maintained learning environments. It funds critical health and safety improvements such as roofs, seismic improvements, fire suppression and electrical upgrades to make every Seattle school safer.

Better Learning The Capital Levy supports technology improvements to give students the learning tools they need to succeed. In addition, it upgrades worn-out playgrounds and athletic fields.

Greener Schools Prop 1 also funds new green technologies for energy efficiency and other sustainable ways of cutting waste and costs.

Skills Centers A successful YES vote on Prop 1 will open the door for millions of dollars in matching funds for job training and skills centers for students interested in vocational futures.

Proposition 1 is not a new tax. It continues our commitment to safe and healthy schools. **Please vote YES on Proposition 1.**

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

For safe, healthy schools Vote YES for Proposition 1

We AGREE, our students DO need well-maintained schools.

We SUPPORT the Capital Levy because of its prudent investments in our schools:

- * Roof, fire sprinkler and water system repairs
- * Heating, ventilation and electrical renovations
- * Earthquake safety, student health, playground and building repairs
- * Window, siding and green, energy-saving replacements
- * Reopening schools for increased student enrollment

For safe, healthy schools, please vote YES!

Statement submitted by: Phil Brockman, Ramona Hattendorf, Eric Liu
www.SchoolsFirstSeattle.org or (206) 224-3563

Explanatory statement

The Board of Directors of Seattle Public Schools approved Resolution 2009/10-4, requesting voter approval of a capital levy of \$270,000,000 for Buildings, Technology and Academics. The proposed levy will replace an expiring levy. Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of property taxes over a six year period to pay for remodeling, construction, modernization and improvement of existing and new facilities, for technology improvements and for equipment and training to meet the current and future educational program needs of its students. Projects funded by this levy would include building reinvestments such as energy efficiency upgrades, green school initiatives, roof replacements, mechanical systems, life safety, improvements to drinking water quality, acquisition of technology and technical infrastructure, remodeling and modernization of science facilities and athletic fields. The total amounts to be collected for each year will be \$45,000,000 and estimated levy rates each year per \$1,000 of assessed value will be \$0.35 for 2011 collections, \$0.33 for 2012 collections, \$0.32 for 2013 collections, \$0.30 for 2014 collections, \$0.29 for 2015 collections and \$0.27 for 2016 collections.

Statement in opposition

Safe buildings are a fundamental need in education. Seattle Public Schools currently has a \$500M maintenance backlog.

- SPS spends less than they did in 1979 on basic maintenance but has more buildings. Simply put, you the taxpayer will pay MORE later because the district does not do enough basic maintenance *now*. This levy does NOT address the maintenance issue in any significant way. In fact, the first \$50M - *nearly 20% of the entire levy* - is to go to reopen 5 *closed* buildings.
- Almost half of the SPS buildings are over 50 years old and are not being properly maintained. There are new buildings that SPS spent over \$700M to build and yet it does not properly maintain that investment.
- **Seattle Times 12/7/1995** - "*He (Superintendent John Stanford) acknowledged, though, that if given a choice he would have kept the maintenance levy in the package and deferred the \$75 million technology plan.*" If Stanford was worried about maintenance in 1995, why aren't we in 2010?

Giving the district more money while they are not maintaining our buildings only enables bad practices. Demand accountability of our tax dollars and proper upkeep for our school buildings.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

- There is a \$500M maintenance backlog. This levy will barely make a dent.
- This levy has climbed from \$178M in 2004 to \$270M in 2010.
- This levy has only athletic fields in it, not new playgrounds.
- The district is NOT keeping our schools safe and healthy and they want taxpayers to pay more for repairs because the district didn't take care of them earlier.

Demand accountability – if not now, when?

Statement submitted by: Melissa Westbrook

Seattle School District No. 1 Proposition No. 2 Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 passed Resolution No. 2009/10-3 concerning this proposition to maintain current educational program funding levels. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support the District's educational programs and operations:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2011	\$1.07	\$139,500,000
2012	\$1.06	\$145,100,000
2013	\$1.11	\$158,100,000

Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

Statement in favor

SUPPORT our KIDS and SCHOOLS!

Vote YES for Proposition 2, Seattle Schools Operating Levy

Now more than ever we need to renew the Operating Levy. Simply put, without your continued support it is unclear how we could sustain our schools.

The Seattle Public Schools Operating Levy:

- Funds teachers, books** and day-to-day operations for ALL public schools and EVERY school kid in Seattle.
- Keeps class sizes lower** by preventing teacher layoffs and paying for teachers, classroom aides and librarians in EVERY elementary, middle and high school.
- Provides 23 percent** of the Seattle Public Schools total basic education and operation budget.
- Ensures continuing support** (NOT a new tax) for EVERY school, student and family in EVERY part of Seattle.

I'm a Seattle school teacher. I know that without the Operating Levy we couldn't do our job, let alone keep our schools open for the students and families who need and depend on us.

That's why I'm asking you now for your vote. **Vote for our children and our future.**

PS - Please vote! And vote YES for Proposition 2.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Proposition 2, our Operations Levy, funds important education programs and services not funded by the State.

It funds **23% of the Seattle School District's annual operating budget**. Without this support, we will be unable to meet the educational needs of our children.

Neighborhood schools will be strengthened and schools reopened to accommodate new students.

Your YES vote will benefit **every** child, in **every** classroom, in **every** community in Seattle with smaller classes and better instruction.

Statement submitted by: Marianne Bratsanos, Ramona Hattendorf and Eric Liu www.SchoolsFirst Seattle.org or (206) 224-3563

Explanatory statement

The Board of Directors of Seattle Public Schools approved Resolution 2009/10-3, requesting voter approval of an operations levy. The proposed levy will replace an expiring levy. Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of property taxes over a three year period to pay for educational programs and operations support costs of Seattle Public Schools as follows: \$139.5 million in property taxes within Seattle Public Schools District for collection in 2011, the levy of \$145.1 million in taxes for collection in 2012 and the levy of \$158.1 million in taxes for collection in 2013. If authorized by the voters and based on current assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$1.07 (2011 collection), \$1.06 (2012 collection) and \$1.11 (2013 collection).

Statement in opposition

Vote NO on segregation, vote NO on Proposition Two, the \$442.7 million Operations levy.

Citizens of a democracy on occasion have the firm but lucky opportunity and duty to refuse funding for especially harmful government actions. Threatening to segregate a full one-quarter of Seattle's public schools is a call to exercise this duty.

The District's recently-adopted attendance areas will take away school choice, split communities, and segregate schools. It is wrong to red-line families out of their schools. Send a message – Don't fund these plans: **Vote NO.**

According to the District's own data, the new student assignment plan will cause or aggravate racial imbalance at 23 schools, per Washington Administrative Code 392-342-025(3), including the proportion of White enrollment (up) at Ballard 72%; Bryant 78%; Hamilton 71%; Roosevelt 74%; West Woodland 83%; and (down) at Gatzert 8%; West Seattle Elementary 16%. [District "Data Book for Recommended Attendance Area Boundaries", November 4, 2009]

Botched school closures (some now hurriedly being reversed) destructively tore apart school communities. The District's plan to further reduce school choice threatens similar harm citywide.

The District is not making good educational choices with these funds.

Please vote NO.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Mandatory assignment is replacing freedom-of-choice neighborhood schools.

We're voting NO to segregation of schools, NO to loss of school choice, and NO to misuse of funds. Please join us.

Joy Anderson, Charita Dumas, Shelley Williams (Cooper parents still fighting for our school). Elaine Schmidt, former Seattle Public School parent and PTSA officer. Robert Stephens, Jr., AAA Elders Council (Closing schools to build new schools? Superintendent's bonus? Now?).

Please vote NO.

Statement submitted by: Chris Jackins (206) 682-2450

Reading your voters' pamphlet

Why are only some measures in the voters' pamphlet?

For a special election, jurisdictions are required to submit a resolution requesting that King County Elections publish a voters' pamphlet. Jurisdictions are not required to participate in the voters' pamphlet.

Why are there measures on my ballot that are not in my voters' pamphlet?

Your ballot is correct. The measures on your ballot are the measures for which you are eligible to vote and reflect the districts in which you reside. Not all jurisdictions chose to participate in the voters' pamphlet.

You can find all the measures for which you are eligible to vote by using the online voter guide at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Why are there measures in the voters' pamphlet that are not on my ballot?

Your ballot is correct. The measures on your ballot are the measures for which you are eligible to vote and reflect the districts in which you reside.

Voter pamphlets are distributed to households

within certain zip codes, other districts participating in the election may fall within the same zip code. For example, two school districts can share the same zip code but you only reside in one school district.

What is an explanatory statement?

An explanatory statement is prepared by each district's attorney stating the effect of the ballot measure if passed into law.

How are committees in favor of or in opposition to a measure formed?

Districts choosing to participate in a voters' pamphlet are responsible for appointing committee members who agree to write statements.

The statements are a way to persuade voters to vote for or against the measure.

King County Elections is not responsible for the content of the statements.

Your personal voter guide



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Your Voter Guide". At the top, it says "Find your registration status and view your sample ballot". Below this, there are input fields for "First name" and "Last name", each with a text box. Underneath, there is a "Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)" field with a text box. At the bottom left, there is a "Submit" button, and at the bottom right, there is a link that says "Search by address".

www.kingcounty.gov/elections

- View your voter registration information.
- See which districts you are eligible to vote in for this election.
- Read the ballot measures you are eligible to vote on for this election.
- Read the explanatory statement and statements in favor of and in oppositions to a measure for those jurisdictions that chose to participate in the voters' pamphlet.
- Read the full text of a ballot measure resolution submitted by the jurisdiction.

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Edition 2

King County produces all election materials in both English and Chinese. If you, or someone you know, needs language assistance, call King County Elections and request a ballot and voting material in Chinese.

為符合聯邦法律，此資料有中文版本。