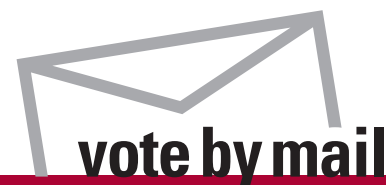


February 9, 2010 Special Election

**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](http://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](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections)

**E-mail:** [elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto: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](http://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

# Vashon Island School District No. 402

## Proposition No. 1

### Replacement of Expiring Maintenance and Operation Levy

The Board of Directors of Vashon Island School District No. 402 adopted Resolution No. 636, concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition would support the District in meeting its educational goals by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund maintenance and operation expenses:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2011	\$1.41	\$3,670,000
2012	\$1.43	\$3,722,000
2013	\$1.45	\$3,860,000
2014	\$1.49	\$4,083,000

Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

### Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would authorize the Vashon Island School District to replace an existing levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2010. The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$3,670,000 in 2011, \$3,722,000 in 2012, \$3,860,000 in 2013 and \$4,083,000 in 2014. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amount is estimated to be \$1.41 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2011, \$1.43 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2012, \$1.45 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2013, and \$1.49 per \$1,000 of assessed value in 2014. The tax rate of approximately \$1.41 per \$1,000 of assessed value projected for the first year of collection in 2011 would equate to \$705.00 per year (or \$58.75 per month) for a \$500,000 home.

Taxes collected by this levy will be deposited in the District's General Fund to support the District's strategic goals and help pay for necessary educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, including staff salaries, instructional programs, special education, transportation, curriculum, professional development, custodial and minor facility repairs.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For more information, call the King County Department of Assessments at 206.296.3920.

### Statement in favor

This levy is VITAL. It is not a new levy but a continuation of the operations levy due to expire in 2010. Since the State of Washington does not fully fund Vashon Island School District's (VISD) general fund, 20 percent of it must come from this levy. These funds directly pay teachers' salaries, textbooks, transportation, custodial staff and much more. Every four years this levy comes up for renewal and, to our credit, we have consistently been there to support our kids.

With a shrinking state budget, administrators and staff have worked to keep our schools strong with the limited resources available. Tough decisions have already been made, cutting the scope of our bus service and maximizing every dollar spent. The loss of 20 percent of the district's general fund would be devastating. Each generation of our children depends on the support of our schools to build their futures.

I am very proud of VISD as they have shown excellent stewardship of our tax dollars. I ask each of you to join me in voting to support this levy.

**Statement submitted by:** Ken Zaglin

### 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.

# 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](http://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". It includes the following fields and options:

- Text: "Find your registration status and view your sample ballot"
- Form fields: "First name" and "Last name" (each with a text input box)
- Form field: "Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)" (with a text input box)
- Buttons: "Submit" and "Search by address"

## [www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://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.



# King County votes by mail

All registered voters eligible for this special election will soon receive a ballot in the mail.

## Follow these simple steps to vote by mail

1. Vote. Following the instructions on your ballot, make your selections using a blue or black pen.
2. Place your ballot in the security envelope and seal it to ensure your ballot remains secret.
3. Place the sealed security envelope into the mailing envelope. Read and sign the oath on the return envelope, then seal the envelope. Your signature is as important as your vote; make sure you take the time to sign the return envelope.
4. Return your voted ballot. All voted ballots must be received at a designated drop box by 8 p.m. on election night or be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service on or before election day.

## Tracking your ballot online

Voters who are eligible to vote in an election can now track their ballot at several points. Visit the ballot tracker link at [www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections).

Track your ballot  
packet



**Mail ballot tracking**

- Track point #1: Your ballot packet was assembled and delivered to the U.S.P.S. by Elections.
- Track point #2: King County received your returned ballot packet.
- Track point #3: Your signature was verified and you will be credited with voting.

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ECRWSS

# Residential Customer

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98073 98074 98075 98083 98089 98093 98148 98160  
98166 98224 98251 98288

**King County Carrier Routes Only**  
98072

## Edition 8

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。