

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

Federal Way School District No. 210 Proposition No. 1 Technology (Capital Projects) Levy

The Board of Directors of Federal Way School District No. 210 adopted Resolution No. 2009-28 concerning this proposition. This proposition authorizes the District to levy funds to continue technology modernization, including purchase of classroom computers; acquisition, installation and management of technology systems; training; and authorizes the following excess levies in place of an expiring levy upon all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2011	\$0.15	\$1,800,000
2012	\$0.15	\$1,800,000
2013	\$0.34	\$4,400,000
2014	\$0.33	\$4,400,000
2015	\$0.32	\$4,400,000
2016	\$0.32	\$4,400,000

Should this proposition be approved?

- YES
 NO

Statement in favor

A "YES" vote will not increase your taxes. This replacement levy has been structured to coincide with a decrease in the construction bond measure collections so that your contribution to these funds combined will remain level through the next six years.

In today's world, technology falls under Basic Education, alongside Reading, Writing and Arithmetic. Prospective employers don't ask whether you can use a computer, they want to know what programs you are proficient in. Unfortunately, this very important basic need is not funded by Washington State, who established K-12 funding in 1977. Passage of this replacement levy provides regular upgrades to classrooms computers, and services, increases this number of computers per student, expands access to instructional tools (such as document readers), trains staff to take advantage of recently introduced technology and implements wireless networks. Anyone who owns a computer knows how quickly progress is made and how important it is to stay on top on the curve.

Your support of this levy ensures that our students can compete equitably with other students within our state, throughout the nation and around the world.

Vote "YES" to provide high quality education to the children of Federal Way, both today and tomorrow!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

This levy is about technology! Rebuilding schools requires a separate voter approved bond. The main goal of this levy is maintaining the district's computer upgrade cycle and keeping pace with emerging technology. Proposition 1 begins moving the district towards one computing device per student and provides funding for technology support.

This technology levy was discussed at three separate public board meetings.

Can you imagine our world without technology? The need is clear. Please vote YES!

Statement submitted by: Charlene Yamasaki and Tom Pierson

Explanatory statement

The Board of Directors of Federal Way Public Schools approved Resolution 2009/28, requesting voter approval of capital levies. 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 modernize its educational facilities through the acquisition and installation, implementation and management of computer technology and technology systems, facilities and projects, including but not limited to enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, and implementing online applications and training as an integral part of the District's technology systems, facilities and projects; and the application and modernization of technology systems for operations and instruction. For example, this levy would add computers and enable a wireless network. Passage of Proposition No. 1 will allow the levy of property taxes within the District for collection in the amounts of \$1,800,000 in the years, 2011 and 2012, and \$4,400,000 in years 2013 through 2016. The estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.15 (2011 collection); \$0.15 (2012 collection); \$0.34 (2013 collection); \$0.33 (2014 collection); \$0.32 (2015 collection) and \$0.32 (2016 collection).

Statement in opposition

The School Board allocated no specific time for public comments on this proposal.

This proposal is designed to fund buying one computer for each student in the District in the next 6 years. Currently the ratio is approximately 1 computer to each 6 students. This increase is to be accomplished by using the funding from retiring building bonds to buy short life computers. This same funding, if used for bonds, would substantially fund the replacement of the academic portions of Federal Way High School, perhaps the most decrepit, high maintenance, secondary school in Washington.

There is little evidence that computers have been able to enhance student achievement in this district, which has had a computer based program for many years in one of its high schools.

Adding more computers will add to the support costs and has no evidence that it will increase student achievement.

We support the continued maintenance of the current level of computers in our schools and believe that the funds for retiring bonds should be recycled into the replacement of our older facilities not into short term high maintenance efforts with doubtful results.

We urge the rejection of this levy and submission of a continuation levy to support the existing level of technology support.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

"No amount of money will buy achievement," Barack Obama. More technology simply is more distractions in an education system that is overloaded with distractions. While there is no increase in taxes associated with this levy it then denies the option of using the same money to buy updated facilities for the district.

Statement submitted by: Charles Hoff, Bill Pirkle and Steve Skipper

Fife School District No. 417 Proposition No. 1 Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Fife School District No. 417 adopted Resolution No. 09-8 concerning a replacement levy for education funding. If approved, Proposition No. 1 would permit the District to fund education programs and school operations by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District:

Levy Year	Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2010	2011	\$2.21	\$7,150,000
2011	2012	\$2.33	\$7,550,000
2012	2013	\$2.41	\$7,950,000
2013	2014	\$2.48	\$8,350,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 09-8. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

- YES
 NO

Statement in favor

To maintain quality education for our children, the Citizens for Fife Milton Schools is asking voters to support the Educational Program and Operations **replacement** levy for 2011 to 2014 by voting “**Yes**” for Proposition 1.

This is not a new tax.

The current levy expires in 2010. This **replacement** levy continues the long-standing local community support to ensure the success of our schools at the lowest tax rate in the area.

Your “Yes” vote is important.

Your “**Yes**” vote will continue funding for additional teachers and classified staff to help keep class sizes small. Your “**Yes**” vote will support special programs, safe student transportation, and instructional materials; Your “**Yes**” vote will provide maintenance, grounds, and custodial services to ensure longevity of our schools. Your “**Yes**” vote will continue funding of athletics and extracurricular activities.

Our children are counting on your “Yes” vote.

This levy will continue the resources and educational programs and services our children and community deserve. Please **Vote “Yes”** for the Educational Program and Operations **replacement** levy.

Statement submitted by: Marjorie Dickson and Melinda Shaw

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$7,150,000 in property taxes within Fife School District for collection in 2011, the levy of \$7,550,000 in taxes for collection in 2012, the levy of \$7,950,000 in taxes for collection in 2013, and the levy of \$8,350,000 in taxes for collection in 2014. In accordance with Resolution No. 09-8 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the General Fund of the District and used to pay part of the cost of educational programs and operations support of the District. General expenses of the District include hiring additional staffing to maintain low class sizes, special education programs, professional growth opportunities, transportation costs, additional textbooks and other instructional materials, athletics and other extracurricular activities such as drama and music, ongoing facilities maintenance and repairs, and other instructional program support of the District. If authorized by the voters and based on current assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates would be \$2.21 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2011, \$2.33 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2012, \$2.41 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2013, and \$2.48 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2014.

Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

Fife School District No. 417 Proposition No. 2 Capital Projects Technology Levy

The Board of Directors of Fife School District No. 417 adopted Resolution No. 09-9 concerning a capital projects technology levy. If approved, Proposition No. 2 would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District to fund educational technology, equipment and training, including classroom computers and technology facilities:

Levy Year	Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2010	2011	\$0.28	\$900,000
2011	2012	\$0.28	\$900,000
2012	2013	\$0.27	\$900,000
2013	2014	\$0.27	\$900,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 09-9. Should Proposition No. 2 be approved?

- YES
 NO

Statement in favor

Now more than ever

Technology in the classroom is not a luxury but a necessity for effective student instruction. Modernized technology equipment will increase classroom interaction, student engagement, and allow for comprehensive exploration and understanding of curriculum for all learners.

Jobs of the future

Job prospects are more technologically oriented than ever before. Let's protect our investment as well as ensure that our children continue to graduate with the skills necessary for successful and fulfilling careers.

This is a re-instatement Levy.

Technology in our schools is as important as textbooks and curriculum. Yet the State does not fund technology for schools. Recognizing this, six years ago you approved a four-year technology levy. Your school district promised to stretch the resources over six years. That promise was kept! This levy will fulfill the same promise to you for about \$4.67 per month. This is less than the cost of a movie ticket.

Your vote is important.

Please re-instate this technology levy by voting "Yes" on Proposition 2.

Statement submitted by: Marjorie Dickson and Melinda Shaw

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of \$900,000 in property taxes within Fife School District for collection in 2011, the levy of \$900,000 in taxes for collection in 2012, the levy of \$900,000 in taxes for collection in 2013, and the levy of \$900,000 in taxes for collection in 2014. In accordance with Resolution No. 09-9 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the Capital Projects Fund of the District and used to pay for technology improvements including continued replacement cycle of obsolete and aging computers for students and staff, training, upgraded teacher presentation equipment to include more interactive technologies, strategically maintained and improved network and data systems, and greater access for students through technology devices to meet the current and future educational technology programs of the District. Taxes collected over these four years would provide technology funding for six years. If authorized by the voters and based on current assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates would be \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2011, \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2012, \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2013, and \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2014.

Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Statements in favor of and in opposition to a ballot measure are submitted by committees appointed by the jurisdiction. No persons came forward to serve on the committee and to write a statement in opposition. If you would like to be involved with a committee in the future please contact the jurisdiction.

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Edition 6

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。