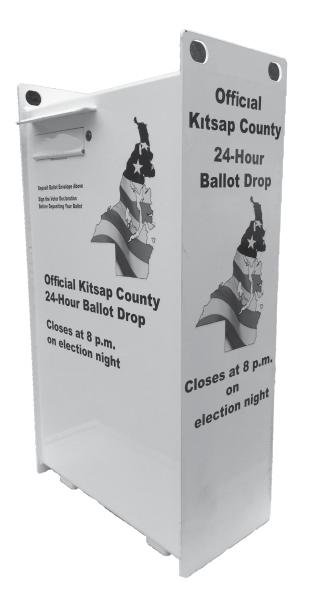


Kitsap County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet Special Election - February 8, 2022



Bremerton City Council District 6 * Bremerton School District No. 100-C North Kitsap School District No. 400 * Central Kitsap School District No. 401

Published by the Office of the Kitsap County Auditor

Ballots will be mailed by January 21

Special Election Local Voters' Pamphlet – February 8, 2022



Dear Kitsap County Voters:

Over the years, you have come to expect to receive a printed Local Voters' Pamphlet in the mail for Primaries and General Elections.

Beginning in 2022, printed copies will also be provided for Special Elections like the one scheduled here in Kitsap County for Feb. 8. They may not always be like this one. If, for example, there were only one ballot measure on Kitsap County ballots, we might see if we can provide a pamphlet within the ballot envelope.

This time around, though, we have four measures and a candidate race. More than half the county will have something to vote on, so we opted to go the normal route for the pamphlet.

As always, arguments for and against each measures appear in this publication. Review the ones that will be on your ballot as you consider how you wish to vote.

Also, our invitation to you to watch us work continues. Ballot processing is considered a public meeting, so the public is entitled to witness the process in person. If you can't make it to our office, check our website to see how you can watch the work online.

Thank you for your continued commitment to good government by reviewing the material in this pamphlet.

Sincerely,

Paul Andrews Kitsap County Auditor

Pamphlet Contents

Register to Vote	1
Sample Ballot	2
Vote Centers and Accessible Voting	3
Voter Information	
Candidate Statements	
Ballot Measures	4-7

Additional Sources of Information

Facebook - <u>www.facebook.com/kitsapcountyauditor</u> Twitter - <u>www.twitter.com/kitsapauditor</u> YouTube <u>www.youtube.com/user/KitsapAuditor</u> Washington Secretary of State - <u>www.sos.wa.gov/elections</u> Federal Voting Assistance Program - <u>www.fvap.gov</u>

Contact Information

Kitsap County Auditor – Elections Division

Mailing Address 614 Division St., MS-31 Port Orchard, WA 98366 **Physical Address** 619 Division St. Port Orchard, WA 98366

Web: <u>kcowa.us/elections</u> Email: <u>auditor@co.kitsap.wa.us</u>

Phone Office: (360) 337-7128 Fax: (360) 337-5769

Office Hours 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Friday (COVID-19 Update: Office hours are subject to change)

Register to Vote

Who May Vote

When to Register

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

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of the state of Washington.
- 18 years of age by the next election.
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections for a Washington felony conviction.
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

How to Register

1

- Online at <u>www.VoteWA.gov</u>.
- Complete a mail-in 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.

Update Your Voter Record if You Move

If you are already registered to vote in Kitsap County, update your voter record online at: <u>www.VoteWA.gov</u> through January 31. You may also email the Kitsap County Auditor – Elections Division at <u>auditor@co.kitsap.wa.us</u> or call (360) 337-7128. Address changes can be made in person until 8 p.m. on Election Day at the Kitsap County Auditor's Office and at the Vote Centers.

Individuals may register to vote at any time. To vote in the February 8 Special Election, the deadlines are:

- January 31: Deadline for mail and online voter registrations, updates and changes.
- **February 8: In-person** deadline for voter registrations, updates and changes. Citizens may register until 8 p.m. on Election Day by appearing in person at the County Auditor's Office. Registration will also be available on Election Day at the Vote Centers at the Marvin Williams Recreation Center and the Poulsbo Fire Station.

Name Change

If you legally changed your name, you must complete a new voter registration. Your new signature is used to validate your ballot.

To Cancel Your Voter Registration

You may sign a form requesting to cancel your registration. In the case of a deceased voter, a family member may sign a form authorizing a cancellation. The form is available by contacting the Kitsap County Auditor's Office or at https://www.kitsapgov.com/auditor/Documents/CancellationForm.pdf.

Sample Ballot

Special Election Sample Ballot

2

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		Approximate			Estimated Levy	
		Rate/\$1,000		:	Rate/\$1,000	
Levy Years	Collection Years	Assessed Value	Levy Amount	Collection Years	Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2022	2023	\$1.10	\$12,904,500	2023	\$1.50	\$20,000,000
2023	2024	\$1.10	\$14,195,000	2024	\$1.50	\$20,000,000
2024	2025	\$0.33	\$4,684,500			
2025	2026	\$0.25	\$3,903,500	Should this p	Should this proposition be approved?	e approved?
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expired 2-year term		Educational Program & Operations Funding Levy	ogram & Ope	erations
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Anna Mockler		School District No. 400 approved Resolution 11-01-21, authorizing a	Vo. 400 appro 1-21, authoriz	wed . zing a
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ch fields, a track, and all necessary	necessary	2023 2024	\$1.38	\$17,777,000
purtenances; other repairs, renovations	rs, renovations	2024 2025	\$1.32	\$18,706,500
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Read Both Sides of the Ballot

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ballot measure campaigns, visit:

www.pdc.wa.gov

Voter Centers and Accessible Voting

Accessibe Voting Unit

Federal law requires jurisdictions to provide vote centers with certified accessible voting devices, which enable voters with disabilities to cast their ballots independently and in private.

Accessible Voting Units provide all contests in audio and high-contrast text formats and are available beginning 18 days prior to the General Election.

Before and on Election Day

January 21 through February 8 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday Election Day, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

(COVID-19 Update: Office hours are subject to change.)

Kitsap County Auditor's Office 619 Division St, Port Orchard, WA 98366

Vote Centers

Election Day, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

- Marvin Williams Recreation Center 725 Park Avenue, Bremerton, WA 98337
- Poulsbo Fire Station
 911 NE Liberty Road, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Online Ballot Access

The State of Washington provides an accessible online ballot and Local Voters' Pamphlet. It is compatible with commonly used accessibility software, such as screen readers and screen magnifiers, and allows for navigation without the use of a mouse and without having to see the cursor on the screen. All candidate video statements are close captioned.

Through Online Ballot Access at <u>VoteWA.gov</u>, you may also verify that Kitsap County Elections has received your ballot using the Ballot Status feature.

Online Ballot Access is available beginning 18 days prior to the General Election at VoteWA.gov.

Voter Information

Questions or Need a Replacement Ballot?

If you have not received your ballot by **Jan. 27**, or if your ballot is damaged or lost, a replacement may be obtained by calling the Kitsap County Auditor – Elections Division at (360) 337-7128.

Military, Overseas and Early Ballots

Military and overseas voters may receive a ballot by email. Other voters believing they would not receive a regular ballot in time to vote may request an early ballot up to 90 days prior to an election by calling the Kitsap County Auditor – Elections Division at (360) 337-7128 or visiting:

kcowa.us/earlyvote

Additional information for military and overseas voters is available from the Federal Voting Assistance Program at: www.fvap.gov.

Email or Faxed Ballots

You may request a ballot be emailed or faxed by contacting the Auditor's Office. Almost all voters must return ballots by mail or dropbox.

Your Right to Privacy

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

Write-Ins – Which Votes Can Be Counted

Write-in votes can only be counted in a General Election if the candidate filed a Declaration of Write-in Candidacy, and there are enough write-in votes for a candidate to win.

Participating Jurisdictions

Districts participating in this Local Voters' Pamphlet are: City of Bremerton, Bremerton School District No.100-C, North Kitsap School District No. 400, Central Kitsap School District No. 401.

Municipal District

City of Bremerton – Council District 6 – Unexpired 2-year term



Mike Simpson (Nonpartisan)

Phone: (360) 990-2925 Email: <u>ElectMikeSimpson2021@gmail.com</u> Facebook: <u>ElectMikeSimpson</u>

Biography: As a native of Bremerton, it has always been my objective to serve the community I love. After retiring from the U.S. Army and Washington Army National Guard, I continued to

protect our community as a Correction's Officer and Deputy Sheriff serving 13 years with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Office. I am a longtime member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles and a proud member of Bremerton's American Legion Post 149. **Statement:** Serving as your current councilman has been a great honor.

The last year and a half brought significant challenges to almost everyone. Many have lost jobs, livelihoods, loved ones and a sense of normalcy. As we've been working to completely reopen our city, we have seen the fractured, divisive politics impede the daily lives of the good people of Bremerton. I've been dedicated to advocating for all Bremerton residents, not just those living in District 6. I promise to continue working tirelessly to reduce our tax burden and the operating cost of our government.

I humbly ask for your support in my bid for re-election to the Bremerton City Council as your representative.

Life does not happen at the speed of Government.



Anna Mockler (Nonpartisan) **Statement:** I'm running to represent a hard-working district. I've talked to most of you and we want similar things - to live peacefully in our homes, walk safely on our streets, and leave a better world for the next generation. We want a good quality of life for our present and our future. I stand for good government that is transparent and responsive, safe streets and strong communities, affordable housing, and living wage jobs in a sustainable city.

Phone: (360) 509-8280 Email: <u>Mockler4Bremerton6@riseup.net</u> Website: <u>Mockler4Bremerton.com</u>

Elected Experience: Reelected Precinct Committee Officer for the 22nd Precinct in 2020.

Other Professional Experience: I've been

an insulation contractor, a union printer, and a wetland scientist for King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, consultant to City of Fircrest and WA-DOE, many others. Most recently, a university adjunct, teaching Writing and Critical Thinking.

Education: Master's in Environmental Conservation Education from New York University. Certified wetland scientist (ret.) by the Society of Wetland Scientists.

Community Service: Writer/editor for Society of Wetland Scientists, Society for Ecological Restoration, Audubon Society. Activist for ACLU, Black Lives Matter, Fair Fight, others. Let our government speak plainly and act rightly, with respect for human dignity. Let's slow down speeders so we can wave hello to neighbors as we walk. Bremerton needs union jobs, a \$15 minimum wage, and employees over contractors wherever possible. I'll advocate for a residency requirement for Bremerton Police, and residency incentives for all other City employees, because you best serve a community when it's your own. I'll work hard for good housing for all in a sustainable city. I'll be accessible and effective, with a posted schedule of my neighborhood walks and other events on my website.

These are big ideas. I have workable plans to make them reality on my website, <u>Mockler4Bremerton.com</u>. Elect Anna Mockler: Your Voice at City Hall.

3 The Auditor's Office is not responsible for the content of statements or their factual and grammatical accuracy.

Bremerton School District No. 100-C

Proposition No. 1 Capital Projects Replacement Levy

Official Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Bremerton School District No. 100-C adopted Resolution No. 2021/2022-07 concerning a levy for capital projects. This proposition would provide for a new sports complex at Mountain View Middle School to include football, soccer, baseball, and fast pitch fields, a track, and all necessary appurtenances; other repairs, renovations and improvements to District facilities; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

	Approximate	
Collection	Levy Rate/\$1,000	Levy
Years	Assessed Value	Amount
2023	\$1.32	\$8,500,000
2024	\$1.26	\$8,500,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2021/2022-07. Should this proposition be approved?

□ Yes

 \square No

Argument For the Measure

Support Bremerton schools by voting *yes* to support a capital levy for the design, construction, and improvement of a new sports complex (football/soccer field and track, a mixed-use soccer/baseball/fast pitch field) at Mountain View Middle School. Currently the school has an enrollment of 781 and offers a wide range of outdoor sports and health/PE courses to enhance the academic experience of students attending. Unfortunately, the current facilities are not conducive to growth, nor safety, particularly during the winter months. The lack of proper outdoor facilities creates an overreliance on fields/space at the high school and other sites around Bremerton, as well as places limitations on outdoor activities related to health/PE classes.

Washington is required to supply school districts with state funding for "basic education" which is based on what is referred to as a "prototypical model" representing the Legislature's assumptions of what resources are required to provide the program of basic education. When the funding provided by the state does not cover the actual costs to operate, construct and maintain a school district, districts often utilize bonds and levies to bridge the gap. This local funding allows districts to provide the structures and services communities rely on, which allows students to grow and thrive.

This capital projects levy will replace the 2021-22 capital levy, which expires at the end of the 2022 calendar year. Your *yes* vote will continue the vital work needed to provide safe and healthy facilities for Bremerton staff and students attending now and in the future.

Explanatory Statement

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

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$8,500,000 in property taxes within Bremerton School District No. 100-C for collection in 2023 and the levy of \$8,500,000 for collection in 2024 to design, construction, improvement and equipping of a new sports complex, including, but not limited to, a new football/soccer field and track, a new mixed use soccer/baseball/fast pitch field, and all necessary appurtenances at Mountain View Middle School, including lighting, bleachers, walls, storage, concessions, restrooms, walkways, sidewalks, and parking. In accordance with Resolution No. 2021/2022-07 approving this proposition, these taxes would be collected over two years and deposited in the District's Capital Projects Fund for replacements of and improvements to existing facilities of the District to meet the current and future educational programs for its students. If authorized by the voters, and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$1.32 (2023 collection) and \$1.26 (2024 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 certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, contact the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.

Argument Against the Measure

No argument submitted.

Rebuttal to the Argument Against

No argument against the measure submitted for rebuttal

Rebuttal to the Argument For

No rebuttal submitted.

Argument prepared by Jessica Falk, committee chair, committee for the measure. Further questions may be addressed by calling (360) 471-8163 or emailing jessicafalk83@yahoo.com.

No committee formed against the measure.

4 The Auditor's Office is not responsible for the content of statements or their factual and grammatical accuracy.

North Kitsap School District No. 400

Proposition No. 1 Educational Program & Operations Funding Levy

Official Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of North Kitsap School District No. 400 approved Resolution 11-01-21, authorizing a renewal of an expiring levy for education. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following taxes on all taxable property within the District, to provide funding for instructional programs beyond the state minimum instructional offerings, staffing ratios, program components, or professional learning allocations, including student and program support programs, and enriched operational support of the District:

Levy Years	Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2022	2023	\$1.45	\$16,972,500
2023	2024	\$1.38	\$17,777,000
2024	2025	\$1.32	\$18,706,500
2025	2026	\$1.25	\$19,558,500

Should this proposition be approved?

□ Yes

 \square No

Argument For the Measure

Schools Are Not Fully Funded in Washington

Funding for day-to-day operations of public schools comes from three main sources: state, federal, and local taxes. The state does not fully fund education, so school districts must ask local communities to support levies. In North Kitsap, local levies fund 15% of the costs for daily school operations and educational programs. The local levy is dependent on a majority-level support of voters. The current levy expires in 2022. This renewal is not a new tax.

Funding the Basics

The Educational Program and Operations (EP&O) Levy directly funds basic classroom and operational needs. This supports funding gaps in special education, food services, transportation, grounds/ facility maintenance, basic utilities, and support staff including nurses, librarians, safety support, para- educators, custodians, technology and office staff. *Essential student engagement programs including athletics, extracurricular activities and clubs are 100% funded by the EP&O levy.*

Community Support

Our community recognizes the value of public education – and the importance of local levies in providing funding for our schools. *That's why NKSD levies have won majority- level support for decades. "Yes"* votes from registered voters will ensure continued local funding of our schools will be secured.

Vote Yes

Vote "Yes" for the Educational Program & Operations Levy and "Yes" for the Capital Levy to provide NKSD students excellent educational programs in safe, secure schools. *These ballot measures are both needed to ensure adequate funding for our schools and our students.*

Explanatory Statement

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

Local levy funding is necessary to maintain the present educational program of North Kitsap School District No. 400. State basic education funding remains inadequate to fully fund the District's operation.

Passage of Proposition No. 1 will authorize the District to continue a fouryear educational program and operations levy to support school operations programs for the 2022-23 through 2025-26 school years. The levy is not a new tax on real property. It replaces an expiring voter-approved four-year educational program and operations support levy which expires in 2022.

The proposed levy would provide funding to allow the District to continue to support and provide educational services and district operations not fully funded by the state, including the full costs of Certificated Staff (Teachers, Counselors, Librarians) as well as additional Certificated Staff to reduce class sizes and meet student needs; Classified Staff (Office Managers, Secretaries, Paraeducators, Grounds, Maintenance, Custodial, Computer Techs, Food/Nutrition Services, Bus Drivers, Support Center – payroll, human resources, accounting, district, building and program managers) necessary to support educational programs and operations; Special Education services; Transportation Operations; Food and Nutrition Services; and Extra-Curricular Programs, Athletics and Student Activities.

Rejection of the levy would result in increased class sizes, reductions in special education services, decreased paraeducator support, reduction of education programing for blended technology learning, reduced maintenance, grounds, and custodial support for the District's 231.56 acres of school grounds and playfields and 1 million square feet of facilities, increased bus ride times, increased costs of paid school lunches, and elimination of extra-curricular activities.

Argument Against the Measure

Approving *this* Levy does not equate to a safe and enriched education. In just four years, NKSD's general fund budget has increased to over \$99 million dollars, an increase of \$23 million dollars. Superintendent's base salary increased by \$42,000 to \$202,000, top Administrators received 6.3% - 52.7% raises, which committed taxpayers to ongoing increased Levy supplements for salaries. Levies *instead* should supplement and enhance students' education, not excessive salaries. *Vote no until kids' education first!*

Elementary school children were physically and sexually assaulted on buses with lawsuit settlement payouts over \$6.5 million. Risk Management payments have doubled since 2017, annual Risk Management payments are now over \$1 million. *Vote no until kids' safety first!*

Even with increased revenue and 493 fewer students than four years ago, NKSD cut music classes, phased out highly capable programs and are in deficit spending.

For nine consecutive months, the Board of Directors and Superintendent were warned by the Finance Director: "Spending one-time money (fund balance) on continuous expenses (increased salaries) is not sustainable." NKSD is in deficit spending despite receiving more than \$7 million in COVID relief. Approving *this* Levy will not stop their deficit spending. NKSD Board of Directors and Administrators have proven their inability to construct and work within a budget. *The time is now to vote no to irresponsible spending. Vote no until we have an Administration and Board who*

Our community, our commitment, our future.

Rebuttal to the Argument Against

We encourage voters to fact-check the claims made in the against argument. This levy will fund essential services for students (special education, nurses, counselors, maintenance staff, support staff). The levy has also funded new, exciting classes in addition to the many offerings already available, and it has allowed the district to hire highly trained teachers and support staff to directly benefit student learning every single day. All financial information is always provided for public review.

Argument prepared by Tania Johnstone Issa, committee chair; Jim Schlachter and KJ Lange, committee members; committee for the measure. Further questions may be addressed by emailing <u>vote4nksd2022@gmail.com</u> truly put NKSD Kids First.

Rebuttal to the Argument For

Don't be misled, June 2018, Washington Supreme Court declared the State has fully funded schools. New or retax is irrelevant; NKSD is collecting more money. NKSD's Community is *not* supportive of being excluded from decisions, irresponsible spending, and excessive administrative salaries. Most don't know the extent of the problem, to learn more, rebuttal details and documentation at <u>www.</u> <u>nksdkidsfirst.com</u> Vote "no", then insist NKSD create a solid, wellthought and planned Levy *with community input.*

Argument prepared by Scott Henden, committee chair; Stacie Schmechel and Kim Gerlach, committee members; NKSD Kids First. Further questions may be addressed by emailing <u>nksdkidsfirst@gmail.com</u>, calling (360) 670-0444 or visiting <u>www.nksdkidsfirst.com</u>.

5 The Auditor's Office is not responsible for the content of arguments or their factual and grammatical accuracy.

North Kitsap School District No. 400

Proposition No. 2 Facilities and Technology Capital Projects Levy

Official Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of North Kitsap School District No. 400 approved Resolution 11-02-21 concerning a proposition for capital project levies. This proposition would fund construction, modernization and remodeling of existing facilities to improve the health, comfort, safety, security, facility infrastructure and class size requirements, as well as improving technology equipment and technology infrastructure, and authorizes the following excess levies on all taxable property within the District:

Levy Years	Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount	
2022	2023	\$1.10	\$12,904,500	
2023	2024	\$1.10	\$14,195,000	
2024	2025	\$0.33	\$4,684,500	
2025	2026	\$0.25	\$3,903,500	
Should this proposition be approved?				
□ Yes				
□ No				

Argument For the Measure

Schools Are Not Fully Funded in Washington

Funding to acquire, improve or maintain capital assets such as school buildings, technology and infrastructure *are not considered basic education and are not funded by the state*. All funding for buildings and improvements comes from approved local tax dollars. The Capital Levy is not a new tax, it is a replacement tax.

Proven Track Record

Over the last four years, the District has successfully improved schools with new HVAC systems, roof repairs and replacements, technology, athletic field improvements and much more. It is vital that we continue to support this critical work that is not funded by the state.

Technology and Future Growth

The Capital Levy is replacing the levy approved by voters in 2018. The Capital Levy will continue funding laptops for every student and vital tech support and infrastructure - both of which are critical in today's education. The Capital Levy will ensure the continuity of essential repairs and upgrades to NKSD buildings and grounds. The levy will also provide equitable resources to all buildings via major capital improvements at several schools.

Vote Yes

Our community recognizes the value of public education – and the importance of local levies in providing funding for our schools. *That's why NKSD levies have won majority- level support for decades.* Majority support to ensure continued local funding of our schools is vital. Vote "Yes" for the Capital Levy to provide students with excellent

Explanatory Statement

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

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would authorize a four-year levy from 2023 through 2026 to provide capital funds for North Kitsap School District No. 400 to improve technology equipment and support technology replacement cycle, provide additional classroom facilities to match projected enrollment, provide equitable access for students to learning facilities, provide ongoing maintenance and upgrades to school buildings and facilities throughout the school district, and provide funding to acquire property for future projected growth. This levy would provide funding for costs not otherwise provided by the state of Washington at a stable annual tax rate, without incurring interest costs, during the 2022-23 through 2025-26 school years.

The proposed capital levy was developed with the help of a Citizen's Facility Advisory Committee, which included facility management professionals, District staff, and parents, that identified priority areas to address school facility needs and determine potential costs. The School Board reviewed and accepted these recommendations. The proposed capital levy replaces the previous capital levy that expires in 2022.

Rejection of the levy would result in the inability of the district to provide necessary and required upgrades for school safety, health, and comfort. It would require increased class size as well as the continued reliance on portable buildings instead of permanent facilities. The District would incur increased maintenance and operational costs to service and operate obsolete or aging facility, utilities, and infrastructure systems, and incur risks and costs of legal noncompliance with state mandates to reduce class sizes.

Argument Against the Measure

This Capital Levy places taxpayers on a path toward boundless large projects, not yet vetted by the public. NKSD needs to go back to the drawing board, work *with* the community, and develop a plan placing *NKSD Kids First*.

Do NKSD Students Tangibly Benefit From Your \$35 Million Dollars?

NKSD proposes future engineering and design work for a new elementary school, a permanent facility to replace portables at Poulsbo Middle School, as many classrooms as possible at Wolfle Elementary, and two gymnasiums, although Wolfle and Suquamish Elementary have suitably used theirs as cafeterias/gymnasiums since being built.

NKSD's Proposal Is Unclear

This Levy wish list requires your future vote on a Bond. Passing *this* Levy will commit taxpayers, without knowing the actual cost, to an 8-year Bond and expensive construction of a new elementary school. Breidablik Elementary (closed) requires action, imminently a new roof or demolition. NKSD plans to replace Pearson, and give Wolfle and Gordon Elementary major remodels and additions.

Is It Realistic?

Accomplishing major additions at three schools and purchasing a large parcel of land within Poulsbo City limits for an elementary school, along with completing the projects they have not completed using your last Levy money, and ongoing technology and maintenance, is questionable.

These plans are being made by a small handful of people with no community discussion...only the input of community money. *Vote no, until feasible plans for facilities, technology and maintenance put NKSD Kids First.*

educational programs and technology rich learning in safe and secure schools.

Rebuttal to the Argument Against

It is important to clarify that the replacement capital levy *does not obligate voters to a bond*. As explained during several public meetings, infrastructure and technology projects will be completed within the published funding amount. All projects were discussed and approved in partnership with a large, diverse group of local community volunteers, whose expertise contributed to four years of on-time and on-budget project completion. This committee will continue to steward NKSD capital projects moving forward.

Argument prepared by Tania Johnstone Issa, committee chair; Jim Schlachter and KJ Lange, committee members; committee for the measure. Further questions may be addressed by emailing vote4nksd2022@gmail.com

Rebuttal to the Argument For

Don't be deceived, school funding is complex. Other sources (grants, Federal and State Funds) provide Capital Assets, buildings, and improvements. Documentation at - RCW 28A.150.260, <u>www.nksdkidsfirst.com</u> It's misleading to imply students received "excellent educational programs"; many students are below grade level after pandemic (*not*) learning at home. *New or retax is irrelevant, NKSD is collecting more money!* Student protests and local media reports *not all students are, or feel safe and secure.*

Argument prepared by Scott Henden, committee chair; Stacie Schmechel and Kim Gerlach, committee members; NKSD Kids First. Further questions may be addressed by emailing <u>nksdkidsfirst@gmail.com</u>, calling (360) 670-0444 or visiting <u>www.nksdkidsfirst.com</u>.

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Central Kitsap School District No. 401

Proposition No. 1 Replacement School Support Levy for Educational Enrichment Programs and Operations

Official Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Central Kitsap School District No. 401 approved Resolution No. 04-21-22 concerning the replacement of an expiring school support levy. This proposition provides funding for educational programs and operations not funded by the State. If approved, Proposition 1 will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, all as provided in Resolution 04-21-22:

	Estimated	
Collection	Levy Rate/\$1,000	Levy
Years	Assessed Value	Amount
2023	\$1.50	\$20,000,000
2024	\$1.50	\$20,000,000

Should this proposition be approved?

□ Yes

□ No

Argument For the Measure

Residents of Central Kitsap don't have a town square or a city hall. But we do have a community. And at the heart of our community, you'll find our schools. They bring us together.

The Support Levy Funds Critical Student Services and Support

Vote "Yes" to support our Central Kitsap students. Every several years, the Support Levy must be renewed. The district has had a levy in place for more than 20 years that helps us fund programs that are not covered by the state. Without the levy, we would be unable to fully fund things like arts, athletics and clubs, special education, nurses, counselors, and libraries. The levy also provides the funds to keep our class sizes small, technology up to date, and ensures that safety and security is a priority at every school.

This Is Not a New Tax

This replacement levy is an invaluable opportunity to continue supporting our schools and programs at the current rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Seniors and people living with disabilities may be eligible for tax exemptions. Visit <u>tinyurl.com/kitsapexemptions</u> for more information.

You can be confident in the district's responsible use of state, federal, and community dollars, and they can prove it. The district posts its detailed budgets every year, and it has a consistent record of "clean" reports from the state auditor.

Please vote "Yes" by Tuesday, February 8!

Let's ensure continued excellence in Central Kitsap schools.

Explanatory Statement

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

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Central Kitsap School District No. 401 to renew an expiring levy for educational programs and operations by levying \$20,000,000 in property taxes for collection in 2023, and \$20,000,000 for collection in 2024.

In accordance with Resolution No. 04-21-22 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the District's General Fund and used to pay for day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, such as classroom teachers, librarians, and nurses; after school activities; athletics; arts and music programs; classroom computer technology; and other instructional program support, in accordance with the Basic Education Funding Act (Laws of 2017, 3d Spec. Sess., ch. 13), as amended, and other applicable law.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the district estimates tax rates of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2023 collection); and \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2024 collection).

Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For information regarding exemptions, call the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.

Argument Against the Measure

Like dumping your tax dollars into programs without proof they did any good? Happy with the way CKSD is spending your money and what goes on in our voter-funded classrooms? Then vote Yes on the Replacement Levy.

Instead, do you expect Accountability, Transparency, and Effectiveness? Then vote *No*.

54% of state and local taxes go to schools. CKSD was authorized to collect \$54M dollars over the last three years...*above and beyond* state, and federal dollars received. What did they do with that money? Who knows? During the recent Enrichment Levy Advisory Panel (August to October) CKSD couldn't/wouldn't detail what real-world goods and services were purchased for their many levy-funded programs, how many individuals benefited from those programs, or whether there were any measurable outcomes from those millions. When pressed, CKSD executives said "the taxpayers don't care," and "the media isn't interested." We beg to differ. Now they want an additional \$40M over two years. Really?

What we know is the *vast* majority of levy funds went to personnel, but is there any evidence that the program goals were pursued? CKSD refused to show any.

The bottom line is simple: accepting tax dollars carries an obligation to prove that those dollars are not just spent, but well-spent, and there's a big difference between accounting, and accountability. The community can't be expected to fund CKSD's unending appetite without complete transparency regarding how those dollars are spent, and some idea of their bang for the buck.

Rebuttal to the Argument Against

The opposition statement utilizes made-up quotes and inaccurate information. Your Yes vote means the tax rate remains the same at \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. And it is very clear what these funds pay for: they cover nurses, safety, arts, athletics, counselors, extracurriculars, libraries, security guards, instructors, special education, technology, and transportation for our students. Please vote Yes and renew this vital commitment!

Rebuttal to the Argument For

The levy funds *critical* services? Really? "Teacher Supplemental Days" are *critical*? "Graduation Support" and "Student Engagement" (whatever they are) are *critical*? Yes, they've been soaking us for 20 years, and still expect the community to not ask hard questions. No more. If the district can "prove" their responsible use of tax dollars, why did they say otherwise to their own advisory panel? Make no mistake; the levy isn't critical. It's extra income for educators.

Argument prepared by Mark Hughes, committee chair; Harriette Bryant and Ed Wolfe (in his personal capacity); committee members; committee for the measure. Further questions may be addressed by emailing <u>vesckschools@gmail.com</u>. Argument prepared by Dave Jones and Damon Williams committee co-chairs; committee against the measure. Further questions may be addressed by emailing <u>d.a.williams2011@gmail.com</u>.

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