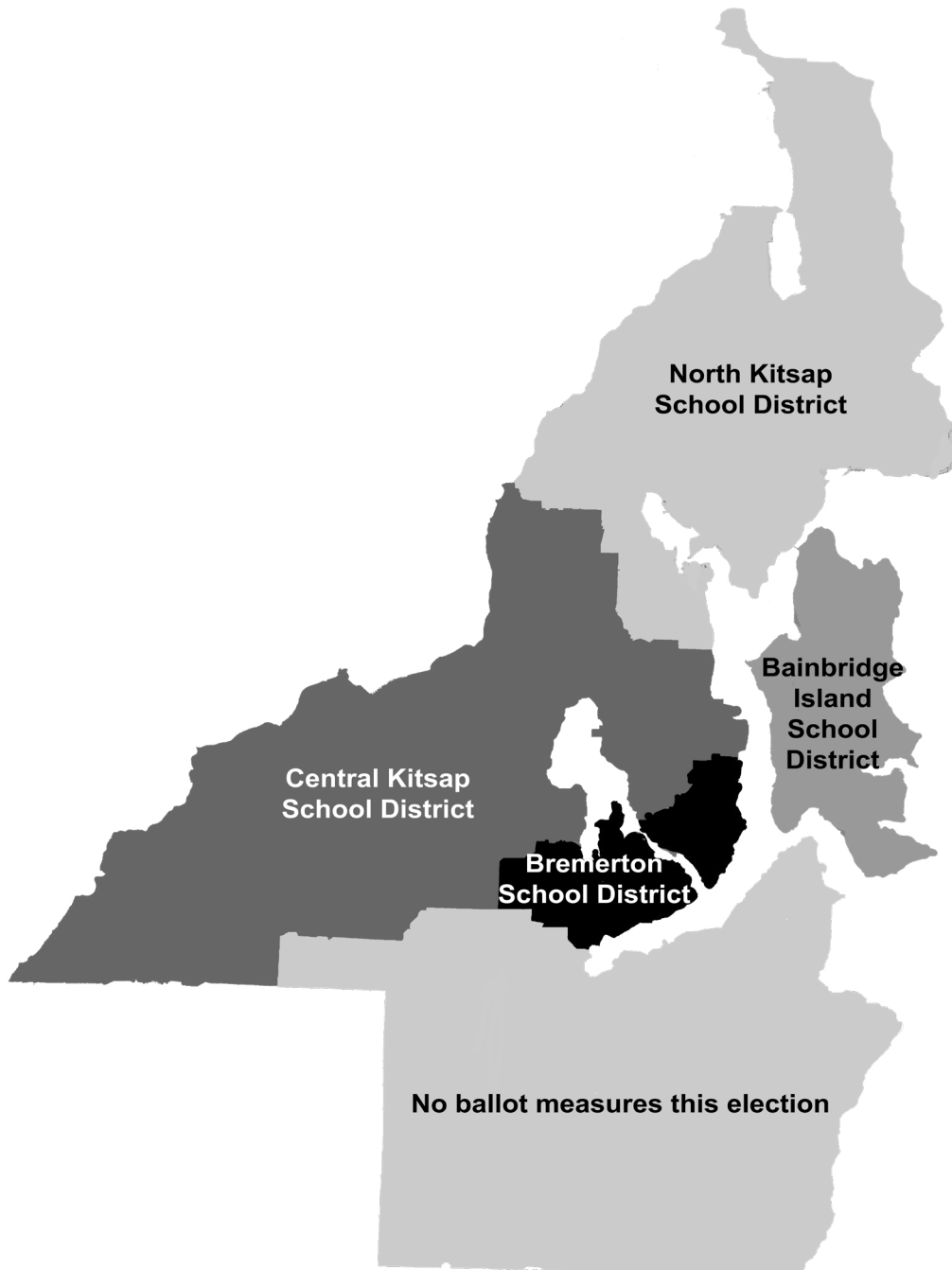




# Kitsap County

## Official Local Voters' Pamphlet Special Election 2024



Published by the Office of the Kitsap County Auditor

**Ballots will be mailed by January 26**

# Special Election Local Voters' Pamphlet – February 13, 2024

## Pamphlet Contents

Who May Vote and Options for Registering .....	2
Drop Boxes and Vote Centers .....	3

## Ballot Measures

Bremerton School District No. 100-C .....	4-7
Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 .....	8-11
North Kitsap School District No. 400 .....	12-13
Central Kitsap School District No. 401 .....	14-15

## Participating Jurisdictions

Districts participating in this Local Voters' Pamphlet are the Bremerton School District No. 100-C, Bainbridge Island School District No. 303, North Kitsap School District No. 400, and the Central Kitsap School District No. 401

## Kitsap County Auditor Elections Division

[kitsap.gov/elections](http://kitsap.gov/elections)  
[auditor@kitsap.gov](mailto:auditor@kitsap.gov)

### Phone

Office: (360) 337-7128 (press 1)  
Fax: (360) 337-5769

### Office Hours

8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday

### Mailing Address

614 Division St, MS-31  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

### Physical Address

619 Division St  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

## Your Right to Privacy

Every voter has the right to vote his or her ballot in secret. Attempting to vote when not qualified, or falsely signing the Voter Declaration, is a felony punishable by up to five years of imprisonment or a maximum fine of \$10,000, or both imprisonment and fine.

## Additional Sources of Information

Facebook

[www.facebook.com/kitsapcountyauditor](http://www.facebook.com/kitsapcountyauditor)

X (Formerly Twitter)

[www.twitter.com/kitsapauditor](http://www.twitter.com/kitsapauditor)

YouTube

[www.youtube.com/user/KitsapAuditor](http://www.youtube.com/user/KitsapAuditor)

Washington Secretary of State

[www.sos.wa.gov/elections](http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections)

Federal Voting Assistance Program

[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

## Who May Vote

To be eligible to vote, one must register and be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal Washington resident at the registration address for at least 30 days prior to the election day.
- At least 18 years old.
- Not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison for a Washington felony conviction.
- Not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

## Options for Registering

- Online at [www.VoteWA.gov](http://www.VoteWA.gov).
- Complete a paper registration form, available at libraries, city halls, public schools, fire district offices and at the County Auditor's Office.
- When you renew your driver's license.

## Questions or Need a Replacement Ballot?

If you have not received your ballot by **February 1**, or if your ballot is damaged or lost, you may request a replacement ballot by contacting Kitsap County Elections.

# 24-Hour Ballot Drop Boxes and Election Day Vote Centers

## **Bainbridge Island School District**

8489 Madison Avenue North  
Bainbridge Island, WA 98110

## **Bremerton - Downtown**

Norm Dicks Government Center  
345 6th Street  
Bremerton, WA 98337

## **Bremerton - East**

Kitsap Regional Library, Sylvan Way Branch  
1301 Sylvan Way  
Bremerton, WA 98310

## **Bremerton - Marvin Williams Recreation Center**

725 Park Avenue  
Bremerton, WA 98337

## **Hansville - Buck Lake County Park (new location)**

6959 Buck Lake Road NE  
Hansville, WA 98340

## **Indianola Tennis Courts**

20761 Greenwood Street NE  
Indianola, WA 98342

## **Keyport - Central Park**

15378 Washington Avenue NE  
Keyport, WA 98345

## **Kingston - North Kitsap Fire & Rescue**

26642 Miller Bay Road NE  
Kingston, WA 98346

## **Kingston - Village Green Park**

10810 NE West Kingston Road  
Kingston, WA 98346

## **Naval Base Kitsap - Bangor**

2500 Ohio Street  
NSB Silverdale, WA 98315

## **Naval Base Kitsap - Bremerton**

886 Barclay Street  
Bremerton, WA 98314

## **Navy Yard City - West Side Improvement Club**

4109 West E Street  
Bremerton, WA 98312

## **Port Gamble - S'Klallam Tribal Center**

31912 Little Boston Road NE  
Kingston, WA 98346

## **Port Orchard - Kitsap County Auditor**

619 Division Street  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

## **Poulsbo Fire Station**

911 NE Liberty Road  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

## **Poulsbo - Olympic College**

1000 Olympic College Way NW  
Poulsbo, WA 98370

## **Seabeck - Green Mountain Elementary School**

3860 Boundary Trail NW  
Bremerton, WA 98312

## **Silverdale - Sheriff's Office (new box)**

3951 NW Randall Way  
Silverdale, WA 98383

## **Silverdale Way - Gateway Park (new box)**

11601 Silverdale Way NW  
Silverdale, WA 98383

## **Southworth WSF Terminal (near ferry entrance)**

11677 SE Southworth Ferry Drive  
Port Orchard, WA 98366

## **Suquamish Tribal Council Bldg.**

18490 Suquamish Way NE  
Suquamish, WA 98392

## **Tracyton - Bremerton Elks, Lodge 1181**

4131 Pine Road NE  
Bremerton, WA 98310

## **Vote Centers**

Election Day, Tuesday, Feb. 13, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

### **Kitsap County Administration Building**

619 Division Street, Port Orchard, WA 98366

### **Marvin Williams Recreation Center**

725 Park Avenue, Bremerton, WA 98337

### **Poulsbo Fire Station**

911 NE Liberty Road, Poulsbo, WA 98370

## Accessible Voting

Federal law requires jurisdictions to provide vote centers with certified accessible voting devices, which enable voters with disabilities to cast their ballots independently and in private.

Accessible Voting Units provide all contests in audio and high-contrast text formats and are available beginning 18 days prior to the Special Election.

### **Before Election Day**

**January 26 through February 12**

**8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday**

Kitsap County Auditor's Office

619 Division St, Port Orchard, WA 98366

**Election Day - All Vote Centers (see box above)**

### **Proposition No. 1**

#### **Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

##### **Official Ballot Title**

The Board of Directors of Bremerton School District No. 100-C adopted Resolution No. 2023/2024-07 authorizing a renewal educational levy. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes on all taxable property within the District to pay for educational programs and services not funded or not fully funded by the State, including employee costs, instructional materials, special programs, sports, technology, transportation, maintenance, and other operating costs:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2025	\$1.89	\$14,822,588
2026	\$1.91	\$15,415,483

subject to legal limits at the time of levy.

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes**
- No**

### **Explanatory Statement**

*(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)*

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$14,822,580 in property taxes within Bremerton School District No. 100-C for collection in 2025 and the levy of \$15,415,483 for collection in 2026, to replace an expiring levy and enable the District to pay for its educational programs and services, such levies to be made for two years commencing in 2024 for collection in the years 2025 and 2026. In accordance with Resolution No. 2023/2024-07 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 not funded or fully funded by the State 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 \$1.89 (2025 collection) and \$1.91 (2026 collection).

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, contact the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.

## **Argument For the Measure**

To continue offering a quality education, Bremerton School District (BSD) asks for your Yes vote to continue the Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy. This levy funds 15% of the BSD budget and allows BSD to continue offering a complete range of educational activities and programs at safe schools for all students.

### **The levy keeps students safe.**

Continuing the levy keeps current security precautions in place, such as safety officers. The levy funds support staff positions that help students succeed in school and beyond, including counselors and health services. The levy also funds over 20% of classroom and special education teachers, and over 80% of maintenance and technology staff.

### **The levy provides opportunities for every student.**

The levy allows students to explore educational options and have access to a range of programs and activities, including athletics, music, and theater. Extracurricular activities are 100% levy funded.

### **Our local tax rate will decrease.**

Yes, you read that right. Renewal of the levy will lower our local tax rate by 4 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Combined with the bond, this is a tax decrease of 4%. This levy gives Bremerton kids the education they deserve and costs us less. Tax liability also decreases as our community grows, and many seniors and people living with disabilities are eligible for property tax exemptions. Visit [bit.ly/kitsaptaxexemptions](http://bit.ly/kitsaptaxexemptions) for more information.

Vote Yes to continue the levy and keep Bremerton schools safe, strong, and successful for years to come.

## **Rebuttal to the Argument Against**

Bremerton School District has invested in essential experiences by collecting what they need with low tax rates. The con statement is deliberately misleading. The EP&O levy fills basic education gaps by supporting student engagement, health, safety, and security essentials – the levy paid for 100% of extracurriculars with 970 students in athletics and 563 students in music/theatre, 32% of school counselors, 82% of custodians, and 89% of safety and security. *Vote Yes for this tax decrease.*

*Argument prepared by Julee Warner, Chair; Cary Bozeman and Patty Lent, Committee Members, committee for the measure. For more information, email [info@citizensforbremertonschools.com](mailto:info@citizensforbremertonschools.com) call (360) 471-5366, or go to [citizensforbremertonschools.com](http://citizensforbremertonschools.com)*

## **Argument Against the Measure**

The EP&O levy will be used to hire unnecessary additional staff and give 8% raises to staff members that are contributing to our plummeting student test scores and proficiency levels. We all want our children to be educated and ready for the workplace when they become adults. Achieving this goal requires that the district prioritizes teaching math, science, reading and writing.

Among other untruths, the levy says that 100% of sports is funded by the levy. This is untrue as the state pays for the majority of our sports programs as they do for all districts. How can you trust comments like this?

More money doesn't fix academic success. No methodologies for improving our students' education or proficiency levels are addressed. The district already has a lower student to teacher ratio than most districts in Washington. Bremerton has a ratio of 15 students to 1 teacher versus the state average of 18 to 1. Less than half of Bremerton High School students have reading proficiencies at or above their grade level. Only 12% of Bremerton High School students have math proficiencies at or above their grade level. These results are unsatisfactory. The district has not shown a pathway to success for our students but they want more tax money for pay and staff.

The district has adequate funding from our state taxes. The district must prove that they can provide our students with an equitable, balanced, and quality education before asking for more money.

Vote "No" on the School Levy.

## **Rebuttal to the Argument For**

How are schools currently operating if they aren't safe and don't meet health/safety standards? The state provides funding for the school district to hire an operationally adequate amount of staff; the school district fills those positions, then hires additional staff above what the state believes is adequate. We're not generally against levies that fund schools, but we are against giving raises to employees who are not performing to satisfactory standards and hiring unnecessary additional staff.

*Argument prepared by John Johanson, Chair; committee against the measure. For more information, email [VoteNoBondAndLevy@gmail.com](mailto:VoteNoBondAndLevy@gmail.com), or go to [www.votenobondandlevy.com](http://www.votenobondandlevy.com)*

## **Proposition No. 2**

### **General Obligation Bonds for Capital Purposes - \$150,000,000**

#### **Official Ballot Title**

The Board of Directors of Bremerton School District No. 100-C adopted Resolution No. 2023/2024-09 concerning the issuance of general obligation bonds for capital purposes. This proposition authorizes the District to replace and equip Armin Jahr and View Ridge Elementary Schools, to relocate, replace, and equip Renaissance High School, to replace and equip the consolidated facilities building, and to undertake HVAC (cooling) improvements at District-wide schools; to issue \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 25 years, and to levy annual excess property taxes to retire the bonds; all as provided in Resolution No. 2023/2024-09.

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes**
- No**

## **Explanatory Statement**

*(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)*

The Board of Directors of Bremerton School District No. 100-C adopted Resolution No. 2023/2024-09 approving a proposition for bonds. This authorizes the District to replace and equip Armin Jahr and View Ridge Elementary Schools, to relocate, replace and equip Renaissance High School, to undertake HVAC upgrades (including cooling) to all District wide schools, to replace and equip a consolidated facilities building and to make other capital infrastructure improvements, to issue \$150,000,000 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. 2023/2024-09.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, contact the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.

## **Argument For the Measure**

To give our students the tools they need to succeed, Bremerton School District asks for your Yes vote to approve this bond. Since school districts do not receive state funding for construction, your support is necessary to fix our schools.

### **This bond addresses immediate rebuilding needs.**

This bond replaces two schools in the worst physical condition – Armin Jahr Elementary (80 years old) and View Ridge Elementary (55 years old) – and relocates Renaissance High School, a group of portable classrooms that has never had a permanent building. The bond also replaces the dilapidated, 76-year-old consolidated facilities building.

### **Bond improvements will be felt districtwide.**

This bond includes upgrades to Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) throughout the district, giving students and staff clean air and healthy spaces when they are at school.

### **Our local tax rate will go down.**

Yes, you read that right. With both current levies expiring, passing the bond and Educational Programs & Operations levy will actually lower our local tax rate, saving homeowners 4% on their school taxes. In addition, if approved, this bond comes with state matching funds of \$20 million. As our community grows, our tax burden decreases. Many seniors and people with disabilities are eligible for property tax exemptions. Learn more at:

[bit.ly/kitsaptaxexemptions](http://bit.ly/kitsaptaxexemptions).

It has been 18 years since Bremerton voted on a school bond. Now is the time to reinvest in our students and community. Support the future of Bremerton kids and schools and vote Yes by February 13.

## **Rebuttal to the Argument Against**

Bremerton School District has maintained low tax rate promises and only collected what they need. The con statement is deliberately misleading. This one-time tax decrease comes from Community Long-Range Facilities Study's specific recommendations and timelines. By voting yes the owner of a \$400,000 home will pay \$2.67 less per month for modern facility upgrades. *Your Yes vote means paying a lower tax rate*, replacing cold war era facilities, and providing lasting, tangible value to taxpayers.

*Argument prepared by Julee Warner, Chair; Cary Bozeman and Patty Lent, Committee Members, committee for the measure. For more information, email [info@citizensforbremertonschools.com](mailto:info@citizensforbremertonschools.com) call (360) 471-5366, or go to [citizensforbremertonschools.com](http://citizensforbremertonschools.com)*

## **Argument Against the Measure**

Our students deserve the best quality education possible. For this reason and others, we are voting "No" on Prop 2. This is a huge tax increase (\$500K house pays \$21K+ over 27 years) that many community members may struggle with. The Bremerton School District (BSD) refused to provide us with detailed cost estimates and dates for accomplishing these improvements. The bond resolution wording allows the school board to re-allocate bond funds for purposes that we may not want or have voted for.

Required consulting services, environmental studies, engineering, architectural evaluations, material acquisitions, inspections and testing necessary to correctly accomplish these improvements have not yet been done. Feasibility is a huge concern. This must be done before asking for this \$150M (total cost = \$318M) bond. This bond proposal allocates funding to improve HVAC systems, yet the state previously provided the BSD with COVID funds to complete these same improvements. Where were those funds actually spent?

Wisely spending our tax dollars to help our children succeed is essential and critical for our country's future. Are you confident that your money will be well spent in a district that has misused funds in the past and now fails to detail exactly how they intend to spend \$150M of our tax dollars? Is this plan what you want to help your student?

Please Vote "No" on Prop 2 until the school district presents a more detailed and feasible plan including a verifiable scope of work with cost estimates and adequate risk reserves.

## **Rebuttal to the Argument For**

The Bremerton School District does receive state funding. The "For" Committee acknowledged this: "this bond comes with state matching funds of \$20 million". According to the BSD plan and RCW 28A.530.020, the district is not required to accomplish the improvements in the bond proposal. The district will be able to reappropriate funds to projects that weren't approved by voters on this ballot. We will only support this bond if the funds will be used properly.

*Argument prepared by John Johanson, Chair; committee against the measure. For more information, email [VoteNoBondAndLevy@gmail.com](mailto:VoteNoBondAndLevy@gmail.com) , or go to [www.votenobondandlevy.com](http://www.votenobondandlevy.com)*

**Proposition No. 1**

**Renewal Enrichment and Operations Levy**

**Official Ballot Title**

The Board of Directors of Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 approved Resolution No. 02-23-24, concerning the replacement of an expiring school enrichment and operations levy. This proposition provides funding for educational programs and operations not funded by the State. If approved, Proposition I will authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, on all taxable property within the District, as provided in Resolution No. 02-23-24:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2025	\$0.85	\$11,900,000
2026	\$0.85	\$12,250,000
2027	\$0.85	\$12,600,000
2028	\$0.85	\$12,950,000

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes**
- No**

**Explanatory Statement**

*(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)*

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$11,900,000 in property taxes within Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 for collection in 2025, \$12,250,000 for collection in 2026, \$12,600,000 for collection in 2027, and \$12,950,000 for collection in 2028, to pay for educational programs and operations not funded by the State.

In accordance with Resolution No. 02-23-24 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the District’s General Fund. The funds would be used to pay for eligible activities in accordance with the Basic Education Funding Act (Laws of 2017, 3d Spec. Sess., ch. 13), as amended, and other applicable law for day-to-day school operations and staff not funded by the State, including but not limited to: special education, transportation, teachers, para-educators, school psychologists, nurses, physical and behavioral therapists, counselors, social workers, athletics, activities, arts and music education, student nutrition, professional development, preschool programs, maintenance and operations, and supplies.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates a tax rate of \$0.85 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection years 2025 through 2028.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. To determine if you qualify, call the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.



## Argument For the Measure

Vote “Yes” to renew the existing Enrichment & Operations Levy, which provides approximately 17% of BISD’s general fund.

### Why is an Enrichment Levy necessary?

While the name “enrichment” may conjure up the notion of “extras,” BISD’s Enrichment & Operations Levy is crucial for maintaining quality education for BISD students. Local levies provide critical support and stability for strong Bainbridge schools.

Washington state funds what it considers to be a “basic” education. BISD uses Enrichment Levy dollars to pick up where state funding ends. Enrichment Levy dollars are used to close gaps in funding for special education and student support programs. They fund instructional materials like textbooks and subscriptions, and consumables like workbooks and supplies. Enrichment Levy funds pay for our robust specialist programming in art, STEM, music, and other electives that form a quality, well-rounded educational experience for all our students. To support our kids’ social and emotional health, Enrichment Levy funds allow us to provide 20% more counselors than the state provides, and school psychologists at *ten* times the rate provided by the state.

Enrichment Levy dollars fund things our community values, making a Bainbridge education so much more than “basic”.

### This is a Renewal levy

The school board prioritizes keeping local levy rates relatively stable, and this proposition asks voters to continue the support they’ve given to our schools for years. Bainbridge Island has a long history of providing a high-quality education for its students. Help continue this remarkable tradition--vote “Yes” for schools.

## Rebuttal to the Argument Against

No argument against the measure submitted for rebuttal.

*Argument prepared by Mev Hoberg, Chair; and Lynn Smith, Committee Member, Bainbridge Island Public School Supporters, committee for the measure. For more information, email [bipss.org.info@gmail.com](mailto:bipss.org.info@gmail.com) or go to [www.bipss.org](http://www.bipss.org).*

## Argument Against the Measure

No committee formed against the measure.

## Rebuttal to the Argument For

No argument submitted.

*No committee against the measure formed.*

**Proposition No. 2**

**Renewal Technology Levy**

**Official Ballot Title**

The Board of Directors of Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 approved Resolution No. 03-23-24, concerning a replacement technology levy to enhance student learning. This proposition would authorize the District to modernize school facilities by acquiring, installing and improving computer technology, telecommunications and networking systems, and related equipment and facilities, and levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, as provided in Resolution No. 03-23-24:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$0.29	\$4,000,000
2026	\$0.28	\$4,000,000
2027	\$0.27	\$4,000,000
2028	\$0.26	\$4,000,000

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes**
- No**

**Explanatory Statement**

*(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)*

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would allow the levy of \$4,000,000 in property taxes within Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 for collection in 2025 through 2028, to pay for technology investments.

In accordance with Resolution No. 03-23-24 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the District’s Capital Projects Fund. The funds would be used to modernize educational, instructional, operations and communication technology systems through the acquisition, installation and improvement of computer technology, telecommunications and networking systems, and related equipment and facilities and to provide ongoing training and support for the systems.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$0.29 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2025 collection); \$0.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2026 collection); \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2027 collection); and \$0.26 per \$1,000 of assessed value (2028 collection).

Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. To determine if you qualify, call the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.

## Argument For the Measure

### Renew Support for Technology in Schools

A “Yes” vote renews our commitment to provide BISD students and staff with the tools and resources needed for today’s modern classrooms. The Tech Levy pays to acquire, repair, and replace student devices and helps meet our equity goals of digital access for every child.

In addition, the Tech Levy funds the acquisition and maintenance of staff devices and equipment; training for staff in best technology practices implemented both online and in person; infrastructure such as networking and emergency notification systems; cybersecurity services; and assistive technology for students with special needs.

Washington State does not provide school districts with designated technology funding. Instead, BISD relies on local taxpayer support to provide the necessary technology and personnel to support 21st-century learning. The modest increase in this levy will ease pressure on the general fund by paying district technology employees as well as funding more digital curriculum and subscriptions.

The Tech Levy helps prepare students for their futures -- no matter what career or path they choose. Employers and professors expect our students to graduate from high school with solid technology skills and experience. A firm understanding of technology is crucial in today’s job market.

Our community has a long history of recognizing the importance of technology in today’s educational setting and has generously provided the necessary funds to support our students. *Vote “Yes” to continue that support* and ensure that BISD students are prepared for learning, careers, and personal success.

## Rebuttal to the Argument Against

No argument against the measure submitted for rebuttal.

*Argument prepared by Mev Hoberg, Chair; and Lynn Smith, Committee Member, Bainbridge Island Public School Supporters, committee for the measure. For more information, email [bipss.org.info@gmail.com](mailto:bipss.org.info@gmail.com) or go to [www.bipss.org](http://www.bipss.org).*

## Argument Against the Measure

No committee formed against the measure.

## Rebuttal to the Argument For

No argument submitted.

*No committee against the measure formed.*

## Proposition No. 1

### General Obligation Bonds for Capital Purposes – \$242,138,000

#### Official Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of North Kitsap School District No. 400 adopted Resolution No. 10-01-23 concerning the issuance of general obligation bonds for capital purposes. This proposition would authorize the District to: replace Pearson and Wolfle Elementary Schools; expand Gordon and Poulsbo Elementary Schools and Poulsbo Middle School; upgrade Kingston Middle School; improve Kingston and North Kitsap High School softball/baseball fields and athletic facilities; make District-wide safety improvements and critical repairs; issue no more than \$242,138,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20 years; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 10-01-23.

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes**
- No**

## Explanatory Statement

*(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)*

Proposition No. 1 – Bonds to Replace and Expand Deteriorating Schools and Improve Safety

Passage of this Proposition would authorize North Kitsap School District to issue \$242,138,000 of bonds to: (1) construct two new elementary schools to replace Hilder Pearson and David Wolfle Elementary Schools; (2) expand and make security improvements to Gordon and Poulsbo Elementary Schools and Poulsbo Middle School (including classroom additions and other upgrades, renovations and improvements); (3) upgrade interior spaces at Kingston Middle School; (4) improve the softball and baseball fields at Kingston and North Kitsap High Schools (including constructing grandstands at Kingston High School); (5) make parking and access improvements at Vinland Elementary School and North Kitsap High School; and (6) make other District-wide safety improvements and critical repairs.

The School Board determined that these projects are required to create equitable schools and learning spaces by reducing or eliminating the use of portables for classroom instruction and to address student and staff safety and security concerns, deteriorating and educationally outdated school facilities and the institution of new educational programs.

The bonds will be repaid from annual excess property taxes over approximately 20 years. The District estimates a 2025 tax rate increase for the bonds of approximately \$0.10 per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$4.17 per month for a \$500,000 home. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Kitsap County Assessor at 360.337.7160.

## Argument For the Measure

### Join us in voting Yes for safe schools!

Good schools not only benefit our students, but our whole community. Here in North Kitsap, we take care of our students. They are our future. We need to invest in our students and our community by passing the NKSD bond.

Our community has the opportunity to rebuild two of our highest need schools and provide safe, modern facilities – all while keeping our local education tax rate stable. Proposition 1 will rebuild David Wolfe Elementary and Hilder Pearson Elementary, transforming them into modern buildings equipped with 21st Century learning spaces, technology, and secure entry points. It will also greatly reduce portable classrooms, provide infrastructure improvements, and improve safety in schools district wide. Voting yes invests in the long term future of our schools.

### The only way to build new schools is by voter-approved bonds

If we want to replace outdated, aging and unsafe schools, we need our community to approve bonds. The state doesn't cover the costs to build and replace schools. All funds approved by voters stay in our district to rebuild.

### Safe schools improve academic outcomes

Data shows a strong connection between modern schools and increased student attendance, academic achievement, and student morale. Prop. 1 will put all NKSD children in quality classrooms. Our student athletes and community will benefit from improved playfields. Without this bond, children will remain in outdated facilities and unsafe portable buildings that are literally falling apart. Our kids deserve better. Vote yes for NKSD students!

## Rebuttal to the Argument Against

We encourage voters to fact-check the claims made by the opposition - they've made several inaccurate statements to maximize shock value. This bond is a cost effective way to make the major renovations our schools need now, at today's construction costs. Wolfle and Pearson elementaries' buildings and portables do not meet modern safety standards. Accurate information can be found at [nkschools.org/bond](http://nkschools.org/bond). Our kids deserve better. It's time to build our future. Vote yes!

*Argument prepared by Cheryl J Harris, Chair; Christine Campbell, and Megan Boxman, Committee Members, committee for the measure. For more information, email [information@yes4nksdkids.org](mailto:information@yes4nksdkids.org), or go to <https://www.yes4nksdkids.org>.*

## Argument Against the Measure

### Do we really need to waste \$168 Million on interest fees?

*This Proposition costs over \$404 Million to provide \$242,138,000 of Bonds, \$168 Million is interest. This is wasteful, since better alternatives exist. Six years ago, NK voters approved \$75,649,513 for smaller projects like the \$11 Million addition at Poulsbo Middle School using the newly created Legislative capital projects tax. There is no need to fund the smaller projects in this proposition with interest.*

This excessive Proposition will demolish 33-year old Wolfle Elementary, despite NKSD recently investing \$1.5 Million modernizing the HVAC, security, and other systems. Wolfle is structurally sound according to the District's own reports. Maintenance and improvements are appropriate, *not a demolition*.

If this Proposition is approved, Pearson's community school, established in 1887 will be abandoned, their students relocated to a new school off Finn Hill in the Vinland attendance area.

The Teachers and Public Service Employees overwhelmingly voted No Confidence in this Superintendent and majority of this Board. *If the two largest groups of employees, those who know the Superintendent and Board best, don't trust them, why should we?* This Bond will not solve NKSD's operating budget crisis, taxpayers will be asked for more money soon.

We deserve to vote on a reasonable Bond made with community involvement that provides specific plans for all schools (including Suquamish Elementary); fine print states, *"...the District shall not be required to accomplish the Projects..."* Please visit [www.NKSDBOND.com](http://www.NKSDBOND.com). Vote No on this Bond.

## Rebuttal to the Argument For

*Don't Be Misled.* 5 times they mention safety, if schools truly are unsafe, NKSD is wasting taxes. Not *"whole community"* when excluding Suquamish. Pearson community's school relocated to Finn Hill, *not rebuilt*. Structurally sound Wolfle bulldozed, *not transformed* into a modern school. State *does* provide construction money. Tax rates *appear* stable because *Levy artfully lowered*. School safety is achieved through meeting student emotional needs, not replacing facilities with new buildings. Vote No on *this* Bond.

*Argument prepared by Stacie Schmechel, Chair; Scott Henden and Kim Gerlach; Committee Members; committee against the measure. For more information, email [nksdbond@gmail.com](mailto:nksdbond@gmail.com) call (803) 868-3327, or go to [www.nksdbond.com](http://www.nksdbond.com).*

### Proposition No. 1

Replacement School Support Levy for Educational Enrichment Programs and Operations

#### Official Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Central Kitsap School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 07-23-24, concerning the replacement of an expiring school support levy. If approved, this proposition would provide funding for educational programs and operations not funded by the State by authorizing the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District, all as provided in Resolution No. 07-23-24.

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2025	\$1.50	\$23,000,000
2026	\$1.50	\$23,000,000
2027	\$1.50	\$23,000,000

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes**
- No**

### Explanatory Statement

*(Prepared by the attorney for the district as prescribed by law.)*

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Central Kitsap School District No. 401 to renew an expiring levy for educational programs and operations by levying \$23,000,000 in property taxes for collection each year in 2025, 2026 and 2027.

In accordance with Resolution No. 07-23-24 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the District’s General Fund and used to pay for day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, including safety and security personnel, special education, sports and activities, and student supports, in accordance with the Basic Education Funding Act (Laws of 2017, 3d Spec. Sess., ch. 13), as amended, and other applicable law.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the levy’s three collection years (2025, 2026, and 2027).

Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For information regarding exemptions, call the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.

## Argument For the Measure

Our students deserve quality education, and they are counting on us. Central Kitsap voters have stepped up in the past, and now we're asking for your continued support.

### This is Not a New Tax

This Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy renews the existing measure already approved by the voters at the same rate. Even if property values rise, the total levy is capped, so you won't see your tax rate go up! School districts must ask the voters every few years for local funding to support essential school services and programs not covered by the state. In fact, the Central Kitsap School District has a lower rate than many surrounding communities and raises less per student. Our district is transparent and fiscally responsible. Budgets are posted at [www.ckschools.org/administration/budget\\_information](http://www.ckschools.org/administration/budget_information) and reviewed annually by the State Auditor.

### Voting Yes Continues Critical Student Services

State funding only fully covers basic classroom instruction. Everything else requires local, voter-approved funding. Our local levy funds the vital services that keep our students safe and engaged in learning, and approval enables State and Federal matching funds. Levy failure means larger class sizes and drastic cuts to security, sports, music, art, transportation, special education, nurses, counselors, and behavioral support. Don't leave matching funds on the table and don't let our students fall behind.

### Vote Yes by February 13th!

Our community supports strong schools. Please vote to renew this voter-approved local levy to keep our students safe, learning, and thriving!

## Rebuttal to the Argument Against

This *is* the reasonable levy request the Against Schools Committee is asking for. Their figures are not accurate. The tax rate is *identical* to what voters already approved. Closing libraries and increasing class sizes wouldn't improve reading and math scores, and we *all agree* on the need for sports and after-school activities funded by this levy. Our students are counting on us to continue existing support and programs. Please vote "Yes!" [www.supportckschools.info](http://www.supportckschools.info)

*Argument prepared by Mark Hughes, Chair; Harriette Bryant and Joy Koenig, Committee Members, committee for the measure. For more information, go to [www.supportckschools.info](http://www.supportckschools.info).*

## Argument Against the Measure

We support a reasonable levy request but oppose an 24.8% increase, \$18,500,000 (collected) to \$23,000,000 that can be collected. State funds grew by 9% in same timeframe. Rather than eliminating the expired federal COVID funded positions, district seeks additional levy funds to make many of these positions permanent.

Administrative priorities now emphasize wokeism, inclusion, equity, requiring increased staffing for counselors, nurses, librarians, etc. rather than focusing on basic education needs of students of reading, writing, arithmetic and civics and proper funding of athletic & after school activities. A school board member recently stated "reviewing expenditures would require too much work for the district to review in a cost vs return benefit".

Key concerns include: 30% of all the teachers/aides are paid from levy monies. Example, district has 36 librarians, State OSPI recommends 12. How many in other teaching disciplines have extras? An additional \$200,000.00/year salaried employee with emphasis on "Equity enhancements" and Assistant Superintendent duties. Average total student enrollment to support three high schools is 17,000 we have four, counting Barker Creek, with a 10,400 enrollment. Over 1,000 out of district students are attending our schools without any district financial impact analysis. A disproportionate number of Navy's "children of need" lack full government compensation; thus, additional levy monies required to cover. Central Kitsap competency test scores are very low: English: 54%, Math: 38.5% and Science: 48.7% at grade level.

There must be a reasonable balance between the Superintendent's staff desires and the financial realities and traditional values of district taxpayers.

## Rebuttal to the Argument For

Vote No on Proposition 1 Levy to lower your taxes. Factoring in \$8 million/year federal aid funding, the CKSD per-student costs far exceed the County average. With bond and levy, our expenses are 25% higher than neighboring districts. State mill rate averages \$1.30, yet the district proposes \$1.50. While past impact aid funding justified \$1.50, the current process should not exceed \$1.38. Vote No on February 13 for fiscal prudence.

*Argument prepared by Matthew Adams, Chair; Charles DeCosta and Kate Campbell, Committee Members, committee against the measure. For more information, email [Matthew.dw.adams@gmail.com](mailto:Matthew.dw.adams@gmail.com), or call (360) 440-1624.*

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The cover of the pamphlet features the Kitsap County seal in the top left corner, which includes the text "KITSAP COUNTY" and "WASHINGTON". To the right of the seal, the title "Kitsap County" is written in a large, bold font, followed by "Official Local Voters' Pamphlet" and "Special Election 2024" in a smaller font. Below the title is a map of Kitsap County divided into three school districts: North Kitsap School District (top), Central Kitsap School District (middle), and Bremerton School District (bottom). A fourth area is labeled "Bainbridge Island School District". A legend at the bottom of the map indicates that the area labeled "No ballot measures this election" is shaded in a lighter gray. At the bottom of the pamphlet, it says "Published by the Office of the Kitsap County Auditor" and "Ballots will be mailed by January 26" in a black box with white text.