

February 9, 2016 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Vashon Island School District No. 402



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

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



**King County
Elections**

Vashon Island School District No. 402

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Proposition No. 1 General Obligation Bonds - \$26,900,000

The Board of Directors of Vashon Island School District No. 402 adopted Resolution No. 730 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to construct a new gym and a new track and field at the High School, improve the Middle, Elementary and High Schools, construct a new service facility and make other capital improvements included in Phase II of the Capital Facilities Master Plan, issue \$26,900,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 21 years, and levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as detailed in Resolution No. 730. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

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

Statement in favor

Being physically active is essential for everyone's health. Active children learn better, but there is not enough gym space for PE classes at the three schools. Adding a gym will provide space for classes and for school and community athletic groups that fill the gyms until 9 pm.

The existing track is fifty years old and in poor condition. Other schools will not come to Vashon for track meets. A new track will benefit many community members who walk there for exercise.

The grass field also is worn out. Replacing it with artificial turf (not made from tires) will allow year round use and require much less water.

There are critical needs at all three schools, including a new roof, HVAC system, flooring, windows and sidewalks. The bond will address the most urgent problems. No other funding source is adequate.

District employees deserve healthy work spaces. A new multi-use facility would replace four unsafe structures and consolidate the maintenance workshop, bus barn, technology staff and district storage.

These problems have accumulated over decades. The cost to fix them will only increase. Our entire community will benefit from having safe places to learn, work, and exercise. Let's do it!

Sent in by: Laura Wishik, Jim Hauser, and Forrest Miller
wishil@centurytel.net

Rebuttal of statement against

Letting our school facilities fall apart will not help low income people. Seniors walk the track. Low income youth play sports for free. Athletics saves lives by involving youth in healthy activities.

When Vashon's tax rate is compared to other districts with similar property values, ours is well below the median and will remain so with this bond. If we wait, rising interest rates will only make it more expensive to fix our schools.

Explanatory statement

If approved by voters, passage of Proposition No. 1 would authorize the Vashon Island School District No. 402, King County, Washington to levy excess property taxes sufficient to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$26,900,000, maturing within 21 years of the date of issue, for the purpose of making improvements to school facilities to provide the students of the District with adequate, proper and safe educational facilities.

Such improvements include constructing a new gym and a new track and field at the High School, improve the Middle, Elementary and High Schools, construct a new service facility and make other capital improvements included in Phase II of the Capital Facilities Master Plan. The project includes necessary equipment, supplies, appurtenances, and services to complete the project.

Voter approval of the bonds includes approval of property tax levies for those bonds. 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.

For questions about this measure, contact:
Jodi Burwell
Board Recording Secretary
206-463-8533
jburwell@vashonsd.org

Statement in opposition

Sent in by: Leslee (Lee) Kopines and Marlene Joan Thomas
lee@vashonisland.net

On Vashon, we all value education. Currently our local school property taxes include 2 levies (maintenance and operation & capital and technology) and 1 bond (new high school) for a cost of \$1,915 on a \$500,000 home each year. This additional bond will cost an additional \$260, an increase of 14% for schools. Over the last 8 years our local school taxes have doubled. Currently 30% of our property taxes go to the schools.

The bond includes a new track and field with synthetic turf, so we could host 2-3 home meets yearly. Synthetic turf has to be replaced every 12-15 years for a cost of \$1 million. Where is this money coming from? We will be paying 5 years for a turf no longer in use. Should 4,600 Vashon households pay \$26.9 million for this?

More than 22% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch, almost the same percentage of households using the Food Bank. Affordable housing no longer exists on Vashon. Will this bond tip us to becoming a gated community?

Is this the best avenue for our educational dollars? Thank you for voting no. Let's help all of our students, not just a few.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Our school district offers few PE classes. That is not changing with an extra gym which costs \$16 million. Would we be asked for this without the 247 off-island students, (26% of the McMurray and high school students) who pay nothing for facilities?

A school board member found multipurpose buildings that cost less than half this proposed \$3.6 million, but the rest of the board would not look at this.

This bond is not reasonable.

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
- 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.

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 Bầu 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。

