

February 11, 2014 Special Election

King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Lake Washington School District No. 414



Contact us

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



Proposition No. 1

Replacement of Existing Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414 adopted Resolution No. 2162 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:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2015	\$1.85	\$63,000,000
2016	\$1.88	\$64,900,000
2017	\$1.90	\$66,800,000
2018	\$1.92	\$68,900,000

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 www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

Vote Yes! We Need Qualified Teachers to Educate Tomorrow's Workforce.

Today's children are the workforce of tomorrow. *The EP&O levy provides 22.8% of the LWSD operating budget*, which is critical to offering a high quality education. It enables the district to offer competitive compensation for teachers, administrators and staff. We need talented and dedicated people to instruct our next generation of leaders, engineers and healthcare professionals. Colleges want high school graduates to have college preparatory classes such as Advanced Placement (AP) or the Cambridge Program in subject areas including math, science and foreign language. Technical certificate programs want graduates with higher math, thinking and complex problem solving skills. Voting for this measure renews a levy that is a critical component in reaching our goal of Every Student Future Ready.

Endorsed by Kirkland, Redmond and Sammamish City Councils and Chambers of Commerce; Seattle-King County Association of REALTORS; Lake Washington Education Association; Lake Washington PTSA Council and more than 30 PTAs; and the Lake Washington Schools Foundation. To see elected officials and community leaders who endorsed this measure, visit www.vote4lwsdkids.org.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

This measure renews an existing levy. We depend upon these local monies to meet 22.8% of the district's annual budget because the state does not fully fund Basic Education. These levy funds enable us to offer classroom instruction beyond what the state requires, maintain reasonable class sizes and hire exemplary teachers and administrators to prepare students for post-secondary education and living wage jobs. *Vote Yes to support one of Washington's highest achieving school districts!*

Statement submitted by: Susan D. Baird-Joshi, Kerri N. Nielsen, and Matt Loschen
www.vote4lwsdkids.org

Explanatory statement

Lake Washington School District requests voter approval of an Educational Programs and Operations levy to enable the District to pay for its educational programs and services, including teaching and non-teaching staff costs (salaries), instructional materials, safety & security services, transportation, facility maintenance, special programs, activities and sports, technology systems operation, and other non-capital expenses of operating the District schools. The proposed levy will replace the District's current levy that expires in 2014. These taxes will provide approximately 22% of the general expense of operating the District.

Passage of this proposition would allow the levy of \$63,000,000 in property taxes for collection in 2015, the levy of \$64,900,000 for collection in 2016, the levy of \$66,800,000 for collection in 2017, and the levy of \$68,900,000 for collection in 2018. If authorized by the voters and based on current assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$1.85 (2015 collection); \$1.88 (2016 collection); \$1.90 (2017 collection); \$1.92 (2018 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

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 206-296-3920.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
 Kathryn Reith - Communications Director
 425-936-1342 • kreith@lwsd.org

Statement in opposition

Union officials in the Lake Washington Schools have pressured the school board to divert levy funds from student services in order to pay teachers more. Our levy should pay for student services, not for wage increases.

In the collective bargaining agreement sought by union officials, the average state-provided wage of \$49,750 for teachers will be enhanced by 14 percent from levy and levy-matched funds. This costs roughly \$9.3 million per year which could be better used to help at-risk students or reduce class sizes. The school district leads taxpayers to believe the levy money is being used for students, yet large amounts support union priorities instead.

Levies are great for funding local priorities and unique services for our area students, but taxpayers should hold off giving the school district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Don't let the Lake Washington School District confuse you by a nuanced definition of taxes, levy, new, or renewal. Approving this measure will increase the amount you pay the government. Taxpayers should hold off giving the district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Voting 'no' on Proposition 1 will send this message to the district: Be more responsible with taxpayer's money.

Statement submitted by: Laurie Lyford, Renay Bennett, and Tom Henningsgards
propertyrights4us@gmail.com

Proposition No. 2**Replacement of Existing Capital Projects Levies**

The Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414 approved Resolution No. 2163 for educational facilities and technology levies. This proposition authorizes the improvement and upgrade of District facilities; including educational technology, software and training; building and site improvements; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2015	\$0.91	\$31,200,000
2016	\$0.91	\$31,500,000
2017	\$0.91	\$32,000,000
2018	\$0.91	\$32,500,000

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 www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

Vote Yes! We Need to Prepare Students and Teachers to Use Technology Effectively in Environmentally Efficient Buildings.

Today's work environment requires employees to use high technology in a collaborative manner to research and solve problems. Many students use laptops, the Internet and other electronic tools in their daily lives. To prepare students of all economic backgrounds to thrive in the future, we must provide students and teachers with the electronic tools with which they are familiar, thus enabling effective teaching and collaborative learning at school and at home. School buildings need a systematic approach to replace major environmental systems such as roofs and heating to ensure they can serve students well into the future. Voting for this measure renews a levy that protects the community's investment in our future.

Endorsed by Kirkland, Redmond and Sammamish City Councils and Chambers of Commerce; Seattle-King County Association of REALTORS; Lake Washington Education Association; Lake Washington PTSA Council and more than 30 PTAs; and the Lake Washington Schools Foundation. To see elected officials and community leaders who endorsed this measure, visit www.vote4lwsdkids.org.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

This measure renews an existing levy that addresses building maintenance, technical infrastructure and classroom resources. Students, teachers and today's workforce use technology daily. Education must utilize current technology to train tomorrow's workforce. Sound building structures and secure access will provide a safe, healthy learning environment for our students. *Vote Yes to take a wise step in protecting our current investment in infrastructure with ongoing building maintenance and technical innovation in the classroom!*

Statement submitted by: Susan D. Baird-Joshi, Kerri N. Nielsen, and Matt Loschen
www.vote4lwsdkids.org

Explanatory statement

Lake Washington School District requests voter approval of a Capital Projects levy to enable the district to pay for improvements and upgrades of district facilities, for technology improvements, and equipment and training to meet the current and future educational programs for its students. The proposed levy will replace the District's current levy that expires in 2014 and the taxes would be deposited in the Capital Projects Fund to pay for safety and security items; replacement of aging major building systems such as roofs and heating systems; replacement computers; upgraded server and network infrastructure; instructional and assessment software; and technology support for over 28,000 staff and student computers.

Passage of this proposition would allow the levy of \$31,200,000 in property taxes for collection in 2015, the levy of \$31,500,000 for collection in 2016, the levy of \$32,000,000 for collection in 2017, and the levy of \$32,500,000 for collection in 2018. If authorized by the voters and based on current assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.91 (2015 collection); \$0.91 (2016 collection); \$0.91 (2017 collection); \$0.91 (2018 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

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 206-296-3920.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Kathryn Reith - Communications Director
425-936-1342 • kreith@lwsd.org

Statement in opposition

Union officials in the Lake Washington Schools have pressured the school board to divert levy funds from student services in order to pay teachers more. Our levy should pay for student services, not for wage increases.

In the collective bargaining agreement sought by union officials, the average state-provided wage of \$49,750 for teachers will be enhanced by 14 percent from levy and levy-matched funds. This costs roughly \$9.3 million per year which could be better used to help at-risk students or reduce class sizes. The school district leads taxpayers to believe the levy money is being used for students, yet large amounts support union priorities instead.

Levies are great for funding local priorities and unique services for our area students, but taxpayers should hold off giving the school district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

The Lake Washington School District is asking for new money from taxpayers because they have allowed union officials to divert existing levy money to pay teachers more--rather than using that money for things like technology for students. If only the district had managed their existing levy money better, they wouldn't have to ask for more now.

Voting 'no' on Proposition 2 will send this message to the district: Be more responsible with taxpayer's money.

Statement submitted by: Laurie Lyford, Renay Bennett, and Tom Henningsgards
propertyrights4us@gmail.com

Proposition No. 3

General Obligation Bonds - \$755,000,000

The Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414 adopted Resolution No. 2164 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the construction and equipping of new schools (three elementary, one middle, two choice); the modernization/ replacement of schools (Kirk, Mead, Rockwell Elementary; Evergreen and Kamiakin Middle; and Juanita High); additions to schools (Lake Washington and Eastlake High); and other capital improvements; the issuance of \$755,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and the levy of excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 2164. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

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

Statement in favor

Vote Yes! We Need More Classrooms to Meet Growing Enrollment.

Our communities are growing. The district has kept up with growth by building three new schools and two additions since 2006 and changing grade configurations to efficiently use space. *In the next eight years, we need 180 more classrooms because of enrollment growth.* Our aging schools need replacing to meet educational needs. Through Phases I and II of the 1998 modernization plan, we upgraded 21 schools. Through this bond we will modernize six schools in Kirkland, Redmond and Sammamish, including Juanita High School; make space additions to Lake Washington and Eastlake High Schools; and build six new schools. For every school to get the classrooms it needs when it needs them, every bond must pass! *LWSD has a long history of building on-time and on-budget. Now is the time to build while interest rates are at historic lows.*

Endorsed by Kirkland, Redmond and Sammamish City Councils and Chambers of Commerce; Seattle-King County Association of REALTORS; Lake Washington Education Association; Lake Washington PTSA Council and more than 30 PTAs; and the Lake Washington Schools Foundation. To see elected officials and community leaders who endorsed this measure, visit www.vote4lwskids.org.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

This measure is Phase III of the district's modernization plan, following the on-time, on-budget implementation of Phases I and II. *Expanding enrollment figures speak for themselves.* Between now and 2021, the district needs 180 more classrooms that meet educational and technical standards. Community input supported a responsible, long-range investment in our students' education. Go to lwsd.org for the facts on cost. *Vote Yes to avoid drastic overcrowding and take advantage of historically low interest rates!*

Statement submitted by: Susan D. Baird-Joshi, Kerri N. Nielsen, and Matt Loschen
www.vote4lwskids.org

Explanatory statement

Lake Washington School District requests voter approval to sell \$755,000,000 in general obligation bonds to finance renovations, upgrades and new construction of school facilities, including elementary, middle and high school buildings and construct new replacement school buildings in the District. Projects include acquiring, constructing and equipping new schools to accommodate an expected increase in enrollment of 4,000 students over the next eight years including three new elementary schools, a new middle school, an East Side internationally focused secondary school, a West Side STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) focused secondary school, an addition to Lake Washington High School, an addition to Eastlake High School; and modernizing and replacing (including equipping) Juanita High School, Evergreen Middle School, Kamiakin Middle School, Kirk Elementary, Mead Elementary and Rockwell Elementary. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 20 years. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold.

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 206-296-3920.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Kathryn Reith - Communications Director
425-936-1342 • kreith@lwsd.org

Statement in opposition

We support quality facilities equitably provided to *all* our students and teachers. We oppose this bond measure because it buries us in debt, unfairly builds palaces for some, and leaves thousands in portables and substandard buildings.

The owner of a median-priced (\$424,000) home already pays \$560/year for bonds to modernize our schools. *All* of our schools could have been remodeled with this money.

Using unaudited estimates contrived to show it was cheaper to rebuild than remodel schools, LWSD needlessly demolished 20 of them instead. The district now wants *another* \$755M.

Almost \$400M is earmarked to needlessly rebuild 6 more schools newer than many of our homes. 12 substandard schools will still be left unmodernized for years.

Less than \$300M is earmarked to build new schools and additions to partially handle growth. Thousands will remain in portables for years. Over \$100M is reserved for sites and contingencies.

This bond measure will add \$750/year to a median-priced home's school taxes. Overall property tax bills will go up almost 20%. Little borrowing capacity remains for future needs.

This extravagant and inequitable proposition funds a deeply flawed facility plan! It should be *rejected!*

Rebuttal of statement in favor

No statement submitted.

Statement submitted by: Susan Wilkins and Paul Hall
ParentsForEducation@yahoo.com

Registering to vote

Requirements

To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington State;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day; and
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

How to register

- Register online with the Secretary of State, www.vote.wa.gov.
- Download a registration form from the King County Elections website and return it by mail.
- Register in person at the King County Elections office or annex.

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. The deadlines for the February 11, 2014, special election:

- **January 13** – Deadline to register to vote online or by mail, or update existing voter registration information.
- **February 3** – In-person registration deadline for people not currently registered in Washington. Register in person at the Elections office in Renton or at the Voter Registration Annex in Seattle.

Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name, or if your signature has changed. Simply submit a new registration form to update your information.

Voting materials available in Chinese and Vietnamese

To comply with Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, King County is required to provide voting materials in Chinese and Vietnamese. To request voting materials, update your language preference or register to vote, visit www.myvote.wa.gov or call 206-296-VOTE (8683).

Để thực hiện theo Mục 203 của Đạo Luật Liên Bang về Quyền Bỏ Phiếu, Quận King được yêu cầu phải cung cấp các tài liệu bỏ phiếu bằng tiếng Trung Quốc và tiếng Việt. Để yêu cầu các tài liệu bầu cử, cập nhật lựa chọn ngôn ngữ của quý vị hoặc đăng ký bỏ phiếu, ghé đến www.myvote.wa.gov hoặc gọi 206-296-VOTE (8683) và bấm số 3.

根據聯邦投票權利法案第203節之要求，金郡需要提供中文和越南文版的選舉資訊。欲索取選舉資訊，更新您的語言選擇或登記投票，請查看網站www.myvote.wa.gov或致電206-296-VOTE(8683)，然後按“2”字。