

**Blaine School District No. 503
 Proposition No. 2016-1
 Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District No. 503 passed Resolution #1516-05 concerning a proposition to support school programs and daily operations. 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 daily operations, including teachers, staff, classroom materials, and textbooks:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$1.98	\$7,000,000
2018	\$2.01	\$7,170,000
2019	\$2.04	\$7,340,000
2020	\$2.06	\$7,500,000

Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 allows the levy of: \$7,000,000 in property taxes within Blaine School District No. 503 for collection in 2017, \$7,170,000 in 2018, \$7,340,000 in 2019, and \$7,500,000 in 2020, to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 1516-05, would be used to pay certain costs of District educational programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.98 (2017 collection), \$2.01 (2018 collection), \$2.04 (2019 collection), and \$2.06 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate will be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For	Rebuttal of Statement For
<p>Vote Yes to this replacement levy, which supplements state money and pays directly for classroom needs and other extra-curricular programs. It replaces the current levy and represents 25% of the day to day operational expenses.</p> <p>The levy funds will reduce class size, enhance staffing and supply textbooks and other curriculum materials. It also funds art and music, athletics, special education, gifted programs and student transportation. The levy will also support state mandated future program needs; full time kindergarten and increased graduation requirements.</p> <p>Approving this levy will renew our commitment to fund high quality basic education. It maintains the district’s ability to prepare students for college, work and life in the global marketplace. Our school district needs these dollars to make up the difference between what the state funds, and what it actually requires to run and maintain Blaine school district’s quality education programs.</p> <p>It’s not a new tax; it’s a renewal that supports learning. Make a difference. Continue our commitment and Vote Yes.</p> <p>Statement For prepared by: Cliff Freeman & Tammy Westfall</p>	<p>No statement submitted.</p>
<p>Statement Against No statement submitted.</p>	<p>Rebuttal of Statement Against No statement submitted.</p>

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Ferndale School District No. 502
 Proposition No. 2016-1
 Replacement Educational Program and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 15-2015 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 program and operations:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$3.70	\$14,475,000
2018	\$3.70	\$14,765,000
2019	\$3.70	\$15,060,000
2020	\$3.70	\$15,360,000

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 allows the levy of: \$14,475,000 in property taxes within Ferndale School District No. 502 for collection in 2017, \$14,765,000 in 2018, \$15,060,000 in 2019, and \$15,360,000 in 2020 to support the District’s educational program and operations. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 15-2015, would be used to pay for necessary maintenance and operations costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$3.70 (2017 collection), \$3.70 (2018 collection), \$3.70 (2019 collection), and \$3.70 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For	Rebuttal of Statement For
<p>Levies are for Learning. Since 1977, voters have renewed the Maintenance and Operations Levy because they understand these funds are used to maintain programs and operate our school district. The Levy funds 25% of the District’s budget and pays for a quarter of teacher salaries, two-thirds of classified staff, and all athletic, drama, music, technology, and extracurricular programs like Aiming High and the award-winning Future Farmers of America.</p> <p>Providing access to and training with the latest technology ensures our students are ready to successfully compete in a global economy. Research also shows children involved in after-school activities are much more likely to graduate, which is why we’re proud more than 67% of Ferndale high school students participate in one or more activities.</p> <p>Operating costs continue to rise, but the Levy will be maintained at its current rate. And though it may be tempting to think the Legislature will start funding schools at the same level as before the Great Recession, the current State education budget does not begin to cover the costs of running a modern school system.</p> <p>Please vote ‘yes’ to renew this essential funding and give our children the tools they need to succeed.</p> <p>Statement For prepared by: Ferndale School District Levy Committee; Cathy Watson & Greg Ebe</p>	<p>No statement submitted.</p>

<p>Statement Against No statement submitted.</p>	<p>Rebuttal of Statement Against No statement submitted.</p>
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Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Lynden School District No. 504
 Proposition No. 2016-1
 Replacement Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 19-15 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:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$2.83	\$5,850,000
2018	\$2.84	\$6,050,000
2019	\$2.85	\$6,250,000
2020	\$2.85	\$6,450,000

Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 allows the levy of: \$5,850,000 in property taxes within Lynden School District No. 504 for collection in 2017, \$6,050,000 in 2018, \$6,250,000 in 2019, and \$6,450,000 in 2020 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 19-15, would be used to pay certain costs of District education programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.83 (2017 collection), \$2.84 (2018 collection), \$2.85 (2019 collection), and \$2.85 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

By voting Yes to renew Lynden School District’s 4-year Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy, you are helping to continue the quality education provided for all Lynden students. This 4-year levy replaces the current levy which expires in 2016. Funds from this levy continue to bridge the 20% gap in the budget between what the state allocates for basic education and what Lynden needs to maintain the programs & experiences currently being offered.

Passage of this replacement levy will ensure continued funding for additional classroom teachers to maintain smaller class sizes, extracurricular athletics and activities, educational assistants, maintenance costs, technology for learning, and maintenance & operation of transportation. Let’s give our students the best possible chance for a quality education and bright future by voting Yes to renew Lynden’s 4-year Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy. Let’s work together to improve schools, one ballot at a time.

Don’t delay! Please mark and mail in your ballot today! Vote Yes for Lynden.

Statement For prepared by:
 Citizens for Lynden Schools; Tammy Yoder, Cindy Petersen, and Corrine DeJong

Rebuttal of Statement For

No statement submitted.

Statement Against

No statement submitted.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

No statement submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Meridian School District No. 505
 Proposition No. 2016-1
 Replacement Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors of Meridian School District No. 505 adopted Resolution No. 14-15 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:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$4.13	\$4,150,000
2018	\$4.18	\$4,200,000
2019	\$4.20	\$4,225,000
2020	\$4.23	\$4,250,000

Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 would allow the levy of: \$4,150,000 in property taxes within Meridian School District No. 505 for collection in 2017, \$4,200,000 in 2018, \$4,225,000 in 2019, and \$4,250,000 in 2020. This levy replaces an expiring levy, and, in accordance with Resolution No. 14-15, would be used to pay certain costs of District education programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$4.13 (2017 collection), \$4.18 (2018), \$4.20 (2019), and \$4.23 (2020). The exact levy rate will be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

The local levy in Meridian School District provides 22% of the operating budget for our schools. Without these funds our children would be in schools that could not offer the breadth of academic and athletic programs and supports for students that we enjoy in Meridian.

The District has been a good steward of our local tax dollars. They continually receive clean financial audits and have demonstrated they take good care of school buildings, grounds, equipment and buses.

Meridian schools are good places for our children and grandchildren to learn and grow. Please support our schools by voting “Yes” on the levy.

Statement For prepared by:
 Meridian Citizens for Education Committee; Fawn Morgan & Lise Waugh

Rebuttal of Statement For
 No statement submitted.

Statement Against

No statement submitted.

Rebuttal of Statement Against
 No statement submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Ferndale School District No. 502 - Proposition No. 2016-1
Replacement Educational Program and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 15-2015 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 program and operations:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$3.70	\$14,475,000
2018	\$3.70	\$14,765,000
2019	\$3.70	\$15,060,000
2020	\$3.70	\$15,360,000

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 allows the levy of: \$14,475,000 in property taxes within Ferndale School District No. 502 for collection in 2017, \$14,765,000 in 2018, \$15,060,000 in 2019, and \$15,360,000 in 2020 to support the District's educational program and operations. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 15-2015, would be used to pay for necessary maintenance and operations costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$3.70 (2017 collection), \$3.70 (2018 collection), \$3.70 (2019 collection), and \$3.70 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Levies are for Learning. Since 1977, voters have renewed the Maintenance and Operations Levy because they understand these funds are used to maintain programs and operate our school district. The Levy funds 25% of the District's budget and pays for a quarter of teacher salaries, two-thirds of classified staff, and all athletic, drama, music, technology, and extracurricular programs like Aiming High and the award-winning Future Farmers of America.

Providing access to and training with the latest technology ensures our students are ready to successfully compete in a global economy. Research also shows children involved in after-school activities are much more likely to graduate, which is why we're proud more than 67% of Ferndale high school students participate in one or more activities.

Operating costs continue to rise, but the Levy will be maintained at its current rate. And though it may be tempting to think the Legislature will start funding schools at the same level as before the Great Recession, the current State education budget does not begin to cover the costs of running a modern school system.

Please vote 'yes' to renew this essential funding and give our children the tools they need to succeed.

Statement For prepared by: Ferndale School District Levy Committee; Cathy Watson & Greg Ebe

Rebuttal of Statement For
No statement submitted.

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 8 - Proposition No. 2016-1
Tax Levy For Maintenance and Operations**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 8 adopted Resolution No. 2015-15 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District for four years to be used for maintenance and operations to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services. The levy amount shall be as follows for each of the four years:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$0.49	\$305,000
2018	\$0.50	\$315,000
2019	\$0.50	\$325,000
2020	\$0.51	\$335,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 8 requests approval of a four year maintenance and operations property tax levy. As a result of declining tax revenues and increasing costs, the District's regular tax levy is no longer adequate to continue providing fire, emergency medical, and rescue services at existing levels of service. By spreading costs over four years, the district is able to limit the levy to approximately 50 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. If approved, the law prohibits any additional tax levies for maintenance and operational support of the district for this four-year period.

Statement For

In 2007 the Voters of Fire District 8 approved a six-year fire levy increase. Through conservative budgeting and frugal spending they have been able to make this six-year levy increase last for 10 years. The Fire District has sought out additional funding through grants and other resources to avoid raising additional tax money.

The Fire District has experienced their expenses growing an average of 7.16% each year while their revenues have grown less than 1% on average each year. Additionally, shortages in available volunteer firefighters has created times where the Districts fire stations are short staffed or closed because of a lack of staffing.

While the District still plans on using a combination of career and volunteer firefighter staffing, additional funding is needed to continue to ensure adequate staff at their two fire stations (Bennett Dr and MacKenzie Rd) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The funding from this levy will go to pay for basic fire and emergency medical services and allow the District to pay for additional, stable staffing.

The levy request amounts to around \$11.75 per month in additional taxes for the owner of a \$300,000 home. We urge you to vote yes!

Statement For prepared by: Paul Nelson, Keith Neher, and Lois Hindman

Rebuttal of Statement For
No statement submitted.

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Bellingham School District No. 501
Proposition No. 2016-1
Replacement Educational Support and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #29-15 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 operations:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$2.64	\$32,900,000
2018	\$2.63	\$33,900,000
2019	\$2.63	\$34,900,000
2020	\$2.62	\$35,900,000

all as provided in District Resolution #29-15. Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 allows the levy of: \$32,900,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District No. 501 for collection in 2017, \$33,900,000 in 2018, \$34,900,000 in 2019, and \$35,900,000 in 2020 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 29-15, would be used to pay certain costs of education programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.64 (2017 collection), \$2.63 (2018 collection), \$2.63 (2019 collection), and \$2.62 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Bellingham Public Schools' operations levy is expiring in 2016 and our support is needed to continue this essential funding. This is not a new levy; it will replace the expiring one.

Our local children and schools are relying on our support to replace this operations levy. It funds more than 25% of Bellingham Public Schools' annual budget. It covers gaps in state funding to lower class size, pay for teachers and staff, and support educational programs, including music, athletics and activities.

Please visit bellinghamlevy.org for more information and a current list of the many endorsements of this important levy. Vote Yes on Bellingham Public Schools Technology Levy.

Statement For prepared by:
Citizens Advisory Committee; Rachel Williams, Bradley Swanson, and Jay Shilhanek

Rebuttal of Statement For
No statement submitted.

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Bellingham School District No. 501
Proposition No. 2016-2
Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #30-15 concerning a technology levy to replace an expiring technology levy. The proposition authorizes acquiring and applying technology, equipment, training, and other costs associated with district instruction and operations, 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>
2017	\$0.94	\$11,700,000
2018	\$0.98	\$12,700,000
2019	\$0.78	\$10,400,000
2020	\$0.76	\$10,400,000

all as provided in District Resolution #30-15. Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-2 would allow the levy of: \$11,700,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District No. 501 for collection in 2017, \$12,700,000 in 2018, \$10,400,000 in 2019, and \$10,400,000 in 2020. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 30-15, would be used to pay for technology for student learning, equipment, and related costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.94 (2017 collection), \$0.98 (2018 collection), \$0.78 (2019 collection), and \$0.76 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Technology is a critical part of today's educational program to prepare students for higher education and high wage jobs to contribute to our community and local economy.

Bellingham Public Schools' technology levy is expiring in 2016, and our support is needed to continue this essential funding. This is not a new levy; it will replace the expiring one.

It funds computers; classroom technology; adaptive learning devices for children with special needs; training for staff; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Career and Technical Education (CTE); education of online safety, empathy and responsibility; and a 1:1 (one-to-one) technology initiative to support learning and prepare students for the future.

Please visit bellinghamlevy.org for more information and a current list of the many endorsements of this important levy. Vote Yes on Bellingham Public Schools Technology Levy.

Statement For prepared by: Citizens Advisory Committee; Rachel Williams, Bradley Swanson, and Jay Shilhanek

Rebuttal of Statement For
No statement submitted.

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet - Special Election February 9, 2016

Voting Instructions

Vote:

- Mark your ballot
- Put your ballot into the security envelope and seal
- Place the security envelope inside the green return envelope and seal

Sign:

- Sign the voter declaration

Return:

- Return your ballot to the Auditor's Office - Election Division

Voting Center:

Whatcom County Auditor's Office - Election Division
 • 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham, WA 98225
 • Phone: 360-778-5102
 • Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
 Election Day, February 9, 8:30 am - 8 pm

Services Available:

- Accessible voting using visual and audio technology
- Replacement ballots
- Voter registration

Returning Your Ballot:

By Mail:

One \$.49 stamp required. Ballots must be postmarked by February 9. USPS recommends mailing by Monday, February 8.

By Drop Box:

No postage needed. Boxes open January 20; close at 8 pm on February 9. Locations available:

Bellingham

- 311 Grand Avenue: Whatcom County Courthouse, in the south parking lot of the courthouse or inside at Suite 103
- 501 High Street: WWU Bookstore
- 237 W. Kellogg Road: Whatcom Community College, on campus beside Heiner Center
- 210 36th Street: Haggen Sehome Village, northeast corner of parking lot

Birch Bay - 4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road: North Whatcom Fire & Rescue Station

Blaine - 610 3rd Street: Blaine Library

Deming - 5044 Mt. Baker Highway: Deming Library

Everson - 106 E. Main Street: WECU parking lot

Ferndale - 2095 Main Street: Ferndale City Hall

Kendall - 7506 Kendall Road: North Fork Library at Kendall

Lynden - 216 4th Street: Lynden Library

Meridian - 6172 Guide Meridian: Laurel Grange

Sudden Valley - Gate One, at Security Office turnaround

Sumas - 534 Railroad Avenue: behind the Post Office

For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.

Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 8 - Proposition No. 2016-1 Tax Levy For Maintenance and Operations

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 8 adopted Resolution No. 2015-15 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District for four years to be used for maintenance and operations to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services. The levy amount shall be as follows for each of the four years:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$0.49	\$305,000
2018	\$0.50	\$315,000
2019	\$0.50	\$325,000
2020	\$0.51	\$335,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes _____

No _____

Explanatory Statement

Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 8 requests approval of a four year maintenance and operations property tax levy. As a result of declining tax revenues and increasing costs, the District's regular tax levy is no longer adequate to continue providing fire, emergency medical, and rescue services at existing levels of service. By spreading costs over four years, the district is able to limit the levy to approximately 50 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. If approved, the law prohibits any additional tax levies for maintenance and operational support of the district for this four-year period.

Statement For

In 2007 the Voters of Fire District 8 approved a six-year fire levy increase. Through conservative budgeting and frugal spending they have been able to make this six-year levy increase last for 10 years. The Fire District has sought out additional funding through grants and other resources to avoid raising additional tax money.

The Fire District has experienced their expenses growing an average of 7.16% each year while their revenues have grown less than 1% on average each year. Additionally, shortages in available volunteer firefighters has created times where the Districts fire stations are short staffed or closed because of a lack of staffing.

While the District still plans on using a combination of career and volunteer firefighter staffing, additional funding is needed to continue to ensure adequate staff at their two fire stations (Bennett Dr and MacKenzie Rd) 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The funding from this levy will go to pay for basic fire and emergency medical services and allow the District to pay for additional, stable staffing.

The levy request amounts to around \$11.75 per month in additional taxes for the owner of a \$300,000 home. We urge you to vote yes!

Statement For prepared by: Paul Nelson, Keith Neher, and Lois Hindman

Rebuttal of Statement For No statement submitted.

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Nooksack Valley School District No. 506
 Proposition No. 2016-1
 Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 7 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 maintain current educational program funding levels and support the District’s educational programs, student services and operations:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$4.40	\$3,800,000
2018	\$4.40	\$3,900,000
2019	\$4.40	\$3,900,000
2020	\$4.40	\$4,000,000

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 would authorize the Nooksack Valley School District No. 506 to replace an expiring levy. This levy allows the levy of \$3,800,000 in property taxes within the District for collection in 2017, \$3,900,000 in 2018, \$3,900,000 in 2019, and \$4,000,000 in 2020 to maintain current funding levels and support the District’s educational programs, services, maintenance and operations. Estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$4.40 (2017 collection), \$4.40 (2018 collection), \$4.40 (2019 collection), and \$4.40 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For	Rebuttal of Statement For
<p>This levy replaces the expiring levy and will provide funds for essential school services through 2020. This is not a new tax. These services include lower class size, instructional materials, technology, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities (music, drama, athletics, field trips, etc.), support services and staff, daily operations and more. School districts across the state run local levies as they cannot rely solely on federal and state government to adequately fund a high quality education for children. In fact, the levy makes up about 20% of the District’s educational and operating budget.</p> <p>Our District has a history of fiscal responsibility and community support, and leverages our resources to the students’ greatest benefit. The school board is actually asking for a lower tax rate than voters approved 4 years ago. Our community has a long history of supporting the District. We are thankful to the community for the recent passage of the bond, funding several construction projects, including the replacement of the 1947 middle school. Let’s continue to provide the necessary educational and operational funds our kids deserve. Voting yes to renew the levy is a vote to continue the quality education provided to all students in Nooksack Valley. Please vote yes!</p> <p>Statement For prepared by: Scott Mitchell & Jennifer Lautenbach</p>	<p>No statement submitted.</p>
<p>Statement Against No statement submitted.</p>	<p>Rebuttal of Statement Against No statement submitted.</p>

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Mount Baker School District No. 507
 Proposition No. 2016-1
 Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 15/16:3 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 daily operations, including teachers, staff, classroom materials, and textbooks:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$3.95	\$5,800,000
2018	\$4.00	\$5,880,000
2019	\$4.06	\$5,970,000
2020	\$4.12	\$6,060,000

Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 would allow the levy of: \$5,800,000 in property taxes within the Mount Baker School District No. 507 for collection in 2017, \$5,880,000 in 2018, \$5,970,000 in 2019, and \$6,060,000 in 2020. This levy replaces an expiring levy, and, in accordance with Resolution No. 15/16:3, would be used to pay certain costs of District education programs and operations support. Based upon projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$3.95 (2017 collection), \$4.00 (2018), \$4.06 (2019), and \$4.12 (2020). The exact levy rate will be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Voting Yes for this levy maintains funding that represents 23% of the Mount Baker School District budget. These levy funds help reduce class size, support school security and college/career prep programs. This levy also supports after school tutoring, late bus transportation, extra-curricular arts programs and our Mount Baker sports programs.

It is crucial to preserve current school district funding levels to ensure that these important programs and supports stay available to all students.

This levy request is calculated at the same level as the 2012 levy which was approved by voters. The overall rate per thousand collected the by school district if this levy is approved is less in the first year than the rate per thousand collected by the school district in 2006. This stability is due to sound fiscal management and the retirement of all of the school districts school construction bonds.

EP&O levies maintain local support for our students and have been consistently supported by parents, residents and businesses in the Mount Baker School District. Let’s renew our commitment to children, schools and our community. Vote Yes for schools!

Statement For prepared by:
 Mount Baker Citizens for Education; Bruce Burpee & Ian Linterman

Rebuttal of Statement For

No statement submitted.

Statement Against

No statement submitted.

Rebuttal of Statement Against

No statement submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.

**Bellingham School District No. 501
Proposition No. 2016-1
Replacement Educational Support and Operations Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #29-15 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 operations:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2017	\$2.64	\$32,900,000
2018	\$2.63	\$33,900,000
2019	\$2.63	\$34,900,000
2020	\$2.62	\$35,900,000

all as provided in District Resolution #29-15. Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-1 allows the levy of: \$32,900,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District No. 501 for collection in 2017, \$33,900,000 in 2018, \$34,900,000 in 2019, and \$35,900,000 in 2020 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 29-15, would be used to pay certain costs of education programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.64 (2017 collection), \$2.63 (2018 collection), \$2.63 (2019 collection), and \$2.62 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Bellingham Public Schools' operations levy is expiring in 2016 and our support is needed to continue this essential funding. This is not a new levy; it will replace the expiring one.

Our local children and schools are relying on our support to replace this operations levy. It funds more than 25% of Bellingham Public Schools' annual budget. It covers gaps in state funding to lower class size, pay for teachers and staff, and support educational programs, including music, athletics and activities.

Please visit bellinghamlevy.org for more information and a current list of the many endorsements of this important levy. Vote Yes on Bellingham Public Schools Technology Levy.

Statement For prepared by:
Citizens Advisory Committee; Rachel Williams, Bradley Swanson, and Jay Shilhanek

Rebuttal of Statement For
No statement submitted.

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Bellingham School District No. 501
Proposition No. 2016-2
Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #30-15 concerning a technology levy to replace an expiring technology levy. The proposition authorizes acquiring and applying technology, equipment, training, and other costs associated with district instruction and operations, 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>
2017	\$0.94	\$11,700,000
2018	\$0.98	\$12,700,000
2019	\$0.78	\$10,400,000
2020	\$0.76	\$10,400,000

all as provided in District Resolution #30-15. Should this proposition be approved? Yes _____
No _____

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2016-2 would allow the levy of: \$11,700,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District No. 501 for collection in 2017, \$12,700,000 in 2018, \$10,400,000 in 2019, and \$10,400,000 in 2020. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 30-15, would be used to pay for technology for student learning, equipment, and related costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.94 (2017 collection), \$0.98 (2018 collection), \$0.78 (2019 collection), and \$0.76 (2020 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Technology is a critical part of today's educational program to prepare students for higher education and high wage jobs to contribute to our community and local economy.

Bellingham Public Schools' technology levy is expiring in 2016, and our support is needed to continue this essential funding. This is not a new levy; it will replace the expiring one.

It funds computers; classroom technology; adaptive learning devices for children with special needs; training for staff; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and Career and Technical Education (CTE); education of online safety, empathy and responsibility; and a 1:1 (one-to-one) technology initiative to support learning and prepare students for the future.

Please visit bellinghamlevy.org for more information and a current list of the many endorsements of this important levy. Vote Yes on Bellingham Public Schools Technology Levy.

Statement For prepared by: Citizens Advisory Committee; Rachel Williams, Bradley Swanson, and Jay Shilhanek

Rebuttal of Statement For
No statement submitted.

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet - Special Election February 9, 2016

Voting Instructions:

Vote:

- Mark your ballot
- Put your ballot into the security envelope and seal
- Place the security envelope inside the green return envelope and seal

Sign:

- Sign the voter declaration

Return:

- Return your ballot to the Auditor's Office - Election Division

Voting Center:

Whatcom County Auditor's Office - Election Division

- 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham, WA 98225
- Phone: 360-778-5102
- Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us

Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Election Day, February 9, 8:30 am - 8pm

Services Available:

- Accessible voting using visual and audio technology
- Replacement ballots
- Voter registration

Returning Your Ballot:

By Mail:

One \$.49 stamp required.

Ballots must be postmarked by February 9. USPS recommends mailing by Monday, February 8.

By Drop Box:

No postage needed. Boxes open January 20; close at 8 pm on February 9.

Locations available:

Bellingham

- 311 Grand Avenue: Whatcom County Courthouse, in the south parking lot of the courthouse or inside at Suite 103
- 501 High Street: WWU Bookstore
- 237 W. Kellogg Road: Whatcom Community College, on campus beside Heiner Center
- 210 36th Street: Haggen Sehome Village, northeast corner of parking lot

Birch Bay - 4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road: North Whatcom Fire & Rescue Station

Blaine - 610 3rd Street: Blaine Library

Deming - 5044 Mt. Baker Highway: Deming Library

Everson - 106 E. Main Street: WECU parking lot

Ferndale - 2095 Main Street: Ferndale City Hall

Kendall - 7506 Kendall Road: North Fork Library at Kendall

Lynden - 216 4th Street: Lynden Library

Meridian - 6172 Guide Meridian: Laurel Grange

Sudden Valley - Gate One, at Security Office turnaround

Sumas - 534 Railroad Avenue: behind the Post Office



For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.