

April 26, 2016 Special Election

King County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

as requested by Lake Washington School District No. 414



Contact us

Phone	206-296-VOTE (8683) 1-800-325-6165 TTY Relay: 711
Email	elections@kingcounty.gov
Online	kingcounty.gov/elections
Mail or in-person	919 SW Grady Way Renton, WA 98057
Voter Registration Annex	King County Administration Building 500 4th Ave., Room 440 Seattle, WA 98104

To obtain this pamphlet in an alternate format please contact King County Elections.



King County
Elections

Proposition No. 1 Bonds to Reduce Overcrowding and Enhance Student Learning Environments - \$398,000,000

The Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414 adopted Resolution No. 2205 concerning a proposition to reduce overcrowding and enhance student learning environments. This proposition would authorize the District to construct and equip new schools (two elementary and one middle); rebuild Juanita High School and Kirk and Mead Elementary schools; remodel Old Redmond Schoolhouse; and make other capital improvements; to issue \$398,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum term of 20 years, and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 2205. Should this proposition be:

Approved

Rejected

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

Statement in favor

Vote Yes for Our Kids and Our Schools!

This bond, developed with extensive community input, will relieve overcrowding in our schools without raising anyone's property tax rate. The Lake Washington School District is one of the fastest growing in the state, jumping from the sixth to fourth largest in just one year. Most schools have more students than available classrooms, making it difficult for our children to receive the best education possible. Classes and group lessons occur in places not designed for instruction. The district must use numerous portables, which is not a long-term solution. By prioritizing the most urgent capital needs, this bond will sustain the District's educational excellence. It also demonstrates good fiscal planning. By paying off other district bonds and levies, we can improve our schools while maintaining the current tax rate.

Endorsed by the League of Education Voters, Seattle-King County Association of REALTORS, the Affordable Housing Council, the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties, the Lake Washington Education Association, and the Lake Washington PTSA Council. To see full list of elected officials and community leaders who endorsed this measure, visit www.vote4lwsdkids.org. Please join us in voting Yes for the LWSD Bond!

Submitted by:
Amy Walen, John Marchione, and
Don Gerend
vote4lwsdkids.org

Rebuttal of statement against

This bond increases capacity for 3,000 students, prioritizing urgent needs across the district. It uses cost-effective design principles -- rebuilding and expanding capacity at schools in Kirkland and Sammamish and adding new schools in Redmond. It is part of a fiscally responsible long-term plan to manage growth, reduce overcrowding, and to bring schools up to educational and safety standards while *keeping tax rates level over time*. State matching funds will help our investment go further.

Explanatory statement

Passage of Proposition 1, Bonds to Reduce Overcrowding and Enhance Student Learning Environments, would authorize the Lake Washington School District to sell \$398,000,000 in general obligation bonds to build new schools and add classrooms for its growing student population. The district has grown by over 3,000 students in the last five years and continued enrollment growth is expected.

The projects included in this bond were identified by a 63-member community based task force that studied the district facility needs over a comprehensive year long process.

The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 20 years. The total tax rate for all levies and bonds in the district is estimated to remain at or below the 2015 tax rate of \$3.30 per \$1000 of assessed value.

Projects include building two new elementary schools and a new middle school; rebuilding and enlarging Juanita High School, Kirk Elementary, and Mead Elementary; remodeling Old Redmond School House for use by preschool students; replacing old portable classrooms at Explorer Elementary School; and completing other capital projects across the district.

The district expects to receive \$10,000,000 in developer impact fees and \$21,000,000 from the state construction assistance program to help fund these projects.

Further information is available on the district's website at www.lwsd.org. Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For more information, call the King County Department of Assessments 206-296-3920.

For questions about this measure, contact:
Kathryn Reith
Communications Director
425-936-1342
kreith@lwsd.org

Statement in opposition

All of our schools are full or overcrowded. More than 3500 students attend classes in 154 portables across the district. Thousands more students are expected by 2020.

Instead of funding critically needed new classrooms, this bond directs 60% to tearing down and replacing three solidly built schools that are newer than many of our homes. The rebuilds will add little capacity to the district - leaving thousands of students in portables and overcrowded buildings.

This bond adds only 3 additional schools to the *entire* district: an elementary school in North Redmond and two schools at Redmond Ridge, but no additional schools for Kirkland or Sammamish.

The district knows that this plan will not provide adequate classroom space. It plans to run bond measures in 2018 and 2022 asking for an additional \$566,000,000 to address space shortages.

The \$398,000,000 requested by this bond measure should be spent carefully and efficiently. We need more school buildings across the district - especially STEM and Choice Schools. Hundreds of students are on waitlists for these high-demand schools.

This bond will waste our tax dollars on extravagant building designs and unnecessary teardown/rebuilds!

Tell the district to spend *your* money wisely. Reject Proposition 1.

Submitted by:
Susan Wilkins and Hussein Karmali
reject-lwsd-prop1.com

Rebuttal of statement in favor

Redmond will lose its beloved community center. This bond measure will convert the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center into a dedicated preschool facility. This is the wrong solution for the district's classroom space shortage.

Your property taxes will increase. In 2015, taxpayers spent \$37,700,000 for outstanding school construction bonds. If this bond measure passes, by 2019, annual school construction bond payments will be \$70,000,000 and LWSD plans additional bond measures.

Get the facts at Reject-LWSD-Prop1.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
- Not under the authority of the Department of Corrections

How to register

- Register online with the Secretary of State, vote.wa.gov
- Download a registration form from the King County Elections website.
- Register in person at the King County Elections office or at the King County Voter Registration Annex.

Registration deadlines

While you may register to vote at any time, there are registration deadlines before each election. The deadlines for the April 26, 2016 special election:

- **March 28** – Deadline to register to vote or update voter registration information.
- **April 18** – 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.



Why are there measures on my ballot that are not in my pamphlet?

For a special election, districts are not required to participate in a voters' pamphlet. Pamphlets are only printed if a district that is participating in the election requests it from King County Elections.

For this election, the Proposed Eastside Regional Fire Authority did not request to participate in the voters' pamphlet.

