

## Your signature matters. Make it match.

Your signature doesn't need to be fancy or even be legible, but it does have to match what's on file. Not sure of what's on file? Check your driver's license or state ID.

Keep your signature current to make sure we can count your ballot. Learn more about your signature and why it matters at [kingcounty.gov/elections/signature](https://kingcounty.gov/elections/signature).

## Register to vote

**Online:** It takes two minutes and a Washington State Driver's License or ID to register online at [VoteWA.gov](https://VoteWA.gov). To register in time to vote in the February Special Election, register online by February 5.

**By mail:** Download and print a registration form from [kce.wiki/VoterReg](https://kce.wiki/VoterReg) and mail to King County Elections: 919 SW Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057. It must be received by February 5.

**In person:** You can register in person through February 13, Election Day, at King County Elections headquarters. More information about hours and services can be found at [kingcounty.gov/elections](https://kingcounty.gov/elections).

## Vote center

Open in Renton for this election, the Vote Center is available for those that need assistance. Voters can register to vote and get their ballots at the Vote Center through 8 p.m. on Election Day. We also provide audio or large print ballots and other assistive devices for voters with disabilities.

King County Elections  
919 SW Grady Way, Renton, 98057

Weekdays, January 24 - February 12, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Election Day, February 13, 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

## Access your ballot online

If your ballot is lost, damaged, or you need a replacement, our Online Ballot Marking Program is here to help. Available to all registered voters, OBMP allows you to access and print your ballot from home, the library, or wherever convenient. It is also designed to provide voters with disabilities, including those who are blind or have low vision, the opportunity to mark their ballot privately.

Access your ballot online at [kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp](https://kingcounty.gov/elections/obmp).

**If you need assistance voting, contact us at 206-296-VOTE (8683).**

## Contact us to receive this pamphlet in an alternate format.

Contact us to receive your voting materials in Chinese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish or Vietnamese.

如需獲取您的中文投票資訊，請與我們聯絡。

한국어로 투표 자료를 받으시려면 저희에게 연락하세요.

Свяжитесь с нами, чтобы получать материалы для голосования на русском.

Nala soo xiriir si aad u hesho agabkaaga codeynta oo ku qoran Af-Soomaali.

Comuníquese con nosotros para recibir sus materiales de votación en español.

Xin vui lòng liên lạc với Sở Bầu cử Quận King để nhận tài liệu bầu cử bằng tiếng Việt.

February 13, 2024 Special Election

# King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Tahoma School District No. 409



## Sign up for ballot alerts!

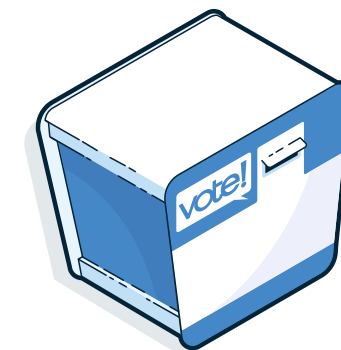
Get texts or emails as your ballot is processed and counted. Opt in at [kce.wiki/TrackMyBallot](https://kce.wiki/TrackMyBallot).



## Drop boxes are now open!

For a list of all 18 drop boxes open for this election visit [kingcounty.gov/elections](https://kingcounty.gov/elections).

**All drop boxes close at 8 p.m. sharp on Election Day, February 13.**



## Locations near you

**Black Diamond** • Black Diamond Library, 24707 Roberts Dr, 98010

**Covington** • Covington Library, 27100 164th Ave SE, 98042

**Maple Valley** • Hobart Food Market, 20250 276th Ave SE, 98038  
• \*Tahoma School District Building, 25720 Maple Valley-Black Diamond Rd SE, 98038

**Renton** • Fairwood Library, 17009 140th Ave SE, 98058  
• \*Renton Public Health Center, 3201 NE 7th St, 98056

\* Drive-up ballot drop boxes

## Return your ballot by mail



## No Stamp Needed!

We strongly recommend returning your ballot as early as possible.

**Mailed ballots must be postmarked by February 13.**

Get social with us @kcelections



## Who donates to campaigns?

View contributors for candidates and measures

Public Disclosure Commission

[www.pdc.wa.gov](https://www.pdc.wa.gov) | Toll Free 1-877-601-2828

206-296-VOTE (8683)  
[elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elections@kingcounty.gov)  
[kingcounty.gov/elections](https://kingcounty.gov/elections)

 King County  
Elections



**Proposition No. 1**

**Replacement of Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2023-16 concerning educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support the District’s educational programs and operations not funded or fully funded by the state:

| Collection Years | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount  |
|------------------|--|--------------|
| 2025             | \$2.50                                       | \$28,265,963 |
| 2026             | \$2.50                                       | \$29,746,071 |

all as provided in the Resolution. 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](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

*Requirement passage: Simple majority (Wash. Const. art. VII, sec. 2(a))*

**Explanatory statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace an expiring levy and allow the levy of \$28,265,963 in property taxes within Tahoma School District for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$29,746,071 for collection in 2026. In accordance with Resolution No. 2023-16 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the Tahoma School District’s General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District. General expenses of the District include employee costs (such as salaries), instructional materials, athletics, buildings, transportation, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District schools that are not funded or fully funded by the State. If authorized by the voters and based on projected assessed valuation information, the estimated levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$2.50 for collection in the years 2025 and 2026. The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District and the legal limit of the levy amount at the time of the levy. The District will review annually and determine whether there is a need to roll back the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the King County Assessor at (206) 296-7300.

**For questions about this measure, contact:**

**AJ Garcia**  
Public Relations Director  
(425) 413-3400  
[ajgarcia@tahomasd.us](mailto:ajgarcia@tahomasd.us)

**Proposition No. 2**

**Replacement of Technology Capital Projects Levy**

The Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 2023-17 concerning a technology modernization levy. This proposition authorizes acquiring educational and operational technology, equipment, software, staffing, training and technical support; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Years | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|------------------|--|-------------|
| 2025             | \$0.40                                       | \$4,476,432 |
| 2026             | \$0.41                                       | \$4,900,301 |

all as provided in the Resolution. 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](http://kingcounty.gov/elections).*

*Requirement passage: Simple majority (Wash. Const. art. VII, sec. 2(a))*

**Explanatory statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of \$9,376,733 in property taxes within Tahoma School District No. 409 for collection over a two year period (2025 and 2026), to fund construction, renovation, improvement and expansion of new and existing facilities, make improvements to technology equipment and training, modernize educational facilities through the acquisition and installation, implementation and management of computer technology and technology systems, facilities and projects including but not limited to enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, and implementing online applications, and training related to modernization, instruction and installation of the foregoing as part of the District’s technology systems, facilities, or projects; including, but not limited to, ongoing application fees, subscriptions, or licenses, upgrades and incidental services, training related to such improvements and other capital project expenditures as approved by the Board of Directors. In accordance with Resolution No. 2023-17 of the Board, these taxes would be collected in the years 2025 and 2026, and deposited in the District’s Capital Projects Fund for such improvements to meet the current and future educational programs for its students. If authorized by the voters, and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.40 (2025 collection), and \$0.41 (2026 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the King County Assessor at (206) 296-7300.

**For questions about this measure, contact:**

**AJ Garcia**  
Public Relations Director  
(425) 413-3400  
[ajgarcia@tahomasd.us](mailto:ajgarcia@tahomasd.us)

**Statement in favor**

Krissy Riggs, Jerry Gaston, Tami Henkel  
[voteyestahoma.com](http://voteyestahoma.com)

Local levies close funding gaps and provide students with a high-quality school experience that prepares them for successful, fulfilling futures. Your “yes” vote will maintain funding for valuable existing programs, services and staff.

In addition to teacher salaries and staff trainings, the levy funds critical support staff students need including bus drivers, nutrition service, paraeducators, administrative professionals and more. Safety funding maintains secure schools for all. Local levies fund staffing and training that are critical for emotional and mental wellness, such as counselors and substance abuse prevention. Tahoma’s special education services rely on over \$6M of levy funding. Clubs, sports and activities receive no state funding and need the levy to continue.

Even with the EP&O Levy, Tahoma receives less funding than nearly all King County school districts. The EP&O Levy accounts for 17% of general fund revenue, 85% of which goes toward paying staff. The EP&O Levy will allow TSD to maintain high-quality education for our students that we all appreciate.

For an extra \$25 per month for the average homeowner, Tahoma can continue to provide a school experience that prepares students for a valuable future. Thank you for your continued support of students. Vote yes!

**Statement in opposition**

Tina Dechand, Carolyn Armstrong, Stephen Hutsell  
[LevyNo.com](http://LevyNo.com)

The Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy demands a resounding “no” from voters who seek financial accountability and responsible leadership. The district’s track record of wasteful spending on frivolous staff positions and neglecting crucial aspects of education amplifies the need for a reevaluation of budgetary priorities.

Promises from the last levy surrounding the nursing department were drastically unfulfilled. Instead of boosting nursing staff, we obtained a mere 11 nurses, piling in comparison to 24 allocated to the counseling department. This stark imbalance underscores a mismanagement of resources.

The situation is exacerbated by the current leadership’s controversy, evidenced by the Superintendent’s paid leave of absence (due to an ongoing investigation) and the placement of an interim superintendent with proven fiscal ineptness and lack of integrity. In this climate of uncertainty, entrusting the district with additional funds is unwise.

Tahoma stakeholders are grappling with financial challenges. It is unjust to add burden without guarantee of responsible financial stewardship. Before greenlighting another levy, we must demand assurances that taxpayer dollars will be used responsibly and prioritized for essential needs like nursing and quality education for our children. A “no” vote is a demand for transparency, accountability, and a responsible approach to fiscal management.

**Statement in favor**

Kimberly Allison, Ginnylynn Ursprung, Rick Haag  
[voteyestahoma.com](http://voteyestahoma.com)

Technology is a critical part of a student’s education in 2024. Your “yes” vote to renew the Technology Levy will provide continued access to technology that gives students the knowledge and experience to be competitive in the workforce and continued education.

The levy pays for equipment, infrastructure, training, and support staff that provide student access to computers and other digital learning resources. It also pays for teacher training so educators can use technology in their lessons and teach their students how to use that technology. Tahoma is committed to using technology in authentic and engaging ways to enhance and extend learning. This means that students will know how to leverage technology now and in their future careers, while also developing important personal skills like teamwork and collaboration.

Technology also plays an important role in student safety. Nationally, student and family data privacy has become increasingly vulnerable to ransom attacks, and the Technology Levy provides cybersecurity infrastructure to protect sensitive information. Much of the physical security technology like key card access, radios and cameras are also funded by the Technology Levy.

With the renewed Technology Levy, Tahoma can deliver high-quality, modernized instruction in a safe learning environment. Please vote yes!

**Statement in opposition**

Tina Dechand, Carolyn Armstrong, Stephen Hutsell  
[LevyNo.com](http://LevyNo.com)

In the face of an increasing reliance on technology in education, voters should strongly consider a “no” vote on Proposition 2 Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy. The excessive use of technology among students reinforces the need for a cautious approach to tech integration in classrooms.

The District has yet to provide a clear analysis of the return on investment that technology has had on our students’ test scores since the previous levy. Additionally, racing to acquire the latest technology fosters educational inequities, pitting districts against each other in the pursuit of relevance that overlooks fundamental educational needs.

Passing technology levies involves more than financing the maintenance of devices; it commits taxpayers to fund tech staff and expensive training for existing personnel. The Tahoma School District’s Strategic Plan for Technology estimated a staggering \$5.3 million solely for technology staff and training.

While acknowledging the importance of technological advancements, voters must demand assurances that taxpayer dollars will be spent responsibly. The potential consequences of high-tech integration, such as high-paid administrators and additional burdens on already overworked teachers, raise concerns about the value of such investments. A “no” vote sends a clear message: prioritize necessities over extravagant tech expenses which further burden taxpayers.

**Rebuttal of statement in opposition**

TSD receives excellent financial audit reports every year, and they maintain a high bond rating because of their strong fiscal health. Like all districts, TSD faces challenges. While they must address those and be held accountable, punishing students by cutting sports, activities, academic programs and critical staff is not the path to improvement. It is our students who deserve this levy, and they are the ones who will be hurt without it. Please vote yes!

**Rebuttal of statement in favor**

This “EP&O” levy is actually an “Enrichment” Levy, it should exclusively fund student programs, not staff salaries. Higher State School property taxes post-McCleary were intended to eliminate such local levies. Tax measures, including this one, should align with transparency, ideally running in November after citizens receive their 2024 property tax bills. This ensures informed voting and challenges the continued dependence on local levies, urging a reevaluation of funding structures for a more equitable education system.

**Rebuttal of statement in opposition**

This levy does not require TSD to purchase the latest technology. In Tahoma, technology in the classroom is only prioritized when it can support and enhance the fundamental educational needs of our students. Access to technology in school prepares students to enter the workforce, where experience with technology is valuable and necessary for success. A “yes” vote is the best way to ensure that our students are prepared for their futures.

**Rebuttal of statement in favor**

Overemphasizing technology marginalizes trade jobs, undervaluing crucial skills. Relying solely on digital resources hampers interpersonal skills, creativity, and critical thinking. Ransom attacks reveal the downside of overreliance on technology, an issue taxpayers shouldn’t bear. Prioritizing physical safety technology is essential, like keycard access to portables, but was recently rejected by the district. A balanced approach is needed, recognizing diverse career paths, and addressing the limitations and risks associated with excessive reliance on digital solutions.