

February 12, 2019 Special Election

# King County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Seattle School District No. 1

## Return your ballot by mail. No stamp needed!

We recommend dropping your ballot in the mail by the Friday before Election Day to make sure it gets postmarked in time to be counted.

Ballots must be postmarked by Election Day, February 12.



## Ballot drop boxes

For a list of all 40 drop boxes open for this election visit [kingcounty.gov/elections](http://kingcounty.gov/elections). Here are the Seattle locations:

|  |   |                                    |   |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Ballard</b>                               | Ballard Branch Library, Corner of NW 57th St and 22nd Ave NW, 98107                                   | <b>Lake City</b>                   | Lake City Library, 12501 28th Ave NE, 98125   |
| <b>Beacon Hill</b>                           | Beacon Hill Library, 2821 Beacon Ave S, 98144<br>NewHolly Neighborhood Campus, 7054 32nd Ave S, 98118 | <b>Magnolia</b>                    | * Magnolia Park, 1461 Magnolia Blvd W, 98199  |
| <b>Broadview/<br/>Greenwood</b>              | Broadview Library, 12755 Greenwood Ave N, 98133   | <b>Northgate</b>                   | North Seattle College (south visitor lot access from N 95th St), 9600 College Way N, 98103                      |
| <b>Bryn Mawr-Skyway</b>                      | Skyway Library, 12601 76th Ave S, 98178   | <b>Queen Anne</b>                  | * Seattle Pacific University Bookstore, 310 W Bertona St, 98119   |
| <b>Capitol Hill</b>                          | Seattle Central College, Broadway-Edison Building (northeast corner), 1701 Broadway, 98122            | <b>Rainier Valley</b>              | Rainier Beach Community Center, 8825 Rainier Ave S, 98118   |
| <b>Central District</b>                      | Garfield Community Center, 2323 E Cherry St, 98122  | <b>Sand Point/<br/>Laurelhurst</b> | * Magnuson Park/The Brig, 6344 NE 74th St, 98115  |
| <b>Columbia City</b>                         | Rainier Community Center, 4600 38th Ave S, 98118  | <b>South Lake Union</b>            | South Lake Union, 310 Terry Ave N, 98109  |
| <b>Downtown</b>                              | King County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave, 98104   | <b>South Park</b>                  | South Park Library, 8604 8th Ave S, 98108   |
| <b>Fremont/<br/>Wallingford</b>              | Waterway 19 Park (next to Gas Works Park), 2119 N Northlake Way, 98103                                | <b>University District</b>         | University of Washington Campus, Schmitz Hall (by North entrance on NE 41st St), 1410 NE Campus Parkway, 98195  |
| <b>Green Lake/<br/>Phinney</b>               | Green Lake Community Center, 7201 E Green Lake Dr N, 98115  | <b>West Seattle/<br/>Delridge</b>  | Alaska Junction, Corner of SW Alaska St and 44th Ave SW, 98116<br>High Point Library, 3411 SW Raymond St, 98126 |
| <b>Chinatown-<br/>International District</b> | Uwajimaya, 619 6th Ave S, 98104   | <b>White Center</b>                | White Center Library, 1409 SW 107th St, 98146   |

\* Drive-up ballot drop boxes

## Ballot drop boxes close at 8 p.m. on Election Day, February 12.



## Proposition No. 1 Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 passed Resolution No. 18/19-2 concerning this proposition to maintain current educational funding. To continue high quality programs that are not state funded, this authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes replacing an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Years | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount   |
|------------------|--|---------------|
| 2020             | \$1.05                                     | \$271,300,000 |
| 2021             | \$0.96                                     | \$271,700,000 |
| 2022             | \$0.87                                     | \$272,000,000 |

as provided in the Resolution, subject to legal limits at time of levy. 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).*

### Statement in favor

Please *Renew* this essential Seattle Public Schools Educational Programs and Operations Levy. Its passage is vital to the quality of education we are able to provide the more than 53,800 students currently enrolled.

A great city must have great public schools. This levy benefits every school in every part of Seattle. It replaces our current levy and provides critically-needed funding to pay for things that the state is not fully funding like school staff, instructional materials and new curriculum, STEM education, and Special Education services. If the Operations Levy is not renewed, the district will have to make deep cuts. Teachers and instructional assistants will be laid off and valuable programs that support students will be cut back or eliminated. The state recently changed how it helps fund schools. Some school districts saw a large increase in funding, but Seattle did not.

“Please vote to renew this levy! Without these resources it is hard to imagine how teachers can do their jobs. Thank you.” – Lyon Terry, WA Teacher of the Year 2015, Lawton Elementary School

This levy is not a new tax. It replaces the expiring Operations Levy. Please vote to renew our commitment to Seattle’s children.

Submitted by: Sheila Edwards Lange, Tim Burgess, Eric Liu  
[www.SchoolsFirstSeattle.org](http://www.SchoolsFirstSeattle.org)

### Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Renewing the Educational Programs and Operations Levy is critical to ensuring a high-quality education for our children. It provides critically needed funding to operate our schools – money that the state does not yet provide. This funding benefits every student in every school.

The Con statement is incorrect. Seattle got shortchanged under the new state formula. We cannot have a great city without great schools. Vote Yes on Proposition 1.

### Explanatory statement

Seattle Public Schools requests voter approval of an operations levy of \$815.0 million in the aggregate to be collected in the three year period from 2020 to 2022. The proposed levy will replace an expiring levy.

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of taxes over a three year period to pay for the education programs and operations and to meet the education needs of the students attending District schools. Funds will be used to fund programs that are not funded or not fully funded by the State. The money in and to be paid into the General Fund of the District is insufficient to meet those needs without additional funds.

Programs and services to be funded by the levy include, but are not limited to: teachers, instructional assistants, classified and administrative staff salaries; textbooks and classroom supplies; bilingual and special education services; student transportation, security, maintenance and other operations; student activities, such as arts, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities; professional development and training.

The total amount to be collected will be \$271.3 million in 2020, \$271.7 million in 2021 and \$272.0 million in 2022. The estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value will range from \$1.05 per one thousand for 2020 collections to \$0.87 per one thousand for 2022 collections. The exact levy rate will 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 certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the King County Assessor at 206-296-7300.

For questions about this measure, contact:  
JoLynn Berge, Chief Financial Officer, 206-252-0087, [jdberge@seattleschools.org](mailto:jdberge@seattleschools.org)

### Statement in opposition

I, Nicolas Ray Esparza am asking for a “no” vote on Proposition No.

1 of the Educational Programs and Operations Levy for Seattle School District 1” It is the State’s job under the State Constitution to pay for basic education. It is illegal to pay for teachers’ and staff salaries under this levy. According to the McCleary Decision it is the state’s job to pay for basic education. The school district has had the opportunity to fix many of these financial problems with the monies that have been already provided. It is their financial mismanagement that has brought them to this current situation. If this levy passes we are letting the State legislature get away with not doing their duty to pay for basic education. When they pass it to the tax payers they are basically getting a free pass and not taking the responsibility for fixing the educational short fall. The School District has asked us to pay for this previously and it did not work then, so why would the District ask for this again. Obviously, it is not working.

Submitted by: Nick Esparza  
[nickesparza75@gmail.com](mailto:nickesparza75@gmail.com)

### Rebuttal of statement in favor

Please reject the Educational Operations Levy for Seattle School District. The reasons for saying no to the levy is because the school district wants to use money illegally to pay for teachers’ salaries, which is against Washington State Law. Make the legislature take responsibility first. The word levy means tax and it collected through our property. Don’t let the school district fool us into saying this is not a tax.

## Proposition No. 2 Capital Levy - \$1.4 Billion

The Board of Directors of Seattle School District No. 1 requests approval of a capital levy as described in Resolution No. 2018/19-6. The proposition replaces an expiring capital levy and authorizes the levy of excess taxes to fund the Building Excellence Program V for earthquake, safety projects, construction, or renovation at 16 schools; projects for building systems and major maintenance at 72 schools; and technology and other projects throughout the District:

| Collection Years | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount   |
|------------------|--|---------------|
| 2020             | \$0.90                                     | \$233,333,333 |
| 2021             | \$0.82                                     | \$233,333,333 |
| 2022             | \$0.75                                     | \$233,333,333 |
| 2023             | \$0.68                                     | \$233,333,333 |
| 2024             | \$0.62                                     | \$233,333,334 |
| 2025             | \$0.56                                     | \$233,333,334 |

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).

## Statement in favor

Submitted by: Estela Ortega, Erin Okuno, Peter Maier  
[www.SchoolsFirstSeattle.org](http://www.SchoolsFirstSeattle.org)

Please vote to *Renew* this important Seattle Public Schools Capital Levy.

The Capital Levy will make sure all students and teachers have a safe learning environment by retrofitting buildings for earthquake safety, improving fire alarms and school security systems, and making other critical safety investments.

The Capital Levy replaces an expiring capital levy and is dedicated to building safe and healthy learning places for our children. Many of our school buildings are over 50 years old and need renovation or replacement. Other schools are overcrowded with additional enrollment expected. The capital levy funds critical repairs and renovations across Seattle including construction, renovation, or replacement of eight schools and building system repairs and replacements and major preventive maintenance projects at 72 schools. The capital levy will reduce the use of portables and add nearly 2,000 new classroom seats so that students across the district have quality permanent learning environments.

"The Capital Levy will help our schools and students, and ensures equitable access to modern learning technology by providing up-to-date technology and computers across Seattle." – Dan McGrady

This levy is not a new tax. It replaces the expiring capital levy. Please vote to renew our commitment to Seattle's children.

## Rebuttal of statement in opposition

Vote to *Renew* the expiring Capital Levy to create safe and healthy schools for our kids. The Con statement is incorrect. Many schools are still adding seats due to the last enrollment jump when 5,000 students joined our district.

Projects were prioritized using equity criteria to ensure benefit to underserved populations. Safety and security systems are being updated at every school. Our students and teachers deserve safe learning environments. Vote *Yes* on Proposition 2.

## Explanatory statement

For questions about this measure, contact:  
JoLynn Berge, Chief Financial Officer, 206-252-0087, [jdberge@seattleschools.org](mailto:jdberge@seattleschools.org)

Seattle Public Schools requests voter approval of a capital levy of \$1.4 billion for the Building Excellence V (BEX V) Program.

The proposed levy will replace an expiring capital levy.

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of taxes over a six year period to pay for earthquake and other safety projects in six schools, renovation, construction, replacement or additions to seven elementary schools, one middle school, one high school, and one interim school, construction of building condition and infrastructure improvements and major preventive maintenance at 72 schools, and acquisition and installation of technology equipment and implementation of training and other measures throughout the district to meet the current and future educational needs of its students.

The total amount to be collected will be \$233,333,333 annually in the years 2020 through 2023 and \$233,333,334 annually in the years 2024 and 2025. The estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value will range from \$0.90 per one thousand for 2020 collections to \$0.56 per one thousand for 2025 collections. The exact levy rate will 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 certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the King County Assessor at 206-296-7300.

## Statement in opposition

Submitted by: Chris Jackins, Tracey Lake

This \$1.4 billion Capital Levy costs twice the 2013 levy amount (\$695 million). It will shrink playgrounds, create racially imbalanced enrollment at schools, and waste money.

The levy contains debt payments for a school headquarters building that you were never consulted about. It expands schools when city-wide enrollment dropped in 2018-2019.

The levy will continue the following recent problems: Wasteful spending: 2018 demolition of a 13-year-old \$6.4 million building at Wing Luke Elementary. Shrinking school playgrounds: Loyal Heights Elementary, Thornton Creek, Hazel Wolf, Magnolia, Webster. Field lights used mostly for non-school rental by the City: Ballard, Cleveland, Eagle Staff, Franklin, Garfield, Roosevelt. Refusal to reopen Indian Heritage High School and African American Academy. Sidestepping laws that prohibit deliberate racial segregation: the Magnolia project violated the requirement to not "create or aggravate racial imbalance" so the District crossed out those words and fudged to say that the project "will minimize" racial imbalance (Resolution 2016/17-4).

Please vote "No".

## Rebuttal of statement in favor

For each of the projects noted above, people from the surrounding communities filed appeals. The School District refused to listen. Similarly, the Garfield auditorium was a special place where Martin Luther King Jr. once spoke. The District tore it out despite public protests and now asks that future such actions be exempt from review.

Something is wrong. Startle the District establishment. Please vote "No".

# Accessible voting options

There are other ways to vote besides voting by mail.

## Online Ballot Marking Program

- Voters with disabilities can mark their choices on the ballot online. The online ballot marking program has been designed specifically to enable voters who are blind or have low vision to cast a private ballot.
- If a voter's ballot is damaged or lost, the voter may mark their ballot on a computer and print it out. Return it at a ballot drop box or by mail before the 8 p.m. Election Day deadline.

## Accessible Voting Centers

Accessible voting centers are available for voters that need assistance. Each center has voting machines that offer audio or large print ballots, and other assistive devices.

**King County Elections**, 919 SW Grady Way, Renton, 98057

- Weekdays, January 23 - February 11 from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Election Day, February 12 from 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.

**Union Station**, 401 S. Jackson St, Seattle, 98104

- Monday, February 11 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Election Day, February 12 from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

## Other accessible voting options

If one of the above options doesn't work for you, please contact our office for further assistance:

Phone: 206-296-VOTE (8683)

1-800-325-6165

TTY Relay: 711

Email: [elections@kingcounty.gov](mailto:elections@kingcounty.gov)

# Register to vote

## How to register or update your registration

- Online at [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov) — you'll need a Washington State Driver License or ID.
- Print and mail a registration form at [www.kingcounty.gov/elections](http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections).
- In person at **King County Elections**, 919 SW Grady Way, Renton, 98057 or at the **Elections Annex**, King County Administration Building, 500 4th Ave, Room 440, Seattle, 98104.

## Registration deadlines

- **January 14** – Deadline for online and mail-in voter registration, address change and other updates.
- **February 4** – Deadline for people not currently registered in Washington State (in-person only).



Who donates to campaigns?

View contributors for candidates and measures

Public Disclosure Commission

[www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov) | Toll Free 1-877-601-2828