

Initiative Measure No. 23-02

Voter Initiative to Establish Labor Standards

City of Renton Citizen Initiative Measure No. 23-02 would enact an ordinance creating labor standards for Renton employers.

The proposed ordinance requires covered employers to pay a minimum wage based on that established by the City of Tukwila, offer additional hours to existing part-time employees before hiring new employees or subcontracted services, not retaliate against employees exercising rights created by the ordinance, and comply with administrative requirements. The proposed ordinance creates remedies and penalties for violations. If enacted, the ordinance could not be repealed without voter approval.

Should this Ordinance be enacted into law?

Yes

No

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

Requirement passage: Simple majority (RCW 35A.11.100 and 35.17.240)

Explanatory statement

This measure would adopt an ordinance that requires covered employers to (1) pay a minimum wage for all hours worked within Renton, and (2) distribute additional hours to its part-time workers prior to hiring new employees, contractors, or temporary workers if its existing part-time workers have the skills and experience to perform the work.

Covered employers include those who (1) employ at least 15 employees worldwide, or (2) have annual gross revenue over \$2 million. The minimum wage starts in July 2024 at \$20.29 for large employers and \$18.29 for smaller covered employers. The lower wage would be phased to equal that of larger employers in two years, and the wage would be adjusted for inflation annually.

All employers, including those not otherwise covered, would be: (1) required to document and certify compliance, and (2) prohibited from retaliating against any person who exercises rights created by this ordinance. Protected rights include making good faith allegations of violations, inquiring or informing others about the law's protections, or participating in investigations or claims, even when no violation exists. Any adverse action taken against a person within 90 days of their exercising rights under the ordinance is legally presumed to be prohibited retaliation.

Violations would be primarily enforced through civil lawsuits. Remedies include payment of: attorneys' fees, unpaid wages, interest, liquidated damages equal to twice the unpaid wages, compensatory damages, and a \$5000 penalty for retaliation. Intentional violations could subject employers to revocation of their business license.

For questions about this measure, contact:

Kristi Rowland Deputy CAO (425) 430-6400 RentonBallot@rentonwa.gov

February 13, 2024 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Tahoma School District No. 409 and the City of Renton

Sign up for ballot alerts!

Get texts or emails as your ballot is processed and counted. Opt in at kce.wiki/TrackMyBallot.



Ballot drop boxes



Drop boxes are now open!

For a list of all 18 drop boxes open for this election visit kingcounty.gov/elections.

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

Locations near you

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
* King County Elections, 919 SW Grady Way, 98057
*Powell Avenue, 725 Powell Ave SW, 98057
The drop box is located two blocks from King County Elections and can be easier to get to during high-traffic times.
*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.



Online: It takes two minutes and a Washington State Driver's License or ID to register online at 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 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.

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.

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 xiriiri 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.

Statement in favor

Guillermo Zazueta, Cory Thompson, Neil Sheesley www.raisetthewagerenton.org

In the City of Renton, a minimum wage worker must work 77+ hours per week to afford a one-bedroom apartment. An adult working full-time must earn \$23/hour to support themselves with the high cost of living.

Renton employs 60,000+ workers in retail, restaurant, automotive, hospitality, healthcare industries and more. 45,000+ residents commute out of Renton chasing higher wages. 22,000+ workers make less than \$19/hour. Over 30% of workers earn wages below living wage standards, according to Census data.

Studies show that increasing the minimum wage benefits small-business owners by; reducing employee turnover and absenteeism, increasing worker productivity, increasing consumer purchasing power, boosting customer satisfaction, and ensuring working families can afford to live in Renton.

Community organizations, small businesses, residents and workers support this initiative; 15+ labor unions, including the machinists', healthcare workers', public school teachers' unions and the MLK Labor Council - representing 150+ unions in King County. In order to maintain competitiveness, we must raise our minimum wage. Renton has a diverse blue-collar history, dubbed "The Town of Payrolls" in the 1900s by the Chamber of Commerce. Voters can live up to our motto and be "Ahead of the Curve" by passing this measure. Join us by voting Yes!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

This Con statement presents zero facts or figures to justify false claims of negative impacts to local businesses, ignoring positive impacts from increased spending and sales tax revenue. Higher wages retain more qualified workers, reducing employee turnover. Residents and businesses already live in unstable economic environments from stagnant wages, rising rents and inflation.

Our Renton coalition includes the Boeing workers' union, Valley Medical workers, Renton Education Association and more. Vote Yes, support businesses and workers!

Statement in opposition

Diane Dobson, Ramandeep Mann noon23-02.com

Reject Initiative 23-02: Protect Renton's Workforce and Identity. This well-intentioned, but misguided, initiative creates many regulations beyond wages for local businesses. It threatens our community workforce, will result in job losses and reduced hours for employees, and cause an unstable economic environment for small businesses and Renton residents.

Funded by Seattle Democratic Socialists, this initiative had no consultation with local shops, immigrant-owned restaurants, daycares, family-run stores, or the city, all of whom would be negatively impacted. Significantly higher costs will push businesses to raise prices for survival. Already struggling post-pandemic businesses will be forced to pass on these costs, erasing affordable dining and shopping options we cherish.

Reject this initiative and insist city council find better solutions for Renton that allow our council to adjust for unintended consequences. Enforcing the initiative's compliance requirements will force our City to divert funds from crucial areas, including public safety and social services.

Reject Initiative 23-02, supported by Seattle Democratic Socialists, as it threatens Renton's unique blend of hard work, diverse cultures, and vital small business sector. Rejecting 23-02 preserves Renton's identity, protects our culturally diverse workforce & businesses, and ensures access to affordable daycare, dining, shopping, and services for Renton's working families.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Don't let Seattle Socialist extremists dictate the future of our Renton community. Since implementing the highest minimum wage in the country a decade ago, Seattle and SeaTac's affordability crisis and economic instability have gotten exponentially worse. Renton City Council cannot change this initiative when unintended consequences occur.

This initiative will harm our seniors, veterans, working families and the most vulnerable as costs of daycare, shopping, food and services increase. Reject 23-02.



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206-296-VOTE (8683)

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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.

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

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.

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

Statement in favor

Krissy Riggs, Jerry Gaston, Tami Henkel
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

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, paling 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

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

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.