

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the Shelton School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire at the end of the calendar year 2023. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, including, but not limited to, class size reduction, after school programs, teachers, extracurricular activities, special education, facility operations/maintenance, transportation, technology and other educational programs and operations expenses. Further information is available at the District's website <https://www.sheltonschools.org/>.

The proposed three-year replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$7,100,000 in 2024, \$7,600,000 in 2025, and \$8,200,000 in 2026. The tax levy rate required to produce these levy amounts is estimated to be \$2.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact tax levy rate and amount to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available. To determine if you qualify, call the Mason County Assessor at (360)427-9670 Ext: 491.

Prepared by:

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Returning Your Ballot

Ballot Drop Boxes

Open ballot drop boxes are listed on your ballot. All ballot drop boxes close promptly at 8:00pm on Election Day, February 14th.

Mail

Ballots returned by postal mail must be post marked no later than Election Day, February 14th to be counted. No postage is required to return your ballot via US Postal Service. We recommend mailing your ballot no later than February 10th.

Voter Information

If you need a ballot, have questions about your ballot, your address has changed or you need to register to vote:

Visit: 411 N 5th St., Shelton, WA

Phone: (360) 427-9670 ext. 470

Email: elections@masoncountywa.gov

Online: VoteWA.gov

After February 6th, to register to vote or update your address for this election, you must do it in person at the Vote Center.

Accessible Voting

The Accessible Voting Unit is a voting assistance device that enables voters with visual impairments, cognitive/learning disabilities, or limited mobility to vote independently and with privacy. Accessible voting is available starting 18 days before Election Day.

To use the Accessible Voting Unit or for more information, visit or contact our office.

Mason County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet



February 14, 2023 Special Election

Shelton School District No. 309 Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

Mason County Auditor's Office
Elections Department - Vote Center
411 N 5th St.
Shelton, WA 98584

Phone: (360) 427-9670 ext. 470
elections@masoncountywa.gov
www.masoncountywaelections.gov

Vote Center Hours:
Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm
Election Day 9:00am-4:00pm

Shelton School District No. 309 Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

The Board of Directors of Shelton School District No. 309 adopted Resolution No. 22-06, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operations expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to support educational programs and operations not funded by the State (including class size reduction, after school programs, teachers, extracurricular activities, special education, facility operations/maintenance, transportation and technology), by levying the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Year | Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| | Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
| 2024 | \$2.09 | \$7,100,000 |
| 2025 | \$2.09 | \$7,600,000 |
| 2026 | \$2.09 | \$8,200,000 |

all as provided in Resolution No. 22-06.

Should this proposition be approved?

- Levy...Yes
 Levy...No

Statement Disclaimer:

Statements are the opinions of the authors and have not been fact checked for factual or gram-

Statement For

In 2017, the Shelton School District's voters approved a three-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy. This levy, which provides 11% of the operating costs, is now up for renewal. This levy is not a new tax; it simply replaces the existing levy that expires December 2023.

Your continued support of the levy is critical to the school district's operating budget. A failed levy will have a catastrophic effect on the district's ability to provide a quality education to our students. Great strides have been made in recent years; we cannot afford to lose this progress.

Current levy dollars help to reduce class size by providing additional teachers; failure to renew this levy would reduce nearly 60 teaching positions. This levy funding also provides building maintenance, athletics and activities, nurses and counselors. These services would not be available without levy funding.

Your vote not only maintains the current levy, it ensures additional funds are received from the State of Washington – approximately \$3 million annually, making it even more important to RENEW this levy to continue Shelton School District's ability to provide the excellent educational programs that our students currently enjoy.

A good school district can greatly increase a child's chances of future successes. Let's continue our support – vote "Yes" on February 14.

Prepared by:

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Statement Against

The status quo within the Shelton School District, including this proposed Replacement Levy, is not providing adequate results for our students or our taxpayers. The District will be providing the voters with information on this levy, we will be providing additional information most of which is sourced from District or OSPI data.

Expenditures per student continue to rise from approximately \$15,000 (pre-Covid 2019-20) to \$18,000 (2022-23 budget), some increases related to Covid-19 learning-loss federal funding. By comparison, several area private schools have tuition about one-third of this cost for elementary/middle school students, while an Olympia private high school's tuition is equivalent.

Student proficiency meeting state standards have declined in most measures since 2017 or before, with recent larger drop in scores due extended in-person school lockdowns. The Covid-19 lockdown issue is not unique to the District in this state, but the District's response has had long-term consequences to both student learning and staffing. Unlike other districts in our area, the District failed to retain experienced staff due to their Covid-19 policies. This failure has caused direct impacts to student learning, efficiencies, and expenditures, thus affecting this levy request.

Enrollment in the District has declined in the last few years, even while county school-age population is increasing. Many parents have decided that home and private schooling are better options. As taxpayers and community members, we must also decide whether supporting this levy and the status quo is best for our students and community in the long run.

Prepared by:

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