## **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 Vashon Island School District No. 402

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

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Public Disclosure Commission



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 Educational Programs and Operation Levy**

The Board of Directors of Vashon Island School District No. 402 adopted Resolution No. 795, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to meet the educational needs of its students by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State:

Collection <u>Year</u>	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy <u>Amount</u>
2023	\$1.50	\$5,711,006
2024	\$1.50	\$6,053,642
2025	\$1.50	\$6,416,836
2026	\$1.50	\$6,801,821

all as provided in Resolution No. 795. 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: Rheagan Sparks, Donna Nespor, Zabette Macomber, (206) 790-2215

Proposition 1 is not a new tax. Passing Proposition 1 is *vital* to

VISD's continued success. This Levy comprises approximately 15% of our district's projected annual operating budget for the 2023 to 2026 term.

By operating within its budget and fostering strong relationships with State auditors, VISD has proven itself an astute steward of public funding. However, the pandemic requires we do more than ever before. This Levy funds essential services like meals and technology support, Teacher Aids, Nurses, Social Workers, and Counselors. Performing arts programs, AP courses, career training electives and extra-curricular activities are likewise included.

It is crucial we renew the EP&O Levy by Voting "Yes" on Proposition 1. The expiring Levy rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value renews. State distribution is tied to VISD enrollment of approximately 1,450 students annually, providing \$2,500 each student per the State's "Levy Lid." The EP&O levy supplements insufficient WA State basic education funding.

Vote "Yes" to avoid reductions in programming, painful faculty cuts, and reduced student services. We are grateful to the Vashon community for its historic support of our public schools and levies. Your continued championship will allow VISD students to thrive. Please vote "Yes" for Kids!

#### **Explanatory statement**

For questions about this measure, contact: Jodi Burwell, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, (206) 463-8534, Passage of Proposition No. 1 would jburwell@vashonsd.org

allow the Vashon Island School District to replace an existing educational programs and operation levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2022. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to meet the educational needs of students and pay expenses of educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State of Washington. Further information is available on the District's website at https://www.vashonsd.org/.

The proposed four-year replacement educational programs and operation tax levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$5,711,006 in 2023, \$6,053,642 in 2024, \$6,416,836 in 2025, and \$6,801,821 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.50 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 may be available to certain homeowners. For more information, call the King County Department of Assessments, 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 \$147,464 with a high of \$255,367. Median teacher compensation is at \$122,474 up 38% 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

#### Rebuttal of statement in opposition

VISD receives state funding as part of the Prototypical School Model. Unfortunately, the model is outdated and insufficient to meet actual costs. Student need for supports has increased during the pandemic. VISD faces these realities when staffing counselors, nurses, school psychologists, and teachers. These are facts, not disingenuous or heartless claims. The McCleary decision was a step in the right direction, but our schools still rely on local levy dollars to breech the funding gap.

#### Rebuttal of statement in favor

In 2019-2020, per pupil expenditures (including capital outlays and interest on debt) for the district were already at \$18,428. 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!

# 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.

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by February 8.

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## Return your ballot at a drop box. Now 74 locations!

Ballot drop boxes are open until 8 p.m. sharp on February 8.