

Cowlitz County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

April 26, 2022 Special Election

Registration requirements

To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington State for at least 30 days prior to election day.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day.
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.
- Not currently serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections for a Washington felony conviction.
- Not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

Register & obtain a ballot

How to register, update your address, and/or obtain a ballot:

- Online - VoteWA.gov
- By mail - Call us at (360) 577-3005 or email us at elections@co.cowlitz.wa.us and we will assist you.
- In person - 207 N 4th Ave, Rm 205 Kelso, WA 98626

Participating Jurisdictions: Longview School District No. 122

Longview School District No. 122 | Proposition 1

Proposition 1

Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy

The Board of Directors of Longview School District No. 122 adopted Resolution #793 concerning a capital and technology improvements levy. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District, for capital improvements and instructional technology:

| Collection Years | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|------------------|--|-------------|
| 2023 | \$0.88 | \$6,300,000 |
| 2024 | \$0.73 | \$5,500,000 |
| 2025 | \$0.63 | \$5,000,000 |
| 2026 | \$0.54 | \$4,500,000 |

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes

No

**INFORMATIONAL ONLY. NOT A BALLOT.
DO NOT VOTE THIS PAGE.**

Explanatory Statement

The Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy for 2022-2026 would provide funding for maintenance and improvements of District buildings, facilities, and athletic fields, and continue funding to update educational technology for students and staff. The District would use the funds for capital improvements districtwide, including facility repairs, replacements and renovations. With the funding, the District would improve instructional sites by updating flooring, lighting, roofing, HVAC systems, and windows; upgrading school facilities to increase safety of students and employees in school buildings and on school grounds; supporting academic achievement and the learning environment by maintaining educational technology that is current; improving the Memorial Stadium complex to increase athlete safety and to allow more boys' and girls' sports events and activities; and paying for incidental costs such as engineering, architectural, planning, inspections, and site improvements as deemed necessary and advisable by the Board of Directors and permitted by law.

The estimated levy rate is \$0.88 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for 2023 collection, \$0.73 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for 2024, \$0.63 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for 2025, and \$0.54 per \$1,000 assessed valuation for 2026. These levies would yield approximately \$6.3 million in 2023; \$5.5 million in 2024; \$5 million in 2025; and \$4.5 million in 2026. The District anticipates that the tax levy amounts collected by the District in these years would be lower than in 2021-2022.

See complete resolution text at:
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/Elections

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet published by the
Cowlitz County Auditor's Office

Argument For

The 2018 voter-approved Capital Projects and Technology levy expires at the end of 2022 so this *replacement* levy allows us to continue to fund critical projects. Because the bond that funded the middle school projects will also expire, *we have the opportunity to continue a long history of community support for our schools without raising tax rates or total locally voted school tax collections.*

Your "Yes" vote will:

Extend the useful life of assets: The repair, replacement, and upgrade of facilities extends both the usefulness and life of our school properties. *Improve instructional settings:* Updates to improve air quality, flooring, lighting and windows create a safe, comfortable and healthy learning environment. *Improve safety and security:* There is no question this has become a high priority in our current culture. Every school would receive additional safety and security enhancements. *Update technology:* Upgrades will support academic achievement in a world increasingly dependent on technology for success. *Upgrade Memorial Stadium:* Stadium improvements will be an asset for the entire community through expanded student and community access, enhanced safety, and extended life.

Your "Yes" vote is critically important. Good facilities and technology are essential elements contributing to the success of our students. They also help attract and retain quality teachers as well as families and businesses considering Longview as a place to live and work.

Please vote "Yes" to continue our heritage of support for our schools. An investment in our kids is an investment in the entire community.

Rebuttal to Argument For

No rebuttal submitted.

Argument For Prepared by

Susie Kirkpatrick
susie.kirkpatrick123@gmail.com
(360) 636-2211
www.voteesschools.com

Argument Against

Even if you support schools, there are good reasons to reject this 21 million dollar school levy. The Longview Public School District is now receiving record levels of funding. Total school funding in the current budget is \$107,784,835, the highest ever. Per student funding for the 2021-22 budget is \$16,646 (Source: LSD F-195). It costs taxpayers 41% more money to fund a student to go to a Longview Public School than it would to send them to a Washington Private School (Source: educationdata.org). At the same time, academic outcomes for students are declining (Source: OSPI). A flyer put out by the Longview School District states there will be no tax increase. Another way to word this is that a vote for the levy is a vote to continue the massive tax increase-imposed years ago. It would be fiscally responsible to vote *no* on this measure.

Rebuttal to Argument Against

Responsible stewardship requires that we care for school facilities as they age to extend their useful life, just as we do with our own homes. The funding requested assures that the community's significant past investment in its school facilities are maximized and protected. Money well spent now avoids higher costs later. This replacement levy balances taxpayer and facility needs by asking for a reasonable level of support to care for our aging facilities.

Argument Against Prepared by

Erik Halvorson
longviewlevy@gmail.com