

## Return your ballot by mail



### No Stamp Needed!

We strongly recommend returning your ballot as early as possible.

Mailed ballots must be postmarked by April 23.

## 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 April Special Election, register online by April 15.

**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 April 15.

**In person:** You can register in person through April 23, 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, April 3 - April 22, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Election Day, April 23, 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.

April 23, 2024 Special Election

# King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Tahoma School District No. 409



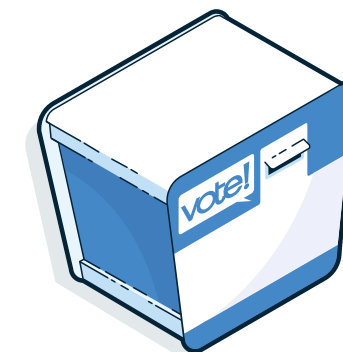
## Sign up for ballot alerts!

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!

All drop boxes close at 8 p.m. sharp on Election Day, April 23.



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

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

**Enumclaw** • Enumclaw Library, 1700 1st St, 98022

**Federal Way** • Federal Way City Hall, 33325 8th Ave S, 98003

**Kent**

- Kent Panther Lake Library, 20500 108th Ave SE, 98031
- Kent YMCA, 10828 SE 248th St, 98030
- Regional Justice Center (near parking garage entrance), 401 4th Ave N, 98032

**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



## 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)

Get social with  
us @kcelections



**Proposition No. 1**

# Replacement of Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Tahoma School District No. 409 adopted Resolution No. 2024-04 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).*



**You will be voting Yes or No to approve Proposition No. 1**

*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. 2024-04 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

## Statement in favor

Krissy Riggs, Jerry Gaston, Jim Flynn  
[voteyestahoma.com](http://voteyestahoma.com)

The EP&O Levy is necessary to maintain the high quality school experience that children deserve. Without the levy, there will be significant cuts for teachers and paraeducators, meaning crowded classrooms and fewer vocational classes. School safety staff and mental health resources will be reduced. There will also be cuts to sports, clubs and activities.

Tahoma already receives nearly the lowest funding among all King County districts, and every other county district has an EP&O Levy. As a result, Tahoma spends less per student than most neighboring districts. Yet we still have amazing teachers, important classes, and strong extracurricular programs. We get a better bang for our buck than most districts.

The replacement levy will not add programs or increase staff to student ratios. We've paid a lower levy rate since 2021 because the district could afford to collect less and fully fund staff and programs. That is no longer sustainable, so we must pay the full levy amount to maintain our high quality school experience for children.

Strong schools lead to stronger and safer communities. Your "yes" vote is a vote of confidence in students, and the continued improvement of our district and community. Please vote yes!

## Statement in opposition

Tina Dechand  
[LevyNo.com](http://LevyNo.com)

While levy funds may close funding gaps, taxpayers cannot in good conscience endorse another levy without assurances that funds are being utilized effectively to meet student needs and improve student outcomes. Tahoma is now asking for the maximum rate without explanation. In 2018, the rate was capped at \$1.50 and the district maintained programs and an unusually high surplus. What changed?

The lack of detail surrounding an unusually high "rainy day fund" and its subsequent spend down raises red flags, especially with the influx of COVID funds. A spend down that lacked implementing the necessary safety measures to protect students from bullying and assault while on district property.

Are we spending levy dollars to benefit the greatest number of students and improve student outcomes? We don't know. The district has no metrics which show the effectiveness of current levy funded programs on student ability to be "Future Ready."

Our community deserves evidence that their contributions make a difference in student outcomes, as well as accountability and partnership with the district. Taxpayers cannot responsibly support another levy until the district addresses their concerns and provides the transparency necessary to earn the community's yes vote.

## Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Tahoma students earned 1,139 industry-recognized credentials last year. Students are prepared for careers in mechanics, welding, robotics, business and more. Because of levy funding, Tahoma offers robust programming for many valuable career paths.

Students begin their path to career and personal success through levy-funded K-12 programs, like STEM and arts, taught by qualified, levy-funded educators. Mental health, behaviors and academic engagement are enhanced through levy-funded sports, clubs, and activities.

## Rebuttal of statement in favor

Tahoma School District's levy proposal lacks transparency. It requests the maximum levy rate without allocating funds for additional programs or staff. How is this a "better bang for our buck"? Taxpayers want to fund levies that maximize student potential, but deserve clarity on how their money will be spent. If Tahoma wants taxpayer support for this levy, they must communicate specific details regarding the use of levy dollars, ensuring trust and accountability in the community.