

February 8, 2011 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Vashon Island School District



For more information call
206-296-VOTE (8683) or visit
www.kingcounty.gov/elections



King County
Elections

Registering to vote is easy

Requirements

To register to vote you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington state;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day, February 8.

Deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. To vote in the February 8 Special Election, you must have registered by January 10.

If you are not currently registered to vote in Washington, you may register in person at the King County Elections office by January 31.

How to register

Visit the King County Elections website for information and registration forms, or visit in person weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at 9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila.

Register online at the Secretary of State website, www.sos.wa.gov.

Keep your registration current

Update your voter registration if you've moved or changed your name by filling out a new registration form, available online and at King County Elections.

Tips for voting

- Read the instructions on the ballot and envelope carefully
- Use a black ink pen to vote
- Remove and recycle the stub at the top of the ballot
- Sign the voter's oath on the return envelope
- Track your ballot's progress on the King County Elections website
- Questions? Lost or damaged ballot?
Call 206-296-VOTE (8683)

Returning your ballot

Voting begins as soon as you receive your ballot in the mail. Consider returning it early to be counted in election night results and to have time to resolve any issues with your signature.



Through the mail

Use a first class stamp to return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service. Ballots must be postmarked by February 8.



Ballot drop boxes

Return your ballot at a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on February 8. For exact drop box placement please visit www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

By law, ballots cannot be accepted at ballot drop box locations after 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

Crossroads Shopping Center - South entrance

15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue 98008

Issaquah City Hall

130 East Sunset Way, Issaquah 98027

Redmond City Hall

15670 NE 85th Street, Redmond 98052

Earlington Business Center

919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057

King County Elections - East side of building

9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila 98108

King County Administration Building

500 4th Avenue, Seattle 98104

Accessible voting centers

Voters with disabilities can cast a private and independent ballot at our office, on the following dates and times:

King County Elections

9010 East Marginal Way S, Tukwila, 98108

January 19 - February 7

Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

February 8

Tuesday, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

More information inside



Proposition No. 1 General Obligation Bonds - \$47,700,000

The Board of Directors of Vashon Island School District No. 402 adopted Resolution No. 637 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to construct a classroom building and renovate Building A at the High School, modify other buildings, upgrade ventilation and technology systems at the Middle and Elementary Schools, make other capital improvements included in Phase I of the Capital Facilities Master Plan, issue \$47,700,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 21 years, and levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as detailed in Resolution No. 637. Should this proposition be:

- APPROVED
 REJECTED

Statement in favor

Vashon's schools are an integral part of our vibrant community. On February 8, voters will have the opportunity to support the long overdue renovation and modernization of the island's high school campus while taking advantage of low construction costs and low bond interest rates. Responding to community concerns, improvements have been prioritized for all three schools.

Currently 37 high school doors open to the outside after each class period and 85% of the classrooms have single-pane windows. Half of the high school classrooms are too small and have no fire sprinklers. Passage of the bond will correct these deficiencies and will improve the learning environment by: consolidating classroom instruction at the high school with a new building, renovating existing buildings, updating technology infrastructure throughout, and increasing energy efficiency in all three schools.

The tax increase for Proposition 1 is \$8.66 per month for the average homeowner. An experienced project management team will ensure that all construction is completed on time and on budget. A modern, safer high school will promote the vitality of our community for generations to come. Please join us and VOTE YES for our kids, our community and our future.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The opponents made many factual errors:

The budget for this project is actually lower than average for Puget Sound school districts doing similar work. Our budget was confirmed by two professional Washington estimating firms.

New building construction cost, with contingencies and contractor overhead and profit is \$288/sf.

Renovation budget is \$287/sf.

No high school in Washington has been built for \$163/sf recently. \$92,442/student is a meaningless number over the 50 year life of the project.

Statement submitted by: John "Oz" Osborne, May Gerstle and Bettie Edwards

Explanatory statement

If approved by voters, passage of Proposition No. 1 would authorize the Vashon Island School District No. 402, King County, Washington to levy excess property taxes sufficient to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$47,700,000, maturing within 21 years of the date of issue, for the purpose of making improvements to school facilities to provide the students of the District with adequate, proper and safe educational facilities.

Such improvements include constructing a classroom building and renovating Building A at the High School, modifying other buildings, upgrading ventilation and technology systems at the Middle and Elementary Schools, and making other capital improvements included in Phase I of the Capital Facilities Master Plan. The project includes necessary equipment, supplies, appurtenances, and services to complete the project.

Voter approval of the bonds includes approval of property tax levies for those bonds. Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For more information, call the King County Department of Assessments at 206.296.3920.

Statement in opposition

We support excellence in education. This Bond will not support teacher salaries, educational programs or even maintenance.

The Bond before us is one of the highest priced school bond issues in the country.

New classroom: \$19,600,000 for 36,206 square feet- **\$541 per square foot.**

Renovation: \$22,200,000 for 42,236 square feet- **\$525 per square foot.**

Project Management and Design Fees are calculated on top of 28% contingency.

Average per square foot cost for a High School in Seattle is just one third of our project cost - **\$163 per square foot.**

These numbers far exceed the established guidelines for construction costs.

The total projected \$47,700,000 for 516 high school students equals \$92,442 per student.

High School enrollment has declined 4% in the last year and depends on off island students that will not pay for this Bond.

Vote NO on Bond Prop I

Rebuttal of statement in favor

While we take note of the "low construction costs and the low bond interest rates" the \$47,700,000 figure proposed does not in any way reflect this. This bond uses the same cost numbers from the failed measure two years ago.

If these bonds succeed the combined property tax on an average \$450,000 home would increase by \$720/ year for twenty years.

These numbers come from the Vashon Island School District Website.

Statement submitted by: George Wright and Lee Ockinga • 206-567-4238

**Proposition No. 2
General Obligation Bonds - \$3,500,000**

The Board of Directors of Vashon Island School District No. 402 adopted Resolution No. 651 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District, if voters also approve Proposition No. 1, to construct a synthetic track and field and associated site modifications at the Vashon Island High School stadium, issue \$3,500,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 21 years, and levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as detailed in Resolution No. 651. Should this proposition be:

- APPROVED
- REJECTED

Statement in favor

Vashon School District's fields and gyms are the heart of youth sports on Vashon. The track and field are home for many PE classes and a full slate of high school athletics. In addition, Park District Programs use VSD facilities for nearly 8,000 hours annually—providing safe and healthy play for nearly every child in our community.

This bond would replace the field and cinder track in the VHS stadium with an all-weather track and field. The current field is at the end of its life. The VHS track team cannot host home meets because the Nisqually League considers our track dangerously old and worn out. All weather fields are being installed all over the region because maintaining them costs a small fraction of costs to operate a grass field. More important, artificial turf can be used over twice as many hours a year compared to grass. Our grass field requires months of "resting" to prevent degradation. Over the life of this facility we would conserve over 1.7 million gallons of District 19 water, reduce chemical use, and save tens of thousands of dollars annually in maintenance costs-- while greatly increasing the availability of playing fields for school and community sports.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The opponents made many factual errors:

Artificial turf needs to be replaced periodically. This means rolling out new turf not rebuilding the entire field every 12 years as implied.

Artificial turf lasts much longer than grass and doesn't have to be rested. On a per use basis, it is a lot cheaper to operate than grass.

Bottom line: For a \$450,000 house, the tax increase to support both Propositions is only \$157.50/year.

Statement submitted by: John "Oz" Osborne, May Gerstle and Bettie Edwards

Explanatory statement

If approved by voters, passage of Proposition No. 2 would authorize the Vashon Island School District No. 402, King County, Washington to levy excess property taxes sufficient to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$3,500,000, maturing within 21 years of the date of issue, for the purpose of constructing a synthetic track and field and associated site modifications at the Vashon Island High School stadium. The project includes necessary equipment, supplies, appurtenances, and services to complete the project.

If approved by voters, the bonds under this Proposition No. 2 shall only be issued if the qualified electors of the District first approve Proposition No. 1.

Voter approval of the bonds includes approval of property tax levies for those bonds. Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For more information, call the King County Department of Assessments at 206.296.3920.

Statement in opposition

\$3,500,000 for the renovation of a playing field that requires a 20 year payoff is not in the best interest of Vashon residents for several reasons.

The playing life of a plastic field is 12 years or less. It would need to be remade before we finished paying for the first one.

Storm water run off will take all chemical residue into the drain fields and the Sound.

In aggregate the massive totals of these two Bond issues would raise the property taxes for a \$450,000 house over \$720 per year for the next twenty years.

There has been a 35% increase in need at the Food Bank this year over last year. Vashon Youth and Family Services is seeing a large increase in demand for help.

With major cuts for education from the State, we will be asked to shoulder a larger part of our children's education out of pocket on a yearly basis.

These Bond issues are just too costly for all. People on fixed incomes would be impacted the most.

Vote NO on Prop II

Rebuttal of statement in favor

We are being asked to pay \$3,500,000 to save "thousands of dollars in maintenance costs" on a field that will need to be replaced before we finish paying for it. Parents of off island students pay nothing toward these bonds.

This is not a good use of our limited funds.

Statement submitted by: George Wright and Lee Ockinga • 206-567-4238

To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format please contact King County Elections at 206-296-VOTE (8683).

In accordance with federal law, King County produces election materials in both English and Chinese. If you need election materials in Chinese please contact King County Elections.

根據聯邦法律，金郡編製的選舉資訊都有英文和中文版本。如果您需要中文選舉資訊，請與金郡選舉部聯絡。

Contact us

In person 9010 East Marginal Way S.
Tukwila, WA 98108

Phone 206-296-VOTE (8683)
1-800-325-6165
TTY: Relay: 711

E-mail elections@kingcounty.gov

By mail 919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

Online www.kingcounty.gov/elections



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