

February 11, 2014 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Mercer Island School District No. 400



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

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.

Accessible voting centers

Accessible voting centers are available for voters who need assistance completing their ballot. Trained staff and specialized equipment is available to help voters with disabilities cast a private, independent ballot.

Voters may also return ballots at these locations during business hours.

King County Elections

919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057

January 24 - February 10: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

February 11: Tuesday, 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall

450 110th Ave NE, Bellevue 98004

February 10: Monday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

February 11: Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Returning your ballot

i Ballot return locations and accessible voting centers can change with every election. See below for a list of the ballot return sites for the February 11, 2014 special election.

Through the mail

You can vote and return your ballot through the U.S. Postal Service as soon as you receive it. Ballots must be postmarked by February 11.

Mailed ballots require first class postage.

! First Class postage rates increase to 49 cents as of January 26th, 2014.

24-hour drop boxes

Return your ballot without using the U.S. Postal Service or a first class stamp at a ballot drop box.

Ballot drop boxes are open: 24 hours a day beginning January 23.

Ballot drop boxes close: on Election Day, February 11, at 8 p.m.

Crossroads Shopping Center

South entrance

15600 NE 8th Street, Bellevue 98008

Federal Way City Hall

33325 8th Avenue S, Federal Way 98003

Issaquah City Hall

130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah 98027

King County Administration Building

500 4th Avenue, Seattle 98104

King County Elections

919 SW Grady Way, Renton 98057

Lake Forest Park City Hall

17425 Ballinger Way NE, Lake Forest Park 98155

Regional Justice Center

401 4th Avenue N, Kent 98032

Near parking garage entrance

Redmond Senior Center

8703 160th Avenue NE, Redmond 98052



Proposition No. 1**General Obligation Bonds - \$98,800,000**

The Board of Directors of Mercer Island School District No. 400 approved Resolution No. 610 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to construct a new elementary school on district property; rebuild and modernize a portion of the middle school; and expand Mercer Island High School by adding four (4) science labs and six (6) general purpose classrooms; to issue \$98,800,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years; and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 610. 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

Mercer Island schools are excellent, but they are severely overcrowded at more than 700 students over capacity. And projections show continued enrollment growth. These extra students are squeezed into 34 portable classrooms -- enough to fill an elementary school alone. Overcrowding is impacting our students' education: common areas are congested and over scheduled; lunch times are compressed; one-on-one learning is challenging; and recreation space is constricted by portables.

This bond builds a fourth elementary school and expands the middle and high schools -- fixing overcrowding at every school. It reflects community priorities. The cost is *half* the previous bond. No swimming pool or stadium improvements. And past school improvements are preserved. The owner of an \$800,000 assessed home is paying about \$456 per year on previous school bonds which expire in 2015. This bond will cost the same homeowner \$656 per year, or \$200 more than they are paying today.

We urgently need more space. It's time to fix overcrowding. Vote yes twice for the Bond and Levy Renewal! Endorsed: All current and 16 former MI school board directors; all MI city council members; former MI mayors Pearman, Cairns, Merkle, Newman, Jarrett; Sen. Litzow, Rep. Clibborn, Rep. Senn. Learn more: www.fixovercrowding.com.

Statement submitted by: Ralph Jorgenson, David D'Souza, and Paul Bergman
www.fixovercrowding.com

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 will authorize Mercer Island School District No. 400 to borrow \$98.8 million by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with the unanimous passage of Mercer Island School Board Resolution No. 610, the bonds will pay for three facilities projects addressing overcrowding in Mercer Island schools.

The school district currently has more than 4,300 students in the high school, middle school, three elementary schools and alternative program, which is about 750 students more than facilities design capacity.

Projects would include: (1) building a fourth elementary school on the district-owned North Mercer campus; (2) expanding Islander Middle School, including 14 classrooms and lab spaces, commons and cafeteria, gymnasiums, music rooms and administrative space; and (3) adding 10 classrooms at Mercer Island High School, including four science lab spaces and six general education classrooms.

The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of 20 years. The estimated increase to repay these bonds is estimated to be \$0.25 per thousand dollars of assessed property value, or about \$250 per year for a home with an assessed value of \$1 million.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Dean Mack - CFO/COO
206-236-4522 • Dean.mack@mercerislandschools.org

Statement in opposition

No statement submitted.

Proposition No. 2

Replacement Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Mercer Island School District No. 400 adopted Resolution No. 611 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 maintenance and operations:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000	
	Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2015	\$1.58	\$14,250,000
2016	\$1.61	\$15,100,000
2017	\$1.65	\$16,000,000
2018	\$1.69	\$16,975,000

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

Mercer Islanders value our excellent schools. They are the heart of our community and why many of us moved here. The four-year maintenance and operations levy helps keep our schools strong. It is a renewal for one that was overwhelmingly approved by Mercer Island voters in 2010.

Washington State does not fully fund K-12 education. Mercer Island must provide additional local funding to maintain education programs not funded by the state. The levy renewal is vital. It provides 26 percent of general funding for nearly 100 teachers and staff, educational programs, school supplies, athletics and transportation. With the renewed levy, Mercer Island property taxes would increase \$0.06 per thousand dollars of assessed property value. For a property with an assessed value of \$800,000, it would result in an increase of about \$48 per year more than they are paying today.

Strong schools make a strong community. It's up to us to keep our schools the best in the state. Vote yes twice for the Levy Renewal and Bond! Endorsed: All current and 16 former MI school board directors; all MI city council members; former MI mayors Pearman, Cairns, Merkle, Newman, Jarrett; Sen. Litzow, Rep. Clibborn, Rep. Senn. Learn more: www.fixovercrowding.com.

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The opponents are not Mercer Island residents and do not have an interest in our schools or community. They are outsiders whose agenda is to cut school funding statewide through misrepresentation. Mercer Island has excellent educators - their leadership and impact on students keep our schools strong, among the best in the state. Levy renewal is critical to supporting approximately 100 teachers and staff and maintaining excellence in district programs. Please vote yes.

Statement submitted by: Ralph Jorgenson, David D'Souza, and Paul Bergman
www.fixovercrowding.com

Explanatory statement

The current maintenance and operations levy funds 26 percent of the Mercer Island School District No. 400's general fund. That levy will expire next year. Passage of Proposition No. 2 will authorize the district to renew the maintenance and operations levy. In accordance with the unanimous passage of Mercer Island School Board Resolution No. 611, the levy will pay for educational programs and services, including nearly 100 teachers and staff.

Because Washington State does not fully fund K-12 education, sustained local funding through the maintenance and operations levy is required in order to maintain the current level of educational programs in Mercer Island schools and exceeding the levels funded by the state.

The renewed levy would provide \$14,250,000 (2015 collection), \$15,100,000 (2016 collection), \$16,000,000 (2017 collection), and \$16,975,000 (2018 collection) for teaching, school supplies, athletics, transportation and educational programs and services to the extent authorized by law.

The levy would be paid out of annual property tax levies, which would increase by \$0.06 per thousand dollars of assessed property value. For a Mercer Island property with an assessed value of \$1 million, it would result in an increase of about \$60 per year.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Dean Mack - CFO/COO
206-236-4522 • Dean.mack@mercerislandschools.org

Statement in opposition

Union officials in the Mercer Island 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 \$51,327 for teachers will be enhanced by 17 percent from levy and levy-matched funds. This costs roughly \$2.3 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 Mercer Island 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

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

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。欲要索取選舉資訊，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。



Contact us

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

Email: elections@kingcounty.gov

Online: www.kingcounty.gov/elections

Mail or in-person: 919 SW Grady Way
Renton, WA 98057

Voter Registration Annex: King County Administration Building
500 4th Ave., Room 311
Seattle, WA 98104



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