

Northshore School District No. 417

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February 8, 2022 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by the Northshore School District No. 417



Return your ballot by mail. No stamp needed!

We recommend dropping your ballot in the mail by the Friday before Election Day to make sure it gets postmarked in time to be counted.

Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, February 8.

Ballot drop boxes

All 74 drop boxes across King County will be open for this election. To find the complete list, please see the other pamphlet in your ballot packet or visit kingcounty.gov/elections.

Ballot drop boxes close at 8 p.m. sharp on Election Day, February 8.

Vote Centers

Vote Centers are available for voters that need assistance. Each center has voting machines that offer audio or large print ballots, and other assistive devices. Elections staff are available to assist as needed. Voters can also register to vote and get their ballots at Vote Centers through 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Location	Hours of operation
King County Elections 919 SW Grady Way Renton, WA 98057	Weekdays, January 19 – February 7, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Election Day, February 8, 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Access Your Ballot Online

Access and print your ballot online! Those with disabilities or others who choose to do so may mark their selections on the ballot online before printing – or you can choose to print out a blank ballot to mark by hand. Online ballot access has been designed specifically to enable voters who are blind or have low vision to cast a private ballot and is available to all registered voters.

Just print, sign, follow the instructions for packaging, and return as you normally would – by mail or by drop box before boxes close at 8 p.m. sharp on Election Day.

Access your ballot at kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp.

If none of the above voting options work for you, please contact our office.

Register to vote

Online

You can register to vote online at VoteWA.gov -- all you need is two minutes and a Washington State Driver's License or ID. You can register online by January 31 for this election.

By mail

Download and print a registration form from kingcounty.gov/elections and mail it to King County Elections. It must be received by January 31 for this Special election.

In person

You can register in person through February 8, Election Day, at King County Elections headquarters. More information about hours and services can be found at kingcounty.gov/elections

Proposition No. 3 Renewal Capital Projects (Technology) Levy

The Board of Directors of Northshore School District No. 417 adopted Resolution No. 841 concerning a proposition for capital levies. To ensure all students have access to adaptive technology to prepare for careers of tomorrow, modernize technology systems, and train students and staff, the District shall levy the following excess levies in place of an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2023	\$0.45	\$20,000,000
2024	\$0.43	\$20,000,000
2025	\$0.42	\$20,000,000
2026	\$0.40	\$20,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 841. 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

Submitted by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, Jasmine Lee Fry, www.citizensfornorthshoreschools.org

Modern classroom technology and devices are essential to preparing students for their future pathways – whether directly to career or college. The Technology Levy Renewal ensures that every student will retain access to up-to-date devices for instruction. It also funds technology training and support for students, teachers, and families.

Thanks to the Technology Levy passing overwhelmingly 4 years ago, every student in Northshore SD is assigned a device matched to their grade level and curriculum needs. This 1:1 student to device ratio significantly streamlined the temporary shift to remote learning during the pandemic, helping insulate our students from worse educational shortfalls. The Family Tech Support services that were started in 2020 will continue under this levy.

This measure supports Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education that is so important to prepare all graduates for the workforce of tomorrow. The Technology Levy allows our district to offer programs like "Hour of Code" as well as adaptive technology for individual learning.

Please vote yes for student success – vote yes to renew the technology levy!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Just like the teacher salaries and pool falsehoods above, the opposition committee is presenting wrong figures here. *The facts are that Technology Levy funds go toward purchasing devices to maintain our 1:1 ratio*, which helped our students during the temporary period of online learning. It also funds classroom technology and instructional technology training.

Voting yes to renew our Technology Levy is critical to ensuring a modern education that prepares students for the workforce of tomorrow.

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 3 would replace the current levy set to expire in 2022. This proposition is projected to be approximately the same as the current rate and would allow the levy of \$20,000,000 in property taxes within Northshore School District No. 417 for collection for each of the years in 2023, 2024, 2025, and 2026, to pay for technology improvements and meet the current and future educational programs for its students. In accordance with Resolution No. 841 approving this proposition, these taxes would pay for enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, and implementing online applications and training related to the installation of the foregoing, and the application and upgrading of technology systems for operations and instruction, including the ongoing fees for online applications, subscriptions, software licenses, and ongoing training for students and staff related to the installation and integration of these products or services. If authorized by the voters and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.45 (2023 collection); \$0.43 (2024 collection); \$0.42 (2025 collection); and \$0.40 (2026 collection).

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

For questions about this measure, contact: Lisa Youngblood Hall, Chief Communications and Experience Officer, (425) 408-7671, lyoungbloodhall@nsd.org

Statement in opposition

If the district could be trusted to spend this money as advertised, perhaps some portion of this levy should be passed. However, the 2018 \$62M Tech Levy was grossly abused, spending \$24M on unsubstantiated teacher training and staffing. The promise of a device per child was qualified as only for "those in need", leaving non-district issued devices absent of security controls and exposure to countless hours exposed to unapproved online content during excessive at-home learning during the pandemic.

Of reference, state charter schools are not permitted to run bonds and levies. They must operate within their taxpayer funded budget and yet produce excellent academic outcomes. NSD should learn from them.

The reason we are voting on 3 measures is that separating technology and building costs from the General Fund, more budget can be allocated to salaries. The district bloats the budget with excessive compensation: Superintendent \$480k + the most (6) assistant superintendents in Washington averaging \$250k each. With 22.4k students, we are one of the most expensive and top heavy schools in Washington. Seattle, with 55k students operates with 2 assistant superintendents.

The district has abused our trust and funding. *Vote no on misappropriating taxpayer dollars.*

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Student success isn't contingent on low-end district issued devices and 1 hour of coding annually. It depends on a rigorous and focused education that is safe. The previous levy was supposed to solve this, but didn't. Many devices were issued out-of-warranty and families fined for repairs. Saying the tech levy supports "Hour of Code" is disingenuous: foundations and corporations pay for this. NSD has been irresponsible with our tax dollars.

Vote no to frustrating tech.

Submitted by: Dominique France, Angela Chapman, www.NSDStudentsFirst.com



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919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057



**Proposition No. 1
Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Northshore School District adopted Resolution No. 839 authorizing a renewal educational levy. To continue high quality academic programs and other eligible activities not currently state funded, this proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount Up To
2023	\$1.40	\$62,500,000
2024	\$1.40	\$64,900,000
2025	\$1.40	\$67,500,000
2026	\$1.40	\$70,200,000

as provided in Resolution No. 839 and subject to legal limits on levy amounts and rates at the time of levy. 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

Submitted by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, Jasmine Lee Fry, www.citizensfornorthshoreschools.org

Voting yes renews our commitment to quality education in Northshore SD by directly investing in student services and classroom instruction. This levy renewal funds essential school programs and staff including nurses, counselors, special education, accelerated learning supports, multi-language learning, and emergency preparedness.

This measure fills critical gaps in state funding. Students require a safe and healthy school environment to learn effectively. Voting yes ensures that every school has a nurse, as well as providing mental health support. The state doesn't cover any costs for extracurriculars, putting the burden on local funding to support athletics, clubs, and music that enrich youth development outside of the classroom.

Strong schools build strong communities. Our thriving school district makes this a place where families want to raise their kids, and is part of what makes our whole community thrive. Not only did the voters overwhelmingly vote to renew this levy 4 years ago, but we're proud of the level of community and family support shown for our schools every day.

Please vote yes for student success – vote yes to renew the educational programs and operations levy!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The opposition committee's statements are not accurate. Their figure is 40% higher than actual average teacher salaries. This local levy – *authorized by the Legislature* – fills critical gaps in state funding not covered by the McCleary Decision like nurses, extracurriculars, special education, and accelerated learning supports. The District's website (www.nsd.org/our-district/overview/bond-levies) has a transparent list of all funded programs.

This is not a new tax; voting yes renews our commitment to quality education and builds strong communities.

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace the expiring levy. This proposed levy would be at a projected lower tax rate and would allow the levy of \$62,500,000 in property taxes within Northshore School District No. 417 for collection in 2023, the levy of \$64,900,000 for collection in 2024, the levy of \$67,500,000 for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$70,200,000 for collection in 2026, to enable the District to pay for its educational programs and services, such levies to be made for four years commencing in 2022 for collection in the school years from 2022-2023 through 2026-2027. In accordance with Resolution No. 839 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 not funded by the State. General expenses of the District include, instructional materials, special programs, activities and special education, technical education programs, transportation costs, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District's schools. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$1.40 per year in years 2023 through 2026, inclusive.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

For questions about this measure, contact: Lisa Youngblood Hall, Chief Communications and Experience Officer, (425) 408-7671, lyoungbloodhall@nsd.org

Statement in opposition

Did you know in 2018, State courts ruled that *the State would fully fund education* via the McCleary Decision? That meant taxpayers were promised a levy swap: *State* school property taxes would *increase* but *local* school property taxes would be *nearly eliminated*. *Instead*, state school taxes and our local school taxes dramatically increased. Our district is out of control, taxing people out of their homes. In 2018 they asked for \$571M across 3 measures & now \$770M (a 35% increase).

The underpaid teacher myth needs clarification: Median NSD teacher compensation in 2020-2021 = \$135k (highest @ \$200k) for 10 months of work. Extrapolated to 12 months and it's \$163k. Teachers aren't restricted from securing supplemental income. Many of us are. They are well compensated and the Union is targeting another substantial increase in 2 years. Covered by this levy.

NSD discloses only headline spending. We need total transparency. This levy of \$265M will be dumped into the General Fund where 85% goes to compensations for *all* employees - not just nurses and mental health counselors as advertised.

NSD blames legislators for not fully funding their bloated budget. The legislators are correct in saying 'No more'. We should do the same. *Say no to excess.*

Rebuttal of statement in favor

The community needs greater accountability for this funding. The General Fund does not earmark this Levy for the promised allocations. Instead, evolving budgets and salary hikes continue to absorb this growing tax. Our district is not thriving. In large part due to the district deciding what they believe is right for our families. Using taxpayer funding for political games and to support divisiveness, does not make for a stronger community.

Vote no to irresponsible spending.

Submitted by: Dominique France, Angela Chapman, www.NSDStudentsFirst.com

**Proposition No. 2
General Obligation Bonds - \$425,000,000**

The School District No. 417 Board of Directors approved a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to modernize and expand at Crystal Springs, Fernwood, Kenmore, Maywood Hills, and Woodin Elementary Schools, Leota Middle, Inglemoor High School and Sorenson Early Childhood Center, improve health and safety, make building and improvements throughout the District, decrease portables by one-third, and issue \$425,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 21 years, and levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 840. 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

Submitted by: Cheryl Stanford, Patsy Treece, Jasmine Lee Fry, www.citizensfornorthshoreschools.org

The Capital Bond adds new permanent classroom space in response to growth, reduces the district's reliance on portables, modernizes outdated buildings, and makes critically needed HVAC and security upgrades across the district.

Due to rapid growth in our area for many years, Northshore relies on 172 portables for classroom instruction. Reducing the District's reliance on portables improves student safety in the event of a lockdown, and permanent classrooms are less expensive to heat and operate than portables. Voting yes adds classroom space, as well as replacing outdated fire alarms and installing secured entries across our district. It also funds critical building maintenance like roof repairs and replacing obsolete HVAC systems with energy-efficient upgrades to keep our students warm, safe, and dry.

Because it replaces expiring bonds and refinances higher interest school construction debt, the bond pays for all of this without increasing our tax rate.

All students deserve a quality learning environment, and strong schools build strong communities. Voting yes for all three measures maintains our excellent schools and responds to growth, keeping our community an attractive place to live and raise a family. Please vote yes for student success!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The opposition committee says we aren't maintaining existing buildings, and then asks you to vote "no" on funding building maintenance. *There is no pool in this measure!* Instead, it funds critical maintenance, safety and security upgrades, and addresses overcrowding with new construction. Don't believe the opposition committee's false statements.

This is not a new tax; it replaces existing debt. *Voting yes for all three measures means a decreased tax rate from \$3.63/1,000 to \$3.28/1,000.*

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would be at a projected lower tax rate and would allow Northshore School District No. 417 to borrow \$425,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 840 approving this proposition, the bonds will pay for renovations, upgrades and new construction of school facilities to meet the needs of the growing District, decrease portables by one third, and improvements to energy efficiency of school buildings in the District. Capital projects include planning, developing, constructing and equipping renovations and additions at Crystal Springs, Fernwood, Kenmore, Maywood Hills, and Woodin Elementary Schools, plan phased replacement and undertake phase one at Leota Middle, and Inglemoor High Schools, add an accessible classroom addition at Sorenson Early Childhood Center, make health and safety upgrades, improve outdoor learning spaces, playfields, tracks, tennis courts, athletic fields, and inclusive playgrounds, classroom modifications, to meet instructional program needs. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 21 years. 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.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

For questions about this measure, contact: Lisa Youngblood Hall, Chief Communications and Experience Officer, (425) 408-7671, lyoungbloodhall@nsd.org

Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Dominique France, Angela Chapman, www.NSDStudentsFirst.com

As parents and taxpayers of NSD, we all want sufficient capacity and well-maintained schools. To date, this district has failed to adequately plan for and maintain existing facilities. Priorities have been on acquiring land and building new facilities, while neglecting 'poor' schools, not maximizing existing investments, and leaving select schools and playgrounds derelict, unsafe, and with excessive portable usage.

The Capital Bond Planning Task Force recommended a baseline budget of \$275M. The district opted for the maximum scenario of \$475M that includes a frivolous, luxury \$48M district pool. Further misleading the public, this \$425M principal amount does not disclose *fees and interest*. With the district's estimations, the *actual price tag runs \$580M*. There should be no school bonds, only 6 year capital levies, saving taxpayers millions. Seattle does this.

The NSD website presents a half-baked cost analysis showing just 4 years' rates. This is a 21 year bond that will tax our children and grandchildren. We are still paying for the 20 year bond that started in 2014 and 2018. We need transparent and responsible budgeting, not sneaking in >\$855M across 3 measures during the lowest voter turnout of the year, versus November general election.

Vote no on frivolous spending.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Fact check: Flat tax *rate* equals *higher* tax *bill*- Property values rose substantially, impacting *all* property owners (commercial *and* residential) *including* renters; Expected student numbers *declined* and many pulled their children out! NSD regularly sells permanent structures instead of repurposing for classrooms and sporting facilities; NSD has documented declining growth and noted they are asking for more than they need. (Correction: \$475M should read \$425M)

NSD is not fiscally responsible. Vote no on tax hikes!