

February 11, 2014 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Northshore School District No. 417



Contact us

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To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format
please contact King County Elections at
206-296-VOTE (8683).



Proposition No. 1

Renewal Education Operations Support Levy

The Board of Directors of Northshore School District No. 417 adopted Resolution No. 685 authorizing a renewal educational maintenance levy. To continue meeting educational needs of students and to support District educational maintenance and operation expenses, this proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2015	\$2.42	\$48,500,000
2016	\$2.40	\$49,500,000
2017	\$2.37	\$50,500,000
2018	\$2.35	\$51,500,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 685. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

Please *vote Yes* and *renew* this vital levy. It replaces the current levy that will expire this year and provides critical funding for educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the state.

The levy provides 23% of the school district's funding and supports smaller class sizes, classes for advanced learners, help for struggling learners, transportation, Special Education, books, security, music and athletics. *It's not a new tax; it's a renewal that supports learning.* Northshore is one of the top school districts in the state and is known statewide and nationally for academic excellence. It is a financially responsible, stable organization that uses taxpayer dollars wisely and consistently receives clean state audits.

Strong schools equal a strong community!

Our Northshore community has been a strong supporter of public education and has benefited greatly from the quality education provided by Northshore School District: Higher property values, a solid economy and a safe, vibrant community.

Support of the bond and levies will cost the average Northshore homeowner about an additional \$5-6/month. Your Yes vote will have a lasting positive impact on students, families and our community.

Vote Yes on the bond and levies to continue quality education in Northshore!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The con statements are contradictory and inaccurate. The levy is about student learning, not unions. The levy provides 23% of the district's budget for vital programs/services not funded by the state such as music, advanced academics, transportation and athletics and helps retain quality staff—the backbone of Northshore's hallmark education system. Without the levy, the effects will be devastating for student learning. Northshore students deserve a quality education. *Vote Yes for the Levies and Bond!*

Statement submitted by: BZ Davis and Mike Sharadin
www.CitizensforNorthshoreSchools.com

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$48,500,000 in property taxes within Northshore School District No. 417 for collection in 2015, the levy of \$49,500,000 for collection in 2016, the levy of \$50,500,000 for collection in 2017, and the levy of \$51,500,000 for collection in 2018, to replace an expiring levy and enable the District to pay for its educational programs and services, such levies to be made for four years commencing in 2014 for collection in the school years from 2014-2015 through 2017-2018. In accordance with Resolution No. 685 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the District's General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District. General expenses of the District include employee costs (salaries), instructional materials, special programs, activities and sports, technology systems operation, transportation costs, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District schools. If authorized by the voters and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$2.42 (2015 collection); \$2.40 (2016 collection); \$2.37 (2017 collection); \$2.35 (2018 collection).

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Leanna Albrecht - Director of Communications
425-408-7671 • Lalbrecht2@nsd.org

Statement in opposition

Union officials in the Northshore Schools have pressured the school board to divert levy funds from student services in order to pay teachers more. Our levy should pay for student services, not for wage increases.

In the collective bargaining agreement sought by union officials, the average state-provided wage of \$54,867 for teachers will be enhanced by 21.5 percent from levy and levy-matched funds. This costs roughly \$11.6 million per year which could be better used to help at-risk students or reduce class sizes. The school district leads taxpayers to believe the levy money is being used for students, yet large amounts support union priorities instead.

Levies are great for funding local priorities and unique services for our area students, but taxpayers should hold off giving the school district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Don't let the Northshore School District confuse you by a nuanced definition of taxes, levy, new, or renewal. Approving this measure will increase the amount you pay the government. Taxpayers should hold off giving the district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Voting 'no' on Proposition 1 will send this message to the district: Be more responsible with taxpayer's money.

Statement submitted by: Laurie Lyford, Renay Bennett, and Tom Henningsgards
propertyrights4us@gmail.com

Proposition No. 2**General Obligation Bonds - \$177,500,000**

The Board of Directors of Northshore School District No. 417 approved a proposition for bonds. This proposition authorizes the District to build a new high school, modernize schools and fields, make improvements to meet health, safety, and ADA mandates, acquire sites, upgrade technology infrastructure and make necessary capital improvements, to issue \$177,500,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years, and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution No. 686. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor*Protect Our Community's Investment!*

Your Yes vote for the bond will provide a long-term solution to serious enrollment growth issues by building a new 9-12 high school in the north end of the district and academic benefits by moving 9th graders to high school district wide.

Similar to your home, schools need repairs to keep them safe and extend their useful lives. The bond will allow the district to make critical repairs to school roofs, boilers, and heating/ventilation systems, complete ADA work, update Internet to handle classroom technology and districtwide security improvements. It will finish the final phase of the Woodinville High School remodel.

Northshore uses taxpayer dollars wisely and has one of the highest bond ratings for a school district of its size, which equates to taxpayer savings. Support for all three measures will cost the average Northshore homeowner about an additional \$5-6/month.

It's a wise investment developed with community input that will help solve enrollment issues, maintain schools, protect property values and enhance student learning long-term.

Your Yes vote will have a lasting positive impact on students, families and our community.

Please Vote Yes on the bond to continue quality education and protect our community's investment!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The district has been *Transparent and Accurate* in sharing financial information and projections: www.nsd.org/bondlevies. The district's doesn't qualify for mitigation fees, so it cannot collect them.

The bond will make critical repairs to schools, provide a *Long-Term Solution* to enrollment growth, enhance student learning and protect our community's investment! The bond was created with community input and support.

Your Yes Vote Will Continue Quality Education in Safe Schools. Vote Yes on the Bond and Levies!

Statement submitted by: BZ Davis and Mike Sharadin
www.CitizensforNorthshoreSchools.com

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow Northshore School District No. 417 to borrow \$177,500,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 686 approving this proposition, the bonds will pay for renovations, upgrades and new construction of school facilities, and improvements to energy efficiency of school buildings in the District. Capital projects include acquiring, constructing and equipping a new high school, Woodinville High School Phase III modernization, modernize or replace core building components including mechanical systems, flooring, building controls, roofing, boilers, circulation, security, casework and seismic upgrades, make improvements to meet health, safety, and ADA mandates, acquire sites, upgrade technology infrastructure and make necessary capital improvements. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 20 years. The exact amount of such annual levies for these bonds would depend on the amount of principal paid each year and on the interest rates available at the time the bonds are sold.

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Leanna Albrecht - Director of Communications
425-408-7671 • Lalbrecht2@nsd.org

Statement in opposition

We value and support the NSD, teachers, students and the operating levies, but do not yet support the \$177,500,000 bond issue for two reasons. The first concern is inadequate disclosure of the true cost to the average homeowner over the 20 years of the bond. The District has only disclosed the interest cost over the first 4 years. The second concern is the District has not imposed impact fees on new development in Snohomish County. Impact Fees are designed to pay for the cost of new facilities due to new development. Over 70% on the eligible school districts in Snohomish County have been charging impact fees over the last ten years.

We strongly support funding that maintains our tradition of high quality education in the Northshore School District. We think it would be best for NSD to revise its long-term financial strategy for capital facilities and come back soon with a more clear and comprehensive plan.

To participate further – visit the FaceBook group “Northshore Citizens for Transparent School Finances”

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/570746489666317/>

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Our concern over inadequate disclosure of true costs is shown in the Pro Statements' claim that the measures “will cost the average Northshore homeowner about an additional \$5-6/month.” In other words, \$60-72 dollars per year.

According to NSD's *own* calculations (page 6 of their fall newsletter), the actual cost will be roughly 4 times higher in 2018 (\$269 more per year than 2013). We have requested but not received the District's estimates beyond 2018.

Statement submitted by: Ken Smith and John Hendrickson

Proposition No. 3

Renewal Capital Projects (Technology) Levy

The Board of Directors of Northshore School District No. 417 adopted Resolution No. 687 concerning a proposition for capital levies. In order to advance student learning, modernize technology systems and equipment, and train students and staff, the District shall levy the following excess levies in place of an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2015	\$0.40	\$8,000,000
2016	\$0.39	\$8,000,000
2017	\$0.38	\$8,000,000
2018	\$0.37	\$8,000,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 687. Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

The complete text of this measure is available at the Elections Office or online at www.kingcounty.gov/elections.

Statement in favor

Technology plays a crucial role in student learning and is a necessary requirement for students to be competitive in a global marketplace in the future. Help give our students the tools they need to be successful.

The Renewal School Technology Levy will renew the current levy that expires this year and will expand student computing devices, update software, network systems and provide important training. *It's not a new tax; it's a renewal.*

Strong schools equal a strong community!

Support of the bond and levies will cost the average Northshore homeowner about an additional \$5-6/month.

Please vote Yes on the bond and levies to continue quality education in Northshore and protect our community's investment!

Rebuttal of statement in opposition

The technology levy is about *Technology* and *Training* to support student learning, not unions. It will expand the technology that students desperately need for their education. It will update software and provide necessary training for effective instruction. Your **Yes** vote will put technology in the hands of students and directly benefit their education. Our students need technology to be successful. Give them the support they need. **Vote Yes on the Bond and Levies!**

Statement submitted by: BZ Davis and Mike Sharadin
www.CitizensforNorthshoreSchools.com

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition No. 3 would allow the levy of \$8,000,000 in property taxes within Northshore School District No. 417 for collection in 2015, the levy of \$8,000,000 for collection in 2016, the levy of \$8,000,000 for collection in 2017, and the levy of \$8,000,000 for collection in 2018, to replace an expiring levy and to pay for technology improvements, and equipment and training to meet the current and future educational programs for its students, such levies to be made for four years for collection in the years from 2015 through 2018. In accordance with Resolution No. 687 approving this proposition, these taxes would pay for enhancing infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, and implementing online applications and training related to the installation of the foregoing, and the application and upgrading of technology systems for operations and instruction, including the ongoing fees for online applications, subscriptions, or software licenses, and ongoing training related to the installation and integration of these products or services. If authorized by the voters and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$0.40 (2015 collection); \$0.39 (2016 collection); \$0.38 (2017 collection); and \$0.37 (2018 collection).

For additional questions regarding this measure contact:
Leanna Albrecht - Director of Communications
425-408-7671 • Lalbrecht2@nsd.org

Statement in opposition

Union officials in the Northshore Schools have pressured the school board to divert levy funds from student services in order to pay teachers more. Our levy should pay for student services, not for wage increases.

In the collective bargaining agreement sought by union officials, the average state-provided wage of \$54,867 for teachers will be enhanced by 21.5 percent from levy and levy-matched funds. This costs roughly \$11.6 million per year which could be better used to help at-risk students or reduce class sizes. The school district leads taxpayers to believe the levy money is being used for students, yet large amounts support union priorities instead.

Levies are great for funding local priorities and unique services for our area students, but taxpayers should hold off giving the school district any more money until the school board is able to put student services above the demands of union officials.

Rebuttal of statement in favor

The Northshore School District is asking for new money from taxpayers because they have allowed union officials to divert existing levy money to pay teachers more--rather than using that money for things like technology for students. If only the district had managed their existing levy money better, they wouldn't have to ask for more now.

Voting 'no' on Proposition 3 will send this message to the district: Be more responsible with taxpayer's money.

Statement submitted by: Laurie Lyford, Renay Bennett, and Tom Henningsgard
propertyrights4us@gmail.com

Registering to vote

Requirements

To register to vote in Washington, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States;
- A legal resident of Washington State;
- At least 18 years old by Election Day; and
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections.

How to register

- Register online with the Secretary of State, www.vote.wa.gov.
- Download a registration form from the King County Elections website and return it by mail.
- Register in person at the King County Elections office or annex.

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines prior to each election. The deadlines for the February 11, 2014, special election:

- **January 13** – Deadline to register to vote online or by mail, or update existing voter registration information.
- **February 3** – In-person registration deadline for people not currently registered in Washington. Register in person at the Elections office in Renton or at the Voter Registration Annex in Seattle.

Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name, or if your signature has changed. Simply submit a new registration form to update your information.

Voting materials available in Chinese and Vietnamese

To comply with Section 203 of the Federal Voting Rights Act, King County is required to provide voting materials in Chinese and Vietnamese. To request voting materials, update your language preference or register to vote, visit www.myvote.wa.gov or call 206-296-VOTE (8683).

Để thực hiện theo Mục 203 của Đạo Luật Liên Bang về Quyền Bỏ Phiếu, Quận King được yêu cầu phải cung cấp các tài liệu bỏ phiếu bằng tiếng Trung Quốc và tiếng Việt. Để yêu cầu các tài liệu bầu cử, cập nhật lựa chọn ngôn ngữ của quý vị hoặc đăng ký bỏ phiếu, ghé đến www.myvote.wa.gov hoặc gọi 206-296-VOTE (8683) và bấm số 3.

根據聯邦投票權利法案第203節之要求，金郡需要提供中文和越南文版的選舉資訊。欲索取選舉資訊，更新您的語言選擇或登記投票，請查看網站www.myvote.wa.gov或致電206-296-VOTE(8683)，然後按“2”字。