

February 9, 2016 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Seattle School District No. 1



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



King County
Elections

Register 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
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections

How to register

- Register online with the Secretary of State, vote.wa.gov
- Download a registration form from the King County Elections website.
- Register in person at the King County Elections office or at the King County Voter Registration Annex.

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines before each election. The deadlines for the February 9, 2016 special election:

- **January 11** – Deadline to register to vote or update voter registration information.
- **February 1** – 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.



Proposition No. 1 Operations Levy

Seattle School District No. 1 requests approval of this proposition to maintain current educational program funding levels. As provided in Resolution No. 2015/16-9, this proposition replaces an expiring levy and authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District, to support the District's educational programs and operations:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$1.38	\$229,400,000
2018	\$1.44	\$250,300,000
2019	\$1.53	\$278,600,000

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.

Statement in favor

Essential Public School Funding

Please *Renew* this essential Seattle Public Schools Operations Levy. Its passage is vital to the quality of education we are able to provide to the over 52,000 students currently enrolled—with that number expected to grow by 4,000 more students by 2020.

This levy is not a new tax. It replaces the expiring operations levy that accounts for about 25% of the district's operating budget.

The Operations Levy provides every school with vital funding for essential education needs that are not fully funded by the state. It helps pay for items such as teachers, textbooks, supplies, bilingual and special education services, security, transportation, and student activities such as music and athletics. Without these funds, our children's education will suffer – teachers and staff would be laid off, class sizes increased and important programs cut. Every student and every school benefits from this levy!

"Please vote to renew this levy! This levy provides resources that make it possible for Seattle Public Schools educators to serve students. Thank you."
– Kristin Bailey-Fogarty, teacher, Eckstein Middle School

We can't have a great city without great schools. Please join us in voting Yes to renew the Seattle Schools Operations Levy!

Sent in by: Estela Ortega, Cassandra Johnston, and Ron Sims
www.schoolsfirstseattle.org

Rebuttal of statement against

Renewing the Operations Levy is critical to ensuring a quality education for our kids. It provides over 25% of the funds needed to operate Seattle's public schools – money that benefits every one of our students and that the State does not provide.

The Con statement is incorrect. This levy pays for teachers, 6th period classes at middle and high schools, security, textbooks, and more. We cannot have a great city without great schools. Vote **Yes**.

Explanatory statement

Seattle Public Schools requests voter approval of an operations levy of \$758.3 million in the aggregate to be collected in the three year period from 2017 to 2019. The proposed levy will replace an expiring levy.

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of taxes over a three year period to pay for the education programs and operations and to meet the education needs of the students attending District schools. The money in and to be paid into the General Fund of the District is insufficient to meet those needs without additional funds.

Programs and services to be funded by the levy include, but are not limited to: 6th period classes at middle and high school levels; teachers, instructional assistants and administrative staff salaries; textbooks and classroom supplies; bilingual and special education services; student transportation, security, maintenance and other operations; student activities, such as athletics, arts, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities; professional development and training.

The total amount to be collected will be \$229.4 million in 2017, \$250.3 million in 2018 and \$278.6 million in 2019. The estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value will range from \$1.38 per one thousand for 2017 collections to \$1.53 per one thousand for 2019 collections. The exact levy rate will be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

For questions about this measure, contact:
Thomas Redman
Communications Specialist
206-252-0655
tlredman@seattleschools.org

Statement in opposition

Under the McCleary decision, the Washington state Supreme Court found that the state should fund public education. The justices ruled that, "Pouring more money into an outmoded system will not succeed." They also found that "special interests tend to distort the true picture of public school finance to expand their own budgets."

Under this ruling, it is illegal for Seattle Public Schools to use levy money to fund teacher salaries; however, they are trying to sell this operations levy to the public by allotting 25.2% of the overall budget to just this. The literature that has been sent out to the public obfuscates this fact. Furthermore, the District says it has cut the budget of Central Administration to 5.8%, but have in actuality have separated it out of the "school administrative budget" (6.1%) In total that is almost 12%.

If the District wants to play the shell game with public dollars, it's our responsibility to reject this levy. They pull at the public's heartstrings by saying, "but it's for the children." But according to their lack of transparency, we aren't who the money is for. Until Seattle Schools can better account for where your levy dollars go, vote No.

Sent in by: Nick Esparza
www.facebook.com/Vote-NO-on-The-The-Operations-Levy-536589806500688/

Rebuttal of statement in favor

The McCleary decision rules states should fund public education. "Special interests tend to distort the true picture of public school finance to expand their own budgets".

It's illegal to use levy money to fund teacher salaries. Their literature states that 25.2% of the overall budget is for operation, but obfuscates this fact, They say it has cut the Administration budget to 5.8%, but have separated it out of the "school administrative budget" (6.1%) almost 12%

Proposition No. 2 Renewal of the Buildings, Technology and Academics Capital Levy

The Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 passed Resolution No. 2015/16-10 concerning this proposition to fund the Buildings, Technology, and Academics IV Program. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace the expiring Buildings, Technology and Academics III Levy, on all taxable property within the District, for construction and modernization of educational facilities throughout the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$0.47	\$79,216,666
2018	\$0.46	\$79,216,666
2019	\$0.44	\$79,216,667
2020	\$0.42	\$79,216,667
2021	\$0.40	\$79,216,667
2022	\$0.38	\$79,216,667

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.

Statement in favor

Sent in by: Ed Murray, Pramila Jayapal, and Kristin Bailey-Fogarty
www.schoolsfirstseattle.org

Vote Yes to Maintain Our Schools!

Please vote to *Renew* this important Seattle Public Schools Capital Levy. Our District is growing! By 2020, another 4,000 Seattle children will join our current 52,000+ students – that’s the equivalent of 8 new elementary schools. To be successful and do well academically our students must have safe, healthy learning spaces in modern facilities.

The Capital Levy *replaces an expiring levy* and will make sure that students and teachers have a safe learning environment by modernizing fire alarm and school security systems, enhancing earthquake protection, and replacing roofs and heating systems. This levy will also add desperately needed classroom space to help meet growing enrollment and class size reductions. It will also provide needed technology upgrades and science labs while reducing maintenance and repair backlogs. Every student and every school benefits from this levy!

“To keep up with our growing city, we need to add more classrooms and ensure that our older buildings are safe for our students.” – Ed Murray, Mayor of Seattle

This levy is not a new tax. It replaces an expiring Capital Levy. Please vote Yes on the Seattle Schools Capital Levy to renew our commitment to Seattle’s children.

Rebuttal of statement against

Vote to *Renew* the expiring Capital Levy to create safe schools for our kids. Seattle is adding 4,000 students in the next few years; we must act now to prepare for the future.

The Con statement is incorrect. Schools are being built and remodeled to provide safety improvements and to add capacity for a growing city. No schools are closed in this levy. In fact, we are adding classrooms. Vote Yes on Proposition 2.

Explanatory statement

Seattle Public Schools requests voter approval of a capital levy of \$475.3 million for the Buildings, Technology and Academics IV (BTAIV) Program. The proposed levy will replace an expiring capital levy.

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of taxes over a six year period to pay for the opening of schools and the construction of an addition to increase capacity for additional students; ADA compliance and life safety projects, including earthquake safety improvements, fire alarm systems, and fire suppression and safety systems upgrades; intercom systems replacements, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades; roof replacements, green school initiatives, including building and mechanical systems energy efficiency upgrades; technology equipment and instruction support to enhance student learning; science and computer labs to address graduation requirements; special education program modifications and athletic fields upgrades. Such funds may be used only to support the construction, modernization and remodeling to school facilities or technology improvements and training to meet the current and future educational needs of its students.

The total amount to be collected will be \$79,216,667 annually, to be collected in each of the six years commencing 2017 through 2022. The estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value will range from \$0.47 per one thousand for 2017 collections to \$0.38 per one thousand for 2022 collections. The exact levy rate will be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

For questions about this measure, contact:
Thomas Redman
Communications Specialist
206-252-0655
tiredman@seattleschools.org

Statement in opposition

Sent in by: Chris Jackins and Trena Harmon
425-322-6184

Please vote “No” on this \$475.3 million tax plan. This is not a “good” levy. 1) The plan plows millions of dollars into headquarters debt. For background Google “\$50 million Glass Elephant – Weekly”. 2) The plan wrongly closes Roxhill Elementary School, sending its students to Hughes (\$6,746,790). 3) The plan wrongly replaces neighborhood schools with mega schools.

Passing the plan and “fixing it later” does not work. 1) Headquarters debt was supposed to be paid from headquarters “savings”. Levy documents don’t explain this. 2) “Good” levies don’t close schools. 3) “Good” levies don’t shrink playgrounds. Thornton Creek lost half its playground from the last mega school levy, and Loyal Heights is still fighting mega school plans that would shrink its playground 30%. 4) “Good” levies would reopen schools like Cooper and Indian Heritage and African American Academy. This is not a “good” levy.

The District lacks “transparency”. The same goes for City government and the news media when it comes to education. Indian Heritage School is a prime example.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Indian Heritage School at Wilson Pacific, a Native American Landmark and a City Landmark, was demolished. How? The District sued the City to get a waiver from landmark regulations. The School Board and the Superintendent never discussed this lawsuit with the public. City officials never responded to protests from the community. The Seattle Times refused to report on the lawsuit.

Wrong levies cause real damage. Vote “No”. Thank you.

To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format please contact King County Elections.

 **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。欲要索取選舉資訊，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。



Contact us

Phone	206-296-VOTE (8683) 1-800-325-6165 TTY Relay: 711
Email	elections@kingcounty.gov
Online	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 440 Seattle, WA 98104

