

February 11, 2014 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Bellevue School District No. 405



Contact us

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Email:	elections@kingcounty.gov
Online:	www.kingcounty.gov/elections
Mail or in-person:	919 SW Grady Way Renton, WA 98057
Voter Registration Annex:	King County Administration Building 500 4th Ave., Room 311 Seattle, WA 98104

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



Proposition No. 1

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Bellevue School District No.405 passed Resolution No. 13-23 concerning this proposition for educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to continue funding students' educational needs and school operations at the current level by levying the following excess taxes to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District, for essential educational operating and maintenance expenses:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2015	\$1.41	\$58,300,000
2016	\$1.46	\$62,500,000
2017	\$1.51	\$66,500,000
2018	\$1.47	\$66,500,000

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

Vote Yes to this replacement levy, which supplements state money and pays directly for classroom needs. It replaces the current levy and represents 27% of the district budget.

The levy funds smaller classes by paying for one out of three teachers and supplies textbooks and other curriculum materials. It expands student learning by funding art and music programs in elementary schools and world languages in middle school. It extends the school day to seven periods in middle and high schools and allows our kids to be well prepared for higher education. Washington State only pays for five periods in middle and high schools. It funds student transportation, athletics, special education and gifted programs.

Approving this levy will renew our commitment to fund high quality basic education. It will maintain the district's ability to prepare students for college, work and life in the global marketplace. Our children deserve a comprehensive education, and this levy provides 27% of the day-to-day operating budget. Our school district needs these dollars to make up the difference between what the state funds, and what it actually requires to provide a high quality education.

Make a difference. *Continue our commitment and Vote Yes.*

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Opponents would have you believe that teachers are overpaid and that this levy will be spent on pay increases for teachers. They haven't done their homework.

Proposition 1 pays for vital programs and services, including pay for teachers to work additional hours and take on additional responsibilities. Students need and deserve access to high quality teachers.

Our school board has worked hard to make sure resources are available and focused on student needs.

Vote Yes!

Statement submitted by: Tobey Bryant and Steve Brown
info@bellevuequalityschools.org

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace an expiring levy and enable the Bellevue School District to pay for its essential educational programs and services, including teaching, student transportation, school supplies, and athletics and activities, such levies to be made for four years for collection in the years from 2015 through 2018. In recent years, this levy has provided approximately 27% of the District's annual operating budget. Without this levy, the District's operational budget would be reduced. Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$58,300,000 in property taxes within Bellevue School District No. 405 for collection in 2015, the levy of \$62,500,000 for collection in 2016, the levy of \$66,500,000 for collection in 2017, and the levy of \$66,500,000 for collection in 2018. In accordance with Resolution No. 13-23 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the District's General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District. General expenses of the District include teacher and other employee salaries, instructional materials, special programs, activities and sports, technology systems operation, student 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 \$1.41 (2015 collection); \$1.46 (2016 collection); \$1.51 (2017 collection); \$1.47 (2018 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.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
 Melissa deVita - Deputy Superintendent
 425-456-4025 • devitam@bsd405.org

Statement in opposition

Union officials in the Bellevue Schools have pressured the school board to divert levy funds from student services in order to pay teachers more. Our levy should pay for student services, not for wage increases.

In the collective bargaining agreement sought by union officials, the average state-provided wage of \$49,390 for teachers will be enhanced by 28.8 percent from levy and levy-matched funds. This costs roughly \$13.7 million per year which could be better used to help at-risk students or reduce class sizes. The school district leads taxpayers to believe the levy money is being used for students, yet large amounts support union priorities instead.

Levies are great for funding local priorities and unique services for our area students, but taxpayers should hold off giving the school district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Don't let the Bellevue School District confuse you by a nuanced definition of taxes, levy, new, or renewal. Approving this measure will increase the amount you pay the government. Taxpayers should hold off giving the district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Voting 'no' on Proposition 1 will send this message to the district: Be more responsible with taxpayer's money.

Statement submitted by: Laurie Lyford, Renay Bennett, and Tom Henningsgards
propertyrights4us@gmail.com

Proposition No. 2**Technology and Capital Projects Levy**

The Board of Directors of Bellevue School District No. 405 passed Resolution No. 13-24 concerning this proposition for capital levies. This proposition authorizes the District to continue modernizing District facilities by acquiring, developing, installing, and implementing computer technology systems, facilities and projects for operations and instruction and capital administrative expenses, and other capital project expenditures, and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2015	\$0.24	\$10,000,000
2016	\$0.61	\$26,000,000
2017	\$0.59	\$26,000,000
2018	\$0.57	\$26,000,000
2019	\$0.34	\$16,000,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

Vote Yes to renew the existing levy to provide computer technology literacy to Bellevue students and to fund essential building maintenance.

This levy funds student use of modern technology. It pays for the replacement of aging classroom computer equipment; funds professional development and training in the use of computers; and provides improvements to the supporting technical infrastructure. In today's rapidly changing technological environment, employers are demanding graduates with strong technology skills, and this levy will provide students with access to equipment and instruction that will be essential in the coming decades.

The capital project portion of this levy pays for critical school repairs, such as replacing roofs, flooring, mechanical, electrical, water and sewer systems. Properly maintained school buildings are critical to student safety and the overall learning environment. This levy also provides for the upgrade or replacement of physical education facilities.

Approve this levy and ensure that all district facilities are safe and well maintained, and that students throughout the district are given access to technology that will prepare them for entry into the 21st century global marketplace.

Make a difference; renew the commitment and Vote Yes.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Proposition 2 funding is limited to capital and technology needs, including related support.

We believe that students and teachers should be at the center of what we do.

We believe that students and teachers deserve access to viable technology and facilities.

We believe that it is important to maintain our investment by renewing our support.

Vote Yes!

Statement submitted by: Tobey Bryant and Steve Brown
info@bellevuequalityschools.org

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would replace an expiring levy, would be in place for five years and would be used for technology improvements and major maintenance on existing schools and other Bellevue School District facilities. Passage would allow the levy of \$10,000,000 in property taxes within Bellevue School District No. 405 for collection in 2015, the levy of \$26,000,000 for collection in 2016, the levy of \$26,000,000 for collection in 2017, the levy of \$26,000,000 for collection in 2018, and the levy of \$16,000,000 for collection in 2019. In accordance with Resolution No. 13-24 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the District's Capital Projects Fund to pay for improving and upgrading its educational facilities through the acquisition, installation, implementation and management of computer technology and technology systems, and construction, renovation, maintenance, improvements and expansion of new and existing facilities including portable classrooms. If authorized by the voters and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.24 (2015 collection); \$0.61 (2016 collection); \$0.59 (2017 collection); \$0.57 (2018 collection); \$0.34 (2019 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.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:

Melissa deVita - Deputy Superintendent
425-456-4025 • devitam@bsd405.org

Statement in opposition

Union officials in the Bellevue Schools have pressured the school board to divert levy funds from student services in order to pay teachers more. Our levy should pay for student services, not for wage increases.

In the collective bargaining agreement sought by union officials, the average state-provided wage of \$49,390 for teachers will be enhanced by 28.8 percent from levy and levy-matched funds. This costs roughly \$13.7 million per year which could be better used to help at-risk students or reduce class sizes. The school district leads taxpayers to believe the levy money is being used for students, yet large amounts support union priorities instead.

Levies are great for funding local priorities and unique services for our area students, but taxpayers should hold off giving the school district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

The Bellevue School District is asking for new money from taxpayers because they have allowed union officials to divert existing levy money to pay teachers more--rather than using that money for things like technology for students. If only the district had managed their existing levy money better, they wouldn't have to ask for more now.

Voting 'no' on Proposition 2 will send this message to the district: Be more responsible with taxpayer's money.

Statement submitted by: Laurie Lyford, Renay Bennett, and Tom Henningsgards
propertyrights4us@gmail.com

Proposition No. 3

General Obligation Bonds - \$450,000,000

The Board of Directors of Bellevue School District No. 405 approved a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to rebuild five elementary schools, modernize International School, modernize Big Picture School, rebuild one middle school, construct, acquire and equip two new elementary schools and make necessary capital improvements, to issue \$450,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years, and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 13-25. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

Vote Yes to complete the program to rebuild all district schools, address overcrowding and increase building safety for our students.

This bond measure will continue the rebuilding, approved by voters in 2002 and 2008, resulting in the "on-time and on-budget" replacement of 11 of 16 elementary schools, four of five middle schools and four high schools. The current measure will complete this long-term program, and fund replacement of the district's six remaining schools: Bennett, Clyde Hill, Enatai, Puesta del Sol, Stevenson and Highland Middle School.

Bellevue's population growth requires action now to alleviate eventual overcrowding. This measure will add space for approximately 3,000 students. In addition to the rebuilding described above, the program will build two new elementary schools, add capacity at Newport High School and Woodridge Elementary, and make needed improvements to the International and Big Picture schools.

The school district has demonstrated the ability to responsibly manage construction funds and has received the highest bond rating (Aaa) by Moody's, and an AA-plus by Standard and Poor's. Passing these measures and taking advantage of historically low interest rates, will allow Bellevue to maintain one of the lowest school tax rates in the Region.

Continue rebuilding excellence. **Vote Yes.**

Statement submitted by: Tobey Bryant and Steve Brown
info@bellevuequalityschools.org

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 3 would allow Bellevue School District No. 405 to borrow \$450,000,000 by issuing 20-year general obligation bonds used to finance the replacement, renovation or construction of facilities with new long-term facilities. These new and remodeled school buildings improve safety, relieve overcrowding and accommodate anticipated growth in the Bellevue student population. In accordance with Resolution No. 13-25 approving this proposition, the bonds would pay for renovations, upgrades and new construction of school facilities, including elementary and high school buildings, and construct new replacement school buildings in the District. Capital projects include constructing, equipping and rebuilding five elementary schools and one middle school that were not rebuilt under previous bond measures, significantly remodeling and modernizing International School, and Big Picture School, acquire, construct and equip two new elementary schools and make necessary capital improvements to other District facilities. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 20 years. The levy rate is estimated to increase by an average of \$0.40 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, per year, for each of five years, costing the typical homeowner (\$448,000 home) \$5.10 per month or \$61.00 per year, the first year, and an additional \$61.00 (on average) per each subsequent year during the five year period. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Melissa deVita - Deputy Superintendent
425-456-4025 • devitam@bsd405.org

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.

Registering to vote

Requirements

To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington State;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day; and
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

How to register

- Register online with the Secretary of State, www.vote.wa.gov.
- Download a registration form from the King County Elections website and return it by mail.
- Register in person at the King County Elections office or annex.

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. The deadlines for the February 11, 2014, special election:

- **January 13** – Deadline to register to vote online or by mail, or update existing voter registration information.
- **February 3** – In-person registration deadline for people not currently registered in Washington. Register in person at the Elections office in Renton or at the Voter Registration Annex in Seattle.

Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name, or if your signature has changed. Simply submit a new registration form to update your information.

Voting materials available in Chinese and Vietnamese

To comply with Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, King County is required to provide voting materials in Chinese and Vietnamese. To request voting materials, update your language preference or register to vote, visit www.myvote.wa.gov or call 206-296-VOTE (8683).

Để thực hiện theo Mục 203 của Đạo Luật Liên Bang về Quyền Bỏ Phiếu, Quận King được yêu cầu phải cung cấp các tài liệu bỏ phiếu bằng tiếng Trung Quốc và tiếng Việt. Để yêu cầu các tài liệu bầu cử, cập nhật lựa chọn ngôn ngữ của quý vị hoặc đăng ký bỏ phiếu, ghé đến www.myvote.wa.gov hoặc gọi 206-296-VOTE (8683) và bấm số 3.

根據聯邦投票權利法案第203節之要求，金郡需要提供中文和越南文版的選舉資訊。欲索取選舉資訊，更新您的語言選擇或登記投票，請查看網站www.myvote.wa.gov或致電206-296-VOTE(8683)，然後按“2”字。