## **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.

## February 8, 2022 Special Election King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet as requested by the Snoqualmie Valley School District No. 410

## 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.

## **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 and services can be found at kingcounty.gov/elections

Who donates to campaigns? View contributors for candidates and measures www.pdc.wa.gov | Toll Free 1-877-601-2828

Public Disclosure Commission

Edition 12



919 SW Grady Way Renton, WA 98057



King County Elections is not authorized to edit statements, nor is it responsible for the contents therein.

#### **Proposition No. 1**

Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs and Operations

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 869, concerning a replacement levy supporting the education of Snoqualmie Valley students. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, to replace an expiring levy and pay expenses of educational programs, activities and operations not funded by the State:

Collection <u>Year</u>	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy <u>Amount</u>
2023	\$1.59	\$20,585,000
2024	\$1.55	\$21,472,000
2025	\$1.51	\$22,382,000
2026	\$1.48	\$23,473,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 869. 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: Kirk Harris, Corinne Alef. Chris Alef svcitizensforschools@gmail.com

It's time to renew our commitment to funding educational programs,

so all students have equitable opportunities to succeed in school. Vote "yes" to provide our Snogualmie Valley kids with continued opportunities, excellence in education, and social-emotional well-being. This is not a new tax.

We represent community leaders and volunteers from across the Snoqualmie Valley. We ask for your vote to approve an expiring education levy providing local funds to fill critical gaps in state and federal funding for our students' needs.

By approving this levy, you are voting "yes" to continue high-quality instruction, academic and emotional support for our students through counselors and social workers, and funding for broad course offeringsincluding music, world language, advanced courses, special education, arts, drama, athletics, and other extracurricular club activities. Renewing this levy also impacts students' health and safety by paying for nurses and other staff not fully funded by the state. Your approval ensures that services and programs needed by our students will continue.

Vote yes to renew our promise to Snoqualmie Valley students-to prepare each to choose their own future.

#### **Explanatory statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 will allow Snoqualmie Valley School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations

For questions about this measure, contact: Ryan Stokes, Assistant Superintendent – Finance & Operations, (425) 831-8011, stokesr@svsd410.org

levy that ends on the last day of 2022, if not renewed. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to continue paying for educational programs, activities and operations not fully funded by the State of Washington. These include, but are not limited to: counselors, nurses, and mental health specialists; special education and behavioral support services: additional math and reading specialists: expanded access to secondary career and technical education electives; advanced classes and arts courses; athletics, clubs and other extracurricular opportunities; staff training, updated curriculum and instructional coaches; and regionally competitive wages. Further information is on the District's website at https://www.svsd410.org/.

The proposed four-year replacement educational programs and operations levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$20,585,000 in 2023, \$21,472,000 in 2024, \$22,382,000 in 2025, and \$23,473,000 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to generate these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.59 in 2023, \$1.55 in 2024, \$1.51 in 2025, and \$1.48 in 2026 (estimated levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value). The exact tax levy rate and amount to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the tax levy. Exemptions from taxes are available to certain homeowners. For more information call the King County Department of Assessments at (206) 296-3920.

#### Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Jeff Heckathorn, info@schooldataproject.com

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead,

state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district's administrators, the median total compensation was \$240,000 with a high of \$411,074. Median teacher compensation is at \$120,084 up 23% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, www.schooldataproject.com

#### Proposition No. 2

#### Replacement of Expiring Levy for Technology

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 870, concerning a replacement levy supporting technology for Snoqualmie Valley students. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, to replace an expiring levy and pay technology expenses not funded by the State, such as network systems, devices, software, training and support:

Collection <u>Year</u>	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy <u>Amount</u>
2023	\$0.62	\$8,039,000
2024	\$0.62	\$8,602,000
2025	\$0.62	\$9,204,000
2026	\$0.62	\$9,848,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 870. 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.

Submitted by: Kirk Harris, Corinne Alef, Chris Alef, svcitizensforschools@gmail.com

Snogualmie Valley uses and prioritizes technology in ways that accelerate and

improve student outcomes. Your "yes" vote renews funding that pays for the equipment, infrastructure, training, and support staff that provides student access to computers and other learning devices at school. It also pays for teacher training and support to achieve equity in classroom technology. This is not a new tax.

The passage of this levy benefits every student by upgrading and expanding technology in classrooms. Students will develop 21st Century technology skills required for college, careers, and life. In addition, staff will receive training on effectively using technology to enhance classroom learning. Students need this levy to meet the K-12 technology standards and to be competitive with our surrounding districts.

Let's provide all students with the necessary tools to achieve their educational goals. Please vote yes!

#### Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The con statement by the author from Mill Creek is misleading considering that average salaries were \$91,666 for teachers and \$168,531 for administrators. The state still funds only "basic education." The Snoqualmie Valley expects more for its students. Nearly 200 vital staff positions depend on the levy. Extracurriculars (music, clubs, sports), teaching coaches, and many nurses and counselors are 100% levy-funded. Arts programs, advanced placement, special education, electives, and curriculum are levy-supported. Vote Yes!

https://svcitizensforschools.org/

#### Rebuttal of statement in favor

In 2019-2020, per pupil expenditures (including capital outlays and interest on debt) for the district were already at \$21,915. That's above tuition and books at many universities let alone most private K-12 schools.

In 2018, because of the McCleary Decision, state legislators pumped billions more dollars into our public schools, largely from increased property taxes. There is no amount of money monopoly school districts will be satisfied with. Citizens are crying uncle. Enough!

#### Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Technology is essential in education, but the state's "basic education" only funds 20% of our school district's technology needs. This local levy renews support for equitable access to personal devices for all students in grades 6-12, coding classes and devices for grades K-5, teacher training, network infrastructure and fiber network improvements. The past 18 months have reinforced the value of investing in technology to support our students' academic advancement. Vote Yes!

More info at: https://svcitizensforschools.org/

#### **Explanatory statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 will allow Snoqualmie Valley School District to replace an existing technology levy (Capital Projects Fund) that that ends on For questions about this measure, contact: Ryan Stokes, Assistant Superintendent – Finance & Operations, (425) 831-8011, stokesr@svsd410.org

the last day of 2022, if not renewed. The taxes collected by this replacement technology levy will be used to improve, upgrade, and expand technology systems; provide technology training and support for students and staff; and to ensure all students have access to technology needed to successfully prepare them for careers of tomorrow. This includes, but is not limited to (1) purchasing, installing, and implementing upgraded network systems, instructional technology equipment, infrastructure, and facilities; (2) replacing and upgrading personal computing devices, computers, software, hardware, and telecommunication systems; and (3) providing related student training, including, but not limited to, student devices and coding, and staff training and support to effectively use technology equipment, infrastructure, systems, and facilities. Further information is available on the District's website at https://www.svsd410.org/.

The proposed four-year replacement technology levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide \$8,039,000 in 2023, \$8,602,000 in 2024, \$9,204,000 in 2025, and \$9,848,000 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to generate these levy amounts is estimated to be \$0.62 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Exemptions from taxes are available to certain homeowners. For more information call the King County Department of Assessments at (206) 296-3920.

#### Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Jeff Heckathorn, info@schooldataproject.com

These cap levy items should come out of the General Fund. If salaries were not so bloated this would be possible.

These levies should be rejected. There should be no tax measures whatsoever on the ballot in February. February is the lowest voter turnout election of the year. Understandably. Most citizens are just learning that there are levies to vote on - again. We just had the holidays. Citizens have voting fatigue. And, importantly, citizens won't even receive their property tax bills for the year until a month later in March. How convenient.

In the interest of high voter participation, these important, large tax measures (which affect all property owners and renters in their rents) should be only on the November Election. It is irresponsible for the district to propose property tax measures a month before voters see their property tax bills.

The state will never be able to fulfill its constitutional obligation of fullyfunding schools so long as local districts are allowed to spend more than the ample provision the state provides. Until that changes, citizens need to reject these local levies like the ones before you today. More details at www.schooldataproject.com

#### Rebuttal of statement in favor

In 2019-2020, per pupil expenditures (including capital outlays and interest on debt) for the district were already at \$21,915. That's above tuition and books at many universities let alone most private K-12 schools.

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