

# Whatcom County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

## Special Election - February 13, 2024

### Voting Instructions:

**Vote:**

- Mark your ballot
- Put your ballot in the security sleeve
- Place the security sleeve inside the return envelope and seal

**Sign:**

- Sign & date the voter declaration on your return envelope

**Return:**

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

### Voting Center:

Services Available: Voter registration, replacement ballots, and accessible voting using visual and audio technology.

Whatcom County Auditor's Office - Election Division

- Location: 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham
- Phone: 360-778-5102
- Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us
- Web: www.whatcomcounty/us/elections
- Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

*Election Day, February 13, open until 8:00 pm*

### Returning Your Ballot:

#### By Official Ballot Drop Box

OPEN January 24

CLOSE at 8:00 pm on February 13



<b>Bellingham</b>	Whatcom County Courthouse, inside rotunda during business hours	311 Grand Ave.
	In south parking lot of Courthouse, enter from Grand Avenue	247 Grand Ave.
	Sehome Haggen (NE parking lot)	210 36th St.
	In theatre parking lot, between Scotty Browns and WaFd Bank	3055 Woburn St.
	WCC outside the Auxiliary Services Building (ASB).	620 W. Kellogg Rd.
	WWU, on campus outside Bond Hall	Red Square
	WWU, on campus outside Wade King Student Recreation Center	1880 Bill McDonald Pkwy.
<b>Acme</b>	Acme Elem. School parking lot	5200 Turkington Rd.
<b>Birch Bay</b>	North Whatcom Fire & Rescue parking lot	4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Rd.
<b>Blaine</b>	Blaine Library parking lot	610 3rd St.
<b>Custer</b>	Custer Elem. School parking lot	7660 Custer School Rd.
<b>Deming</b>	Deming Library parking lot	5044 Mt. Baker Hwy.
<b>Everson</b>	WECU parking lot	106 E. Main St.
<b>Ferndale</b>	Ferndale City Hall parking lot	2095 Main St.
<b>Kendall</b>	North Fork Com. Library parking lot	7506 Kendall Rd.
<b>Lummi Reservation</b>	Lummi Nation Administration Building, outside the main entrance	2665 Kwina Rd.
<b>Lynden</b>	Behind Lynden Library	216 4th St.
<b>Maple Falls</b>	In Post Office parking lot	7392 Mt. Baker Hwy.
<b>Meridian</b>	Laurel Grange parking lot	6172 Guide Meridian
<b>Point Roberts</b>	Inside the International Marketplace <i>Drop box available during store hours</i>	480 Tye Dr.
<b>Sudden Valley</b>	Outside in the security office turnaround at Gate 1	2020 Lake Whatcom Blvd.
<b>Sumas</b>	Behind the Post Office	534 Railroad Ave.



#### How to Register to Vote in Time for the February Special:

- **ONLINE:** www.VoteWA.gov on or before Monday, February 5
- **PAPER FORM:** Complete and return a Washington State Voter Registration Form. Mailed forms must be received in the Auditor's Office by Monday, February 5.
- **IN PERSON:** Come into the Auditor's Office by 8:00 pm on February 13.

#### How to Get a Ballot Packet:

- Once registered, a ballot will be sent in the mail.
- Replacement ballot packets are available in-person at the Auditor's Office or online at www.VoteWA.gov

#### Participating Jurisdictions:

Bellingham School District 501, Ferndale School District 502, Blaine School District 503, Lynden School District 504, Meridian School District 505, Nooksack Valley School District 506, Mount Baker School District 507, Concrete School District No. 11, Fire Protection District 8, and the Blaine-Birch Bay Park & Recreation District 2.

#### By Mail:

No stamp needed.

Ballots must be postmarked by February 13.

**Bellingham School District 501  
Proposition 2024-12  
Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 29-23 concerning a replacement levy for educational funding. This proposition authorizes the district to replace an expired levy and to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the district, to support the district's educational operations which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.20	\$37,000,000
2026	\$1.22	\$39,000,000
2027	\$1.25	\$41,000,000
2028	\$1.27	\$43,000,000

all as provided in District Resolution No. 29-23.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-12 allows the levy of: \$37,000,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District 501 for collection in 2025, \$39,000,000 in 2026, \$41,000,000 in 2027, and \$43,000,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 29-23, would be used to pay certain costs of educational and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.20 (2025 collection), \$1.22 (2026 collection), \$1.25 (2027 collection), and \$1.27 (2028 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

Bellingham Public Schools' current Operations Levy is expiring in 2024, and our community support is needed to continue this essential funding. Levies pay for staff, services and programs; they're needed because these essential services are not adequately funded by the state. School levies cover nearly a quarter of our district's budget.

This replacement operations levy supports teaching and learning by paying for teachers, counselors, nurses and other staff. It lowers class sizes and provides arts, music, athletics and other important programs that support developing our children into well-rounded humans. It funds fundamental operations and programs such as safety, Special Education, multilingual learners and highly capable. This levy also supports food services and wellness, and funds field trips and Project Free Education.

Please visit [bellinghamlevy.org](http://bellinghamlevy.org) for more information and a current list of the many endorsements of this important levy. Vote Yes on Bellingham Public Schools' Operations Levy.

**Statement For prepared by:**

Citizens for Bellingham Schools: Lynnette Bennett, Sam Humphreys, and Brittany McWilliams

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

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Bellingham School District 501  
Proposition 2024-13  
Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 30-23 concerning a replacement technology levy. This proposition authorizes acquisition, installation and management of computer technology systems; enhanced infrastructure; staffing and training; licensing software; projects and infrastructure updates for school safety; maintenance improvement purchases, and other capital projects, and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the district:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.61	\$19,000,000
2026	\$0.63	\$20,000,000
2027	\$0.64	\$21,000,000
2028	\$0.65	\$22,000,000

all as provided in District Resolution No. 30-23.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-13 would allow the levy of: \$19,000,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District 501 for collection in 2025, \$20,000,000 in 2026, \$21,000,000 in 2027, and \$22,000,000 in 2028. This levy, in accordance with Resolution #30-23, would be used to pay for learning technology, enhanced school safety infrastructure, maintenance and building improvements, and related costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.61 (2025 collection), \$0.63 (2026 collection), \$0.64 (2027 collection), and \$0.65 (2028 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

Bellingham Public Schools' current Technology Capital Levy expires in 2024, and our community support is needed to continue this essential funding. A passing vote would replace the expiring levy.

This technology capital replacement levy supports school safety enhancements, including door-locking systems and security cameras.

This technology levy is a fundamental part of our instructional program that pays for student and school computers; classroom technology; digital resources; adaptive technologies for children with special needs; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) resources; and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, such as robotics and driver's education.

The levy pays for staff who properly maintain and repair digital and technology equipment to increase its lifespan. It also provides professional development for staff to implement innovative technology and support our continued emphasis in online safety and digital citizenship. Please visit [bellinghamlevy.org](http://bellinghamlevy.org) for more information and vote Yes on Bellingham Public Schools' Technology Capital Levy.

**Statement For prepared by:**

Citizens for Bellingham Schools: Lynnette Bennett, Sam Humphreys, and Brittany McWilliams

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

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Ferndale School District 502  
Proposition 2024-11  
School Programs and Operations Replacement Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Ferndale School District 502 adopted Resolution No. 15-23 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 and support the District’s educational programs and operations, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.45	\$14,000,000
2026	\$1.48	\$15,000,000
2027	\$1.50	\$16,000,000
2028	\$1.52	\$17,000,000

all as provided in the Resolution.

Should this proposition be approved?      Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-11 allows the levy of: \$14,000,000 in property taxes within Ferndale School District 502 for collection in 2025, \$15,000,000 in 2026, \$16,000,000 in 2027, and \$17,000,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 15-23, would be used to pay certain costs of educational and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.45 (2025 collection), \$1.48 (2026 collection), \$1.50 (2027 collection), and \$1.52 (2028 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

Join us in voting yes on this important levy renewal. This is not a new levy; it replaces the existing levy that expires December 2024 and continues critical funding for our students and schools. All funds support local Ferndale students and schools.

Prop. 2024-11 funding bridges the gap between what the state provides and what is necessary for a quality education. It provides an integral part of each school’s operating budget, including technology like student laptops, important jobs in our community like nurses, teachers, counselors, food service and support staff beyond state-funded positions. This levy continues funding for special education, advanced learning, and our 8-period high school schedule that allows more electives. The state provides zero funding for athletics, music, drama and extracurricular activities - these are primarily levy funded. Failure to pass this measure would result in drastic cuts.

We’re proud of our Ferndale students, teachers, and families. The district listened to voters and is keeping the local tax rate stable. Better schools build stronger communities, and that’s why the voters overwhelmingly passed this measure two years ago. Let’s renew our commitment and ensure a quality education for all our students.

**Statement For and Rebuttal of Statement Against prepared by:**  
Support Ferndale Schools: Jay Julius, Jake Locker, and Larry Brown

**Rebuttal of Statement For**

Everyone supports kids, parents, and front-line educators, but we can’t stand waste, like FSD buying new buses instead of reconditioning existing buses for 1/3 the cost, and *disastrous academic performance contrasted against constant increases in the district’s budget, administrative staff/salaries, and our property taxes*. 58.9% of our students failing to meet grade-level standards is not “quality education.” Copy-and-paste platitudes from past voter guides are insufficient; *structural change is needed to save our students*. Vote No.

**Statement Against**

Ferndale School District’s proposed property tax increase will add an unsustainable burden on the already overtaxed and maxed-out budgets of voters, parents, renters, and homeowners. Voters generously approved the current \$11,000,000 local levy for 2023. *The district wants more, \$14,000,000 in 2025, increasing to \$17,000,000 by 2028.*

Despite annual increases in taxes, administrative salaries, and the district’s budget; *academic performance has plummeted*. In 2018-2019, FSD spent \$14,723/student and reported 49.9% of students tested below the grade-level standards in Math, English, Science. By 2022-2023, spending increased to \$19,275/student. *FSD reported a staggering 58.9% of students failed to meet grade-level standards. \$4,552 more for worse results!*

This glaring discrepancy between rising expenses and diminishing results demands scrutiny. How can FSD claim an 84% graduation rate with such dismal scores? Grade Inflation? What “subjects” are actually being taught all day? *At \$19,585 spent per student this year, are you satisfied with the quality of the education your child is receiving?*

FSD must lay out a clear plan detailing how they will significantly improve students’ core-subject competencies. *Vote no on this levy and make the district focus on actually educating, not indoctrinating, our children*. FSD can rerun a more modest local levy in November.

**Statement Against and Rebuttal of Statement For prepared by:**  
Responsible Oversight Ferndale: Andrew Gustafson, Jim Pettinger, and Matthew Aamot

**Rebuttal of Statement Against**

This is not a new tax, but continues our current local levy funding. Our state does not fully fund education. Local levy dollars keep critical staff like nurses, and ensure our students have what they need to be successful. Without continuing this funding, we would have to make drastic cuts in our schools. In response to our community’s wishes, we collect below the maximum amount allowed every election, keeping our tax rate stable. Vote Yes!

**Blaine School District 503**  
**Proposition 2024-07**  
**Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 adopted Resolution No. 2324-01 concerning a replacement levy for educational funding. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following taxes to fund vital educational programs and operations that are not funded by the state and to replace an expired levy on taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.98	\$7,500,000
2026	\$1.00	\$7,850,000
2027	\$1.03	\$8,250,000
2028	\$1.04	\$8,500,000

subject to legal limits on levy amounts and rates at the time of the levy.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-07 allows the levy of: \$7,500,000 in property taxes within Blaine School District 503 for collection in 2025, \$7,850,000 in 2026, \$8,250,000 in 2027, and \$8,500,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 2324-01, would be used to pay certain costs of educational and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.98 (2025 collection), \$1.00 (2026 collection), \$1.03 (2027 collection), and \$1.04 (2028 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

Levies are for Learning. Please join us in prioritizing the education of our children and the future of our community by voting “yes” on the Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy.

The Replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy is Not a new tax! We are simply asking local voters to replace a previously approved levy that will expire in 2024. The EP&O Levy supports learning and funds the programs, services, and staffing our community depends on; including transportation, food services, expanded curriculum, and extracurricular activities.

Budget cuts in the 2023-2024 school year cost our district many beloved faculty and staff positions and jeopardized the education system our community has come to know. Several years ago, our state invested in public education through the McCleary Decision yet many of the services and support our students rely on remain underfunded. Voting “yes” on this replacement levy is our opportunity to show that we care for our children, our teachers and staff, and our community.

Blaine’s legacy of supporting school levies continues – show your Borderite Pride, vote “yes.”

**Statement For prepared by:** Jaime Arnett, Jenna Schrengghost, and Kevin Reid

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

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Blaine School District 503**  
**Proposition 2024-08**  
**General Obligations Bond - \$70,000,000**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 adopted Resolution No. 2324-02 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to make improvements and additions to Blaine Middle School, Pipeline Athletic Complex, Point Roberts Primary School, Birch Bay site, and other capital improvements; to issue \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 25 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 2324-02.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

**Explanatory Statement**

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 adopted Resolution No. 232402 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to renovate and modernize Blaine Middle School; field upgrades and additions to Pipeline Athletic Complex; improvements to Point Roberts Primary School; improvements of maintenance facilities, technology infrastructure, electrical and mechanical upgrades; Birch Bay site improvements; and other capital infrastructure improvements to the facilities of the District, to issue \$70,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 25 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in the Resolution.

**Statement For**

Bonds are for Building. Invest in our children’s future – vote “yes” on a bond proposal to enhance school facilities, ensuring safety, wellness, and optimal learning environments for all students and our community.

Recognizing inadequate state funding, this community-driven decision for a bond plan was the result of a thorough analysis by the Facilities Advisory Committee. Their focus on updating the Middle School’s infrastructure for student safety, enhancing Pipeline Fields, improving Point Roberts’ playground lighting, and implementing district-wide electrical and mechanical updates underscores our commitment to providing a secure and conducive learning atmosphere. Your support will also contribute to the preliminary designs for a new elementary school in Birch Bay.

If approved, the proposed bond replaces an expiring Capital Levy and other bonds, this means tax rates are projected to stay the same as current rates!

Secure the future for our children! Vote “yes” on this vital bond proposal to ensure safe and reliable facilities. Your support makes a difference.

**Statement For prepared by:** Jaime Arnett, Jenna Schrengghost, and Kevin Reid

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

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Lynden School District 504  
Proposition 2024-01  
Renewal of Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Lynden School District 504 adopted Resolution No. 12-23 concerning a renewal levy for educational funding. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following taxes to fund vital educational programs and operations that are not funded by the state and to replace an expired levy on taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.84	\$10,150,000
2026	\$1.84	\$10,750,000
2027	\$1.84	\$11,400,000
2028	\$1.84	\$12,075,000

subject to legal limits on levy amounts and rates at the time of the levy.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-01 allows the levy of: \$10,150,000 in property taxes within Lynden School District 504 for collection in 2025, \$10,750,000 in 2026, \$11,400,000 in 2027, and \$12,075,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 12-23, would be used to pay certain costs of educational and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.84 for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2028. The exact levy rates shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy is a local tax, bridging the gap between state funding for basic education, and the actual costs for the Lynden School District to provide an outstanding learning experience for all students, regardless of needs.

Our current levy expires in 2024. We are not asking for a new tax, but for your support of replacing the two expiring taxes to ensure that Lynden can continue providing safe schools, extracurricular activities (including athletics), transportation, student nutrition, facility maintenance, and student support programs such as special education, multilingual, and highly capable programs, as well as many other ongoing funding demands. Currently, the levy provides 14% of our annual operating budget.

In a constantly evolving educational environment, continued passage of the levy allows the district to adapt in real-time to emerging needs and opportunities for our kids. Our community has supported the levy for over 40 years, which has resulted in the continued growth of our town. The impact goes beyond families of Lynden students; it trickles out into the community through college and career-ready students.

Join us in voting Yes! for Our Kids, Our Town, Our Future.

**Statement For prepared by:** Citizens for Lynden Schools: Caleb Hazel, Karen Timmer, and Kent Oostra

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

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Lynden School District 504  
Proposition 2024-02  
General Obligations Bond - \$157,500,000**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Lynden School District 504 adopted Resolution No. 10-23 approving a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to construct and equip a new Lynden High School, add classrooms and shared spaces, and upgrade heating and ventilation systems at Isom and Vossbeck Schools add HVAC on upper floors of Fisher School and Lynden Middle School, to issue \$157,500,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 22 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution #10-23.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

**Explanatory Statement**

The Board of Directors of Lynden School District 504 adopted Resolution No. 10-23 approving a proposition for bonds. This authorizes the District to construct and equip a new Lynden High School, add permanent classrooms and upgrade heating and ventilation systems at Isom and Vossbeck Elementary Schools and install HVAC systems on the upper floors of Fisher Elementary School and Lynden Middle School, and make other capital infrastructure improvements, to issue \$157,500,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 22 years, and to collect excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in the Resolution.

**Statement For**

Phoebe Judson ended her search for “An Ideal Home” here in Lynden, establishing the Northwest Normal School in the late 1800’s. She wanted to ensure education and opportunity for her own children and for the generations to come. 150 years later, Lynden continues to grow with the same principles: a town focused on education and opportunity. Whether that education takes place in the Lynden School District, at our stellar private schools, or at home; we continue to benefit from the spirit of our founding mother.

After months of research by multiple citizen groups and exploration of alternative options, we are strongly encouraging a “Yes” vote on this bond. There is agreement across the community that Lynden High School needs replacement to accommodate the growth of our town. Investing now will add value to the entire community, and delaying will only increase the cost, and will not reduce the needed work.

Funding a new high school and updating facilities will result in safer schools, capacity for growth, Career and Technical opportunities, a Performing Arts Center, all helping to prepare our community’s next generation to do great things.

Join us by saying “Yes” to Our Kids, Our Town, and Our Future.

**Statement For prepared by:** Citizens for Lynden Schools: Caleb Hazel, Karen Timmer, and Kent Oostra

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

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Meridian School District 505  
Proposition 2024-09  
Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Meridian School District 505 adopted Resolution No. 08-23 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 and support the District's educational programs and operations, including teachers, staff, materials, athletics, safety, special education, facilities maintenance, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.10	\$6,000,000
2026	\$2.10	\$6,300,000
2027	\$2.10	\$6,600,000
2028	\$2.10	\$6,900,000

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-09 allows the levy of: \$6,000,000 in property taxes within Meridian School District 505 for collection in 2025, \$6,300,000 in 2026, \$6,600,000 in 2027, and \$6,900,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 08-23, would be used to pay certain costs of educational and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.10 for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2028. The exact levy rates shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

This replacement levy provides 18% of the operating budget for our schools which closes the funding gap left behind by the state and federal government. Without this local levy, our students could not receive the breadth of academic and athletic programs that we enjoy in Meridian. This levy provides our children with a high-quality school experience that prepares them for success. When we invest in our children, we invest in our future.

The district is a good steward of our local tax dollars, which is why an overwhelming majority of Meridian families have approved this levy for more than 20 years. The district continually receives clean financial audits, and have demonstrated a commitment to excellence as they care for school facilities, grounds, equipment and buses.

The committee has ensured that the levy amount is the minimum needed to maintain the current level of educational excellence we expect in Meridian.

The Meridian community has a long history of coming together to fund education for our youth, generation after generation. Because of the support from our community, Meridian schools are exceptional places for our community's children to learn and grow. Please continue this support by voting "Yes" on the levy.

**Statement For prepared by:**

Meridian Citizens for Education Committee: Sara Bernardy, Bill Chambers, and JD Phillips

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

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Meridian School District 505  
Proposition 2024-10  
Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #09-23 concerning a technology levy to replace an expiring technology levy. This proposition authorizes acquisition, installation and management of computer technology systems; enhanced infrastructure; staffing and training; licensing software; and authorizes the district to replace an expired levy and to levy the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the district:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.38	\$1,070,000
2026	\$0.38	\$1,135,000
2027	\$0.38	\$1,200,000
2028	\$0.38	\$1,265,000

all as provided in District Resolution #09-23.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-10 would allow the levy of: \$1,070,000 in property taxes within Meridian School District 505 for collection in 2025, \$1,135,000 in 2026, \$1,200,000 in 2027, and \$1,265,000 in 2028. This levy, in accordance with Resolution #09-23, would be used for the acquisition, development, installation and implementation and management of computer technology, and related costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.38 for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2028. The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

Technology levy funds provide sustainable funding for technology, safety, and security needs. Renewing this levy will provide software for student learning, online safety lessons, and upgraded classroom technology - ensuring that all students have access to the equipment they need. Our students must be able to compete in today's technical workplace - for their careers and beyond.

Technology levy funds were vital when the district had to quickly implement one-to-one technology during the unprecedented school closures in 2020. Due to careful planning, the district was able to rise to the challenge and meet the goals set forth in the previous levy.

The district has been a responsible steward of our local tax dollars, which is why an overwhelming majority of Meridian families approved this levy in 2020. The district consistently receives clean financial audits, and have demonstrated they responsibly care for and utilize the equipment and resources provided.

The Meridian community has a long history of supporting school levies, partnering together to fund education for our youth generation after generation. Because of this crucial support from our community, Meridian schools are outstanding places for our community's children to learn and grow. Please continue this support by voting "Yes" on the levy.

**Statement For prepared by:** Meridian Citizens for Education Committee: Sara Bernardy, Bill Chambers, and JD Phillips

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. 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 506  
 Proposition 2024-04  
 Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Nooksack Valley School District 506 adopted Resolution No. 5 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 not funded or fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.69	\$3,500,000
2026	\$1.74	\$3,700,000
2027	\$1.79	\$3,900,000
2028	\$1.82	\$4,100,000

all as provided in the Resolution.

Should this proposition be approved?      Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-04 allows the levy of: \$3,500,000 in property taxes within Nooksack Valley School District 506 for collection in 2025, \$3,700,000 in 2026, \$3,900,000 in 2027, and \$4,100,000 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Board Resolution #5, would be used to pay certain costs of educational and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.69 (2025 collection), \$1.74 (2026 collection), \$1.79 (2027 collection), and \$1.82 (2028 collection). The exact levy rates shall be determined at the time of each levy.

**Statement For**

This levy replaces the expiring levy and will provide funds for essential school services through 2028. This is not a new tax. These essential services include lower class size, instruction material, technology, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, support services and staff, school safety measures, daily operations and more. Our District has a history of fiscal responsibility and leverages our resources to the students’ greatest advantage.

After carefully considering the needs of our schools and respecting our taxpayers, our school board passed a resolution requesting a replacement levy that incrementally increases the levy rate over 4 years. Our community has a long history of supporting the District and placing value on education. Let’s continue to provide the necessary education and operation fund our kids deserve. Voting yes to replace the levy is a vote to continue the quality education provided to all students in Nooksack Valley.

For more detailed information regarding the replacement levy and how it impacts property taxes, please see the District website at [www.nv.k12.wa.us](http://www.nv.k12.wa.us).

**Statement For prepared by:** Jennifer Lautenbach, Malarie Heutink, and Shannon Elmendorf

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. 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.*

**Mount Baker School District 507  
Proposition 2024-05  
Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Mount Baker School District 507 adopted Resolution No. 23/24:7 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 and support the District's educational programs and operations, including teachers, staff, materials, athletics, arts, special education, facilities maintenance, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.53	\$5,125,133
2026	\$1.46	\$5,264,076
2027	\$1.31	\$5,331,844
2028	\$1.23	\$5,420,910

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-05 allows the levy of: \$5,125,133 in property taxes within Mount Baker School District 507 for collection in 2025, \$5,264,076 in 2026, \$5,331,844 in 2027, and \$5,420,910 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 23/24:7, would be used to pay certain costs of educational and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.53 (2025 collection), \$1.46 (2026 collection), \$1.31 (2027 collection), and \$1.23 (2028 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

**Statement For**

For nearly 50 years, the Mount Baker community has steadfastly supported our schools by renewing levies; reinforcing our commitment to provide the best possible education for our children. It is crucial that we continue this support by renewing the 4-year Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy.

This is not a new tax. A non-renewal of this EP&O levy would result in a 16% reduction in the district general fund. Timber dollars are proportionally distributed based on active levy amounts, not renewing this EP&O levy would result in a total loss of the timber dollars. Due to inadequate funding from the state, this EP&O levy has previously funded: athletic programs, art programs, CTE programs, teaching, counseling, special education, maintenance of buildings/facilities and school safety

Renewing our EP&O Levy, reaffirms our collective commitment to a quality education for our children. Levies are needed because the state does not adequately fund the core services the Mount Baker community expects our children to receive. Let's work together to improve our schools one ballot at a time. By voting "Yes" on this EP&O levy, you are investing in the future of our community and our students.

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

**Statement For prepared by:** Jennifer Espeland, Holly Koon, and T. Lepper

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Mount Baker School District 507  
Proposition 2024-06  
Renewal Capital Projects Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #23/24:8 concerning a capital projects levy for safety and capital needs. This proposition authorizes projects for school safety, security, facilities access, HVAC, technology, electrical improvements, and capital replacements, authorizes renewal of an expired levy and the levy of the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the district:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.57	\$2,000,000
2026	\$0.52	\$2,000,000
2027	\$0.45	\$2,000,000
2028	\$0.41	\$2,000,000
2029	\$0.37	\$2,000,000
2030	\$0.35	\$2,000,000

all as provided in District Resolution #23/24:8.

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition 2024-06 allows the levy of \$2,000,000 in property taxes within Mount Baker School District 507 for collection in each year from 2025 through 2030 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 30-23, would be used for capital improvements and capital maintenance throughout the District. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.57 (2025 collection), \$0.52 (2026 collection), \$0.45 (2027 collection), \$0.41 (2028 collection), \$0.37 (2029 collection) and \$0.35 (2030 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

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

**Statement For**

Our district is asking for the Mount Baker community to continue to support our schools through the renewal of levies, reinforcing our commitments to providing the best possible education for our children. The 6-year Capital Project levy is up for renewal, and our support is needed to continue this essential funding.

This is not a new tax. A non-renewal of the Capital Projects levy would result in the need to pay for essential facilities repairs out of the general fund or continued deterioration of district facilities. Timber dollars are proportionally distributed based on active levy amounts, not renewing the Capital Project levy would result in a total loss of the timber dollars. This levy will be used for: school safety & security, equitable access to facilities, playgrounds & multi use fields, heating ventilation and air conditioning & energy efficiency, technology & electrical improvements and end-of-useful-life facility needs.

In renewing this 6-year Capital Project Levy, we affirm our commitment to excellence in education. Let's work together to improve our schools, one ballot at a time. By voting "Yes" on this Capital Project Levy, you are ensuring the future of our district buildings.

**Statement For prepared by:** Jennifer Espeland, Holly Koon, and T. Lepper

**Statement Against** - No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Concrete School District No. 11 - Proposition No. 1  
Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs and Operations**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Concrete School District No. 11 adopted Resolution No. 1457 concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operations expenses. This proposition would replace the expiring levy by authorizing the following excess taxes upon all taxable property in the District as an enrichment levy for the District's General Fund to support educational programs and operations not funded by the State:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.65	\$1,749,709
2026	\$1.69	\$1,838,771

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace an expiring levy and allow the levy of \$1,749,709 in property taxes within Concrete School District for collection in 2025, and the levy of \$1,838,771 for collection in 2026. In accordance with Resolution No. 1457 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the Concrete School District's General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District which are not fully funded by the state. General expenses include employee costs, instructional materials, activities and sports, transportation outside of the basic school day, 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 \$1.65 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2025, and \$1.69 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2026. 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, call your county assessor.

**Statement For**

Our students and the broader community need your support for the Educational Programs & Operation (EP&O) Levy Replacement. This levy reaches beyond what is considered basic educational needs, funding areas that lack adequate support from state allotments in areas such as school nursing, mental health services, coaching, athletic programs, special education, after-school transportation, and district maintenance and operation. Without additional funds from other sources, many of the essential needs of students will be unmet.

Coaches and athletic programs instill values of teamwork, discipline, and health-conscious habits in our youth. By backing this levy, you help to create a richer educational experience for our students by funding these additional professionals who make a real difference in student's lives.

These levy funds further contribute to special education programs, ensuring individual support for each student's unique needs. They also sustain transportation for extracurricular activities and help maintain the overall operations of the district.

A Yes vote for the Prop.1 Educational Programs & Operation Levy Replacement is an opportunity for individuals in this community to contribute to the success of the upcoming generation. Join us in securing a brighter future for everyone through a steadfast commitment to educational excellence.

**Statement For prepared by:** Vote YES for Concrete Schools; Joe Frank, Rebecca Miller, & Jennifer Maxwell  
Contact: 360-389-2743; YesForConcreteSDLevy@gmail.com; <https://yesforconcretesdlevy.wixsite.com/yesforconcretesdlevy>

**Statement Against** - No information submitted.

**Concrete School District No. 11 - Proposition No. 2  
Capital Levy for Safety, Security and Accessibility Improvements**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Directors of Concrete School District No. 11 adopted Resolution No. 1456, concerning a proposition to finance capital improvements to school facilities. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, to make safety, security and accessibility improvements (replacing elementary and high school fire alarm systems and main exterior doors; upgrading interior door locks; installing emergency communications systems in school offices; installing ADA compliant electronic door systems):

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.88	\$2,000,000
2026	\$1.83	\$2,000,000

All as provided in Resolution No. 1456.  
Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow Concrete School District to levy taxes over a two-year period to finance District-wide safety, security and accessibility improvements, including, but not limited to: (1) replacing the elementary school and high school building fire alarm systems and main exterior doors; (2) upgrading and/or re-keying interior doors and locks; (3) installing emergency communications systems, including panic buttons, in school offices; (4) installing Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") compliant electronic door systems; and (5) making other safety, security and accessibility improvements to school facilities.

The School Board determined these improvements are required to address aging and outdated school facilities and the need to improve facility accessibility and student and staff safety and security. Further information is available on the District's website <https://www.concrete.k12.wa.us/>.

The proposed two-year levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$2,000,000 in 2025 and \$2,000,000 in 2026. The tax levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$1.88 in 2025 and \$1.83 in 2026. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Skagit County Assessor at 360-416-1780 or the Whatcom County Assessor at 360-778-5050.

**Statement For**

We seek your support for a crucial Capital Levy dedicated to safety, security, and accessibility in our school district. This essential initiative aims to annually raise two million dollars for the next two years, focusing on vital upgrades to enhance the well-being of our students and staff. Without this levy, the Concrete School District will be unable to initiate these urgent projects for 8-10 years.

Our commitment to safety begins at the school entrances. This levy will fund projects to harden these entry points, introducing state-of-the-art security measures for a secure learning environment. By replacing dated fire and security alarm systems, we can respond more effectively to emergencies, ensuring the safety of everyone in our school community. Furthermore, the Capital Levy addresses the imperative for enhanced accessibility. The installation of ADA doors is a pivotal step toward creating an inclusive environment, allowing individuals of all abilities to navigate our facilities with ease and dignity.

Your Yes vote for the Prop. 2 Capital Levy underscores our collective commitment to the safety, security, and accessibility of our educational spaces. Together, let's invest in the well-being of our students and staff, cultivating a secure and welcoming environment conducive to learning and growth.

**Statement For prepared by:** Vote YES for Concrete Schools; Joe Frank, Rebecca Miller, & Jennifer Maxwell  
Contact: 360-389-2743; YesForConcreteSDLevy@gmail.com; <https://yesforconcretesdlevy.wixsite.com/yesforconcretesdlevy>

**Statement Against** - No information submitted.

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

**Fire Protection District 8  
 Proposition 2024-14  
 Tax Levy for Maintenance, Facilities and Operations**

**Language on the Ballot**

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Fire Protection District 8 adopted Resolution No. 2023-11 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, improving and repairing fire district facilities, and to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services. The levy amount shall be as follows:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.93	\$1,450,000
2026	\$0.93	\$1,550,000
2027	\$0.93	\$1,660,000
2028	\$0.93	\$1,775,000

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Fire Protection District 8 requests approval of a four year maintenance and operations property tax levy. As a result of increasing operational costs and capital needs, the District’s regular tax levy is no longer adequate to continue providing fire and emergency services at existing levels of service or to make necessary facility improvements. By spreading costs over four years, the district is able to limit this levy to approximately 93 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. If approved, the law prohibits any additional maintenance and operations tax levies for this four-year period.

**Statement For**

Fire District 8’s current Maintenance and Operations (M&O) levy will expire at the end of 2024. This funding has been used to pay for the staffing of the Bennett Dr. and MacKenzie Rd. fire stations as well as pay to replace an ambulance and a utility vehicle.

The current levy makes up 30% of the District’s operating budget. Without a replacement levy the District will not be able to continue to staff both fire stations 24 hours a day or replace much needed engines and equipment.

Each year the cost of running the fire district continues goes up more than the 1% increase that is allowed by law without voter approval. The replacement levy does represent an increase – for a \$500,000 house, the increase will be less than \$13 per month. By voting yes, you will allow the District to continue to provide a high level of service that will be sustainable for the life of the levy.

The mission statement for Fire District 8 is “Helping People Every Day”. Now your firefighters need your help to continue stable funding for the District. Please vote yes in support of the M&O Levy!

**Statement For prepared by:** Lester “Butch” Markhart

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

**Statement Against**

No committee formed. No statement submitted.

**Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2  
Proposition 2024-03  
Authorizing Continuing Property Tax Levy**

**Language on the Ballot**

At their September 12, 2023 meeting, the Board of Commissioners of Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 adopted Resolution No. 2023-10 authorizing the District to maintain a regular property tax levy of \$0.10 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for a six (6) year period (2025-2030). Shall the Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Recreation District 2 continue a property tax levy to fund community program support, operations, staffing, maintenance, and capital improvements?

Yes/No

**Explanatory Statement**

Resolution No. 2023-10 proposes a continuance of the current property tax levy of \$0.10 per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for a six-year period. The initial funding, approved by voters in 2017, has since enriched the community through increased recreational opportunities for people of all ages. The continuance of this levy is essential for the District to be able to develop parks, sports fields, classes, and trails, as well as to provide recreational and leisure activities for the community. It is necessary to preserve the continuance of existing services, and comes at without change to current tax levels.

**Statement For**

Vote Yes for Blaine-Birch Bay Park and Rec. District #2 to continue funding Activity Classes; Sports Opportunities; Community Recreation Events, Outdoor Programming, and Enrichment Classes for All Ages Year-Round in the Blaine - Birch Bay communities.

The funding also supports two Indoor Recreation Facilities; Multiple Community Events, one New Park with Kayak Launch; Developing Kids Playgrounds; and Expanding Inter/Intra Urban Bike/Ped Trails.

Families receive all this for just \$50 per year (\$4.17 per month) for a residence with the assessed valuation of \$500,000 per year.

**Statement For prepared by:** Diane Major, Carrie Crump, and Jan Boykin

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

**Statement Against**

No committee formed. No statement submitted.