Kitsap County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet – Special Election – February 11, 2025

South Kitsap School District No. 402 and North Mason School District No. 403 are participating in this election.

Your Right to Privacy

Every voter has the right to vote his or her ballot in secret. Attempting to vote when not qualified, or falsely signing the Voter Declaration, is a felony punishable by up to five years of imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both imprisonment and fine.

Questions or Need a Replacement Ballot?

If you have not received your ballot by January 30, or if your ballot is damaged or lost, you may request a replacement ballot by contacting Kitsap County Elections at <u>auditor@kitsap.gov</u> or (360) 337-7128 (Press 1 to bypass the message.)

Who May Vote

To be eligible to vote, one must register and be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- At least 18 years old.
- Not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison for a Washington felony conviction.
- Not currently incarcerated for a federal or outof-state felony conviction.
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

Options for Registering

- Online at www.VoteWA.gov.
- Complete a paper registration form, available at libraries, city halls, public schools, fire district offices and at the County Auditor's Office.
- When you renew your driver's license.

North Mason School District No. 403

Proposition No. 1

Renewal of Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of North Mason School District adopted Resolution

No. 11-G-24 concerning a proposition for a renewal levy for education funding. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes to renew an expired levy, on all taxable property within the District, to maintain the District's educational programs and operations, which are not funded or fully funded by the State:

	Estimated Levy	
Collection	Rate/\$1,000	Levy
<u>Year</u>	Assessed Value*	<u>Amount</u>
2026	\$1.32	\$ 5,577,446
2027	\$1.32	\$ 5,577,446
2028	\$1.32	\$ 5,577,446
2029	\$1.32	\$ 5,577,446

*to be adjusted for changes in assessed value Should this proposition be approved?

□ Levy ... Yes

□ Levy ... No

This page is not your ballot. Please use the official ballot found in this packet.

Explanatory Statement

(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of property taxes within North Mason School District in the amount of \$5,577,446 per year, for collection in 2026 through 2029, inclusive. In accordance with Resolution No. #11-G-24 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the North Mason School District's General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District that are not funded or fully funded by the State. General expenses of the District include teaching, instructional materials, special programs, activities and sports, technology systems operation, transportation costs, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District schools.

If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$1.32 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in the years 2025 through 2028, inclusive. 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.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your County Assessor.

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Do not place this sheet in the envelope when you return your ballot. Keep it for your records.

Argument For the Measure

Investing in Strong Schools Builds a Strong Community

Our schools are the foundation of our community's future. The Replacement School Enrichment Levy provides critical funding to ensure our kids have the tools, support, and safe environment they need to grow into productive, responsible citizens. This levy helps fund essential staff like paraprofessionals, school counselors, coaches, and security personnel, while supporting music, sports, and other programs that build teamwork, discipline, and creativity.

The safety of our children is paramount, and this levy ensures our schools remain secure, wellmonitored environments where kids can focus on learning. At the same time, it keeps our tax dollars local, providing for specific needs that the state doesn't fully fund.

We understand that the economy is tough for many families right now. That's why it's important to note that this is not a new tax—it's a renewal of a proven investment that has supported our schools and community for years. By voting YES for the Replacement School Enrichment Levy, you're helping to provide our children with the resources they need to succeed, while keeping our community strong and safe for everyone.

Argument prepared by Beth and Jamaal Ali, and Chrissa Maier, Sand Hill Elementary PTSO; Sarah Longmate and Stacey Mckee, North Mason Music Boosters, Citizens for North Mason Schools. For more information, email: <u>bethanyboyum@gmail.com</u>.

Argument Against the Measure

Washington State has been fully funding basic public-school education since the McCleary decision in 2018. This levy attempt includes funding for items that are not considered to be a part of basic education like athletics, extracurriculars, additional classroom support positions, and transportation for students to attend technical trade classes at West Sound Tech.

If these items were necessary for a basic education the State would prioritize funding to cover these items. It is not the taxpayer's responsibility to pay additional taxes to fund these items. Not all students participate in athletics, extracurriculars, or technical trade classes; therefore, the community should not pay to have them offered. Parents who want their students to participate in sports or technical trade classes can choose to enroll them in recreational sports leagues or have them take technical trade classes through a community college.

Teachers are paid enough to educate classes of twenty-seven or more students without needing additional paraeducator support paid for by community tax dollars. They should focus on classroom management which would alleviate the need for additional classroom support positions. The District needs to live within their means and make do with what the State gives them- even if that means only funding what the State deems as basic education.

Argument prepared by Sean Murphy, North Mason Schools No Committee. For more information, contact Sean Murphy at <u>smurphy3161@yahoo.com</u>.

The Auditor's Office is not responsible for the content of statements or their factual and grammatical accuracy. Mason County is the lead county for this measure, and the information here is presented in accordance with that county's rules.

