

# Skagit County Local Voters' Pamphlet

## February 10, 2026 Special Election

### Local Measures

**Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101 - pages 2-5**

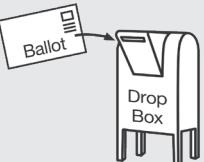
**Anacortes School District No. 103 - pages 6-9**

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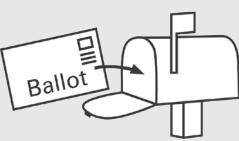
**Darrington School District No. 330 - pages 16-17**



Return your ballot at a drop box.

Drop boxes are open until 8:00 pm sharp on February 10.

**Boxes open for this election are listed on your ballot wrap.**



Return your ballot by mail.

**No Stamp Needed!**

Mail your ballot at least a week before election day.

**Mailed ballots must be postmarked by February 10.**

### Register to vote or update your information

#### Online

You can register to vote online at [VoteWA.gov](http://VoteWA.gov) -- all you need is a Washington State Driver's License or ID and a few minutes. You can register or update your information online by February 2nd for this election.

#### Mail

Download and print a registration form at [sos.wa.gov/elections](http://sos.wa.gov/elections) and mail it to Skagit County Elections. It must be received by February 2nd for this Special election.

#### In person

You can register in person up until 8:00pm on Election Day.

Skagit County Elections  
700 S. 2nd St, Room 139  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

 [skagitcounty.net/elections](http://skagitcounty.net/elections)  
 360-416-1702  
 [scelections@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:scelections@co.skagit.wa.us)

## Proposition No. 1

### Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Sedro-Woolley School District adopted Resolution No. 25-1303 concerning educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to replace an expiring levy with a levy of the following excess taxes on taxable property within the District, to support District educational expenses not funded by the State, including teachers, paraeducators, campus safety, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, multilingual learners, arts, libraries and music:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000	Levy Amount
	<u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2027	\$2.50	\$15,867,484
2028	\$2.50	\$16,343,509
2029	\$2.50	\$16,824,127
2030	\$2.50	\$17,328,851

as provided in Resolution 25-1303. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Sedro-Woolley School District No. 101

The Board of Directors of Sedro-Woolley School District 101 requests approval of a replacement educational programs and operations levy as described in Proposition No. 1. The passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace an expiring levy and allow the levy of \$15,867,484 in property taxes within Sedro-Woolley School District for collection in 2027, the levy of \$16,343,509 for collection in 2028, the levy of \$16,824,127 for collection in 2029, and the levy of \$17,328,851 for collection in 2030. In accordance with Resolution No. 25-1303 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the Sedro-Woolley School District's General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District. General expenses of the District include educational programs and school support expenses not funded or fully funded by the State, including teachers, paraeducators, campus safety, extracurricular and co-curricular activities, multilingual learners, arts, libraries and music 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 \$2.50 (2027 collection), \$2.50 (2028 collection), \$2.50 (2029 collection), and \$2.50 (2030 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. For more information, call the Skagit County Assessor at 360-416-1780.

## Argument For

A Yes vote for the Sedro-Woolley Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy is *not a new tax*—it is a renewal of the ongoing community support that has sustained our schools for many years. This levy continues the commitment Sedro-Woolley residents have consistently shown to ensuring strong, stable educational opportunities for all students.

Washington State does not fully fund public education, and districts across the state rely on local levies to fill the gaps. Essential staffing, programs, and services that students depend on every single day are made possible because our community chooses to invest in them. The EP&O levy helps fund teachers and classroom support staff, extracurricular programs, student transportation, and the daily operations required to keep our schools functioning safely and effectively.

Without this levy, our district would face significant reductions that would directly impact the quality of education in Sedro-Woolley. Cuts could include the loss of student support services, reductions in band, sports, and clubs, larger class sizes, and fewer course options at the high school. These are not optional add-ons—they are fundamental services that help students stay engaged, connected, and prepared for their futures.

Renewing the EP&O levy protects these programs and ensures students continue to benefit from well-rounded learning opportunities, supportive learning environments, and the staffing needed to help them succeed.

A Yes vote for the Educational Programs and Operations Levy is a vote to maintain the high-quality education our community expects and our students deserve.

*Please vote Yes for the Sedro-Woolley EP&O Levy.*

## Rebuttal of Argument Against

Families are right to demand transparency and results. This levy renews local support, modestly adjusting for inflation and enrollment while keeping class sizes manageable and preserving counselors, special education, arts, athletics, and safe, functional schools. Salaries fund the adults who teach, support, and protect students every day. Spending is guided by an independent citizens committee that reviews needs and makes recommendations, adding public oversight. A Yes vote is a practical, accountable investment focused on students.

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Committee Spokesperson: Travis Halterman  
Contact: 360-325-3776; travis.halterman@gmail.com  
Committee Members: Dr. Tim Howland, Phil Brockman

The Skagit County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

## Argument Against

### Families Are Managing Tight Budgets

Families are feeling the pinch of higher taxes and inflation and are managing their dollars carefully. They expect the same from schools. *New levies must be transparent, carefully justified, and focused on helping students.*

### This Levy Is an Increase, Not Just a Renewal

The district is requesting an increase from the current \$2.15 to \$2.50 per thousand of assessed value. For a \$500,000 home, that's \$5,000 total over four years. *Voters deserve to understand how the money will improve learning.*

### Funding Should Reach Students

We all want schools that give students the resources they need. Yet in Sedro-Woolley's \$95 million budget, only 3.4% goes to student supplies and instructional materials. Most funding goes to salaries and benefits, including to district administrators who average \$270K total compensation. Teachers frequently use personal funds to stretch their classroom resources. *School dollars should strengthen classrooms, not expand payroll.*

### Student Achievement Needs Attention

District spending has increased by \$45 million since 2015, yet more than half of Sedro-Woolley students are short of grade-level standards in math, English, and science. The district also reports an 82% graduation rate, raising concerns that students are graduating without basic skills. *Parents want students to succeed, so accountability and results matter.*

Student achievement has been declining for years, despite dramatic increases in spending and added employees. It's time for a fresh new approach. *A No vote on Proposition 1 asks the district to develop creative and innovative strategies that enhance student outcomes.*

## Rebuttal of Argument For

This levy will cost a family with a \$500,000 home \$700 more over four years. It continues the current spending practices without addressing the quality of education. Many of our students are below grade level standards. Aging school buildings need more maintenance support. Fixing learning gaps and older facilities will require thinking differently. A No vote would force the district to address these problems directly, helping students, supporting teachers and strengthening the community.

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Committee Spokesperson: Cynthia Wiedmann  
Contact: 360-340-3578; robbysmother@gmail.com  
Committee Members: Diederik Bron, Bill Velacich

## Proposition No. 2

### Replacement Educational Facility Maintenance, Technology and Safety Levy

The Board of Directors of Sedro-Woolley School District adopted Resolution No. 25-1304 concerning facility maintenance, technology and safety replacement levies. This proposition authorizes School Resource Officer support, technology, security, telephone system improvements, updated flooring and student furniture, improved disability access, Evergreen Elementary upgrade plans and exterior repainting; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy <u>Amount</u>
2027	\$0.42	\$2,654,333
2028	\$0.41	\$2,654,333
2029	\$0.40	\$2,654,333
2030	\$0.40	\$2,654,333
2031	\$0.39	\$2,654,333
2032	\$0.38	\$2,654,333

all as provided in Resolution #25-1304. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Sedro-Woolley School District No.101

The Board of Directors of Sedro-Woolley School District 101 requests approval of a replacement capital levy as described in Proposition No. 2. The proposition authorizes the levy of \$2,654,333 annually for six years to fund to support a School Resource Officer, providing ongoing technology replacement, improvements of safety and security systems, replacing the telephone system, flooring and student furniture, improving disability access, planning Evergreen Elementary upgrades and repainting building exteriors to meet the current and future educational needs of its students. Such funds may be used only to support the construction, modernization, remodeling to school facilities, technology improvements and training, and safety of students.

The total amount to be collected will be \$2,654,333 annually, to be collected in each of the six years commencing 2027 through 2032. The estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value will be \$0.42 per \$1,000 for 2027 collection, \$0.41 per \$1,000 for 2028 collection, \$0.40 per \$1,000 for 2029 collection, \$0.40 for 2030 collection, \$0.39 for 2031 collection and \$0.38 for 2032 collection. The exact levy rate will be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. For more information, call the Skagit County Assessor at 360-416-1780.

## Argument For

The Educational, Facility Maintenance, Technology, and Safety Levy is a *renewal—not a new tax*. It replaces the current measure and continues essential funding to maintain and care for our community's school buildings.

Our schools are community assets that require ongoing upkeep, yet the state does not fund building maintenance or modernization. Thanks to the levy approved six years ago, we've made significant progress—replacing aging roofs, heating systems, siding, paint, and more.

This renewal also supports student technology needs, safety systems, and the staff who maintain these critical resources.

A major component of the levy is its investment in *student and campus safety*. It continues funding for a School Resource Officer (SRO) in partnership with the Sedro-Woolley Police Department—enhancing safety, strengthening community connections, and improving response capabilities.

The levy also supports essential technology infrastructure, including networks, devices, and instructional tools that today's classrooms depend on, but the state does not fully fund.

A Yes vote protects the people, programs, safety measures, and support that Sedro-Woolley students rely on every day. Our community currently provides \$2.5 million annually for this levy. Due to increased construction costs over the past six years, we are requesting *\$2,654,000 per year*.

*Please vote Yes on the Educational, Facility Maintenance, Technology, and Safety Levy.*

## Rebuttal of Argument Against

Deferring repairs is not responsible—and this levy directly addresses safety, health, and building preservation before costs grow. It focuses on essential maintenance that keeps classrooms open, safe, and energy-efficient for daily learning. Capital planning is phased to manage costs responsibly, not ignored. Local levies are often the only tool districts have to fix aging schools. A Yes vote protects students now and prevents far more expensive repairs later.

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Committee Spokesperson: Travis Halterman  
 Contact: 360-325-3776; travis.halterman@gmail.com  
 Committee Members: Dr. Tim Howland, Phil Brockman

The Skagit County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

## Argument Against

### Ignoring Urgent Repairs Will Cost More Later

The district's architectural review reported *rotting, corroding, sinking, leaking and rusting building components*. They identified health and safety hazards and poor energy efficiency in district buildings. Clear Lake, for example, has lead paint on its walls and single pane windows. Big Lake and Samish have deteriorating plumbing and drainage issues. The slab at Lyman's covered play area is "unsafe for active play," yet 180 kids use it daily. These needs were omitted from the levy. Evergreen's dysfunctional classrooms have temporary walls yet remodel *planning* isn't funded until 2030. The remodel work comes years later, after more taxpayer funding is secured.

*By excluding needed building maintenance in this levy, taxpayers will soon be facing more expensive repairs.*

### Put Classrooms Ahead of New Tennis Courts

This levy puts lower priority projects, including *new tennis courts, drainage improvements at Janicki fields and a new tilt skillet*, ahead of urgent classroom needs. Families want strong schools and tax dollars to support student learning. *Levy priorities should be guided by clear, prioritized, student focused plans, not a scattered list of projects.*

### Search Creative Funding Sources

Exploring untapped funding sources, such as grants, partnerships, fundraisers, and foundations could support athletic field upgrades, replace turf and track, and reduce reliance on tax dollars.

### Vote No – We Need A Responsible Plan

Our community supports levy proposals that give priority to student learning and the educational environment. *Vote No on Proposition 2 to demand responsible spending and a new student-focused plan.*

## Rebuttal of Argument For

Over its six year term, this levy collects almost \$1 million more than the previous levy, and priorities matter. Maintaining existing schools must come before adding new facilities like tennis courts. Clear Lake and Evergreen need immediate renovation, and repair needs elsewhere continue to grow. Technology replacement should be revisited, as screen time is interfering with learning. Taxpayers deserve a levy that prioritizes caring for community assets and strengthening literacy and learning in the classroom.

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Committee Spokesperson: Cynthia Wiedmann  
 Contact: 360-340-3578; robbysmother@gmail.com  
 Committee Members: Diederik Bron, Bill Velacich

## Proposition No. 1

### Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 1014 concerning a proposition for educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to replace an expiring levy by levying the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District to support the District's educational programs and operations not funded or not fully funded by the state:

Collection Years	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy Amount
2027	\$0.94	\$10,394,700
2028	\$0.93	\$10,930,764
2029	\$0.92	\$11,341,195
2030	\$0.90	\$11,699,625

all as provided in Resolution No. 1014. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Anacortes School District No. 103

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would authorize the Anacortes School District to replace an expiring levy for school programs and operations with a four-year levy. If voters approve the proposition, the District will use the funds to pay for day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded or not fully funded by the State. The levy will also provide enrichment activities and increased course offerings above and beyond the state funding model. Enrichment and enhanced offerings include but are not limited to: athletics, club activities, College In the High School, Advanced Placement (AP) courses, music, arts, lower class sizes, school supplies, instructional materials, health and nursing services, mental health supports and services, student transportation, safety enhancements, custodial and maintenance services, child nutrition service, parent communication, early learning, and employee professional development.

The proposed levy would authorize the District to levy \$10,394,700 for collection in 2027, \$10,930,764 for collection in 2028, \$11,341,195 for collection in 2029, and \$11,699,625 for collection in 2030. Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$0.94 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2027, \$0.93 per \$1,000 in 2028, \$0.92 per \$1,000 in 2029, and \$0.90 per \$1,000 in 2030.

A property tax exemption may be available to certain senior or disabled homeowners who meet specified income limits. For information regarding exemptions, call the Skagit County Assessor at (360) 416-1780.

## Argument For

The Citizens for Anacortes Schools committee asks our community to vote Yes to renew our Educational Programs & Operations levy that expires in 2026. Anacortes has a long history of supporting education - understanding that schools are the foundation of a thriving community. Renewal protects *current funding levels to maintain what we have* and prevents additional cuts to student programs and staffing.

State and Federal funding provides 82% of the district's annual budget. However, these resources only cover basic requirements and don't fully fund crucial programs such as extracurricular activities, school safety, early learning, custodial services, transportation, and utilities. For decades, our community has overcome this 18% shortfall by voting Yes for levy renewals.

Without renewal, schools would need to reduce course offerings, increase class sizes, and cut beloved programs that enrich all our lives - like athletics and the arts. Washington school districts that failed to renew levies have experienced severe staff reductions and program eliminations, resulting in long-term damage to their communities.

### Renewing the EP&O levy:

Keeps Anacortes a desirable location to raise a family; attracts young professionals to provide medical, trade, and vocational services; Supports a world-class education to prepare our kids for a bright future; Protects staffing for Anacortes's fourth largest employer; Enhances your property values!

While this levy rate is adjusted to reflect growing education operating costs; renewing this essential funding continues our proud tradition of investing in our children, strengthens Anacortes, and sustains our exceptional quality of life. Vote Yes for the EP&O levy!

## Rebuttal of Argument Against

Proposition 1 sustains core student programs and opportunities. Enrollment declines don't reduce fixed costs like insurance, utilities, and supplies. Contrary to assertions, ASD103 has managed \$5 million in budget cuts over three years due to inadequate state funding and cost increases. This levy bridges those gaps to prevent deeper reductions to critical services, including athletics, arts, early learning, extracurriculars, and a broad range of course offerings. Vote yes to limit further impacts on our students!

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Committee: Citizens for Anacortes Schools  
 Committee Spokesperson: David Harris  
 Contact: 360-421-1494; davidharris2176@msn.com;  
[www.citizensforanacortesschools.org](http://www.citizensforanacortesschools.org)  
 Committee Members: Senator Liz Lovelett,  
 Jeannet Papadakis

The Skagit County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

## Argument Against

Vote No! Proposition 1 is not a simple replacement. It's a major tax increase, taxing at the maximum rate allowed by Washington state. The E&O levy would increase from \$7.9 million in 2025 to a yearly average of \$11.1 million from 2027-2030. That's a 40% increase. For a \$750,000 home, Proposition 1 adds roughly \$240 per year. Are your wages going up 40%?

School enrollment has been declining about 1% yearly for the past five years. Former Superintendent Irish expects this trend to continue "for years to come." Yet staffing and spending have not been right-sized. Classified staffing is still higher than in 2019-2020 although the district serves at least 170 fewer students.

The School Board President stated, "*88% of the district budget is tied to contractual obligations.*" Anacortes School District salaries are significantly above regional norms due to long staff tenure. Certificated staff average \$109,816 plus benefits—far above the state funding of \$90,722—with local taxpayers covering the difference. Employees have received average raises of 6.2% per year, well above the 4.2% inflation rate. Executive salaries for just three administrators totaled \$715,214 in 2023-2024, increasing 7% annually.

In 2025 the district acknowledged \$1 million in avoidable spending from optional contract perks: \$450,000 for extra middle-school planning time and \$550,000 for class-size bonuses. These add-ons are expected to return in the 2027 teacher contract, increasing pressure on taxpayers.

Proposition 1 rewards mismanagement during declining enrollment. Vote No. Insist on responsible budgeting first.

## Rebuttal of Argument For

The district claims levy renewals *"prevent cuts."* School District cuts are happening, despite current levies, because 88% of the budget is locked in labor contracts with little flexibility. Declining enrollment (1% yearly) reduces state funding while staffing and compensation increase. Proponents argue good schools *"add desirability"* and *"enhance property values."* Higher property taxes offset those benefits. The combined levies increase property taxes ~48% for average homeowners (\$770 in 2025 to \$1136 in 2027.)

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Committee Spokesperson: Judy Billings  
 Contact: 206-550-1836; judybillings90@gmail.com  
 Committee Members: Linnea McCord, Barbara Smart

## Proposition No. 2

### Replacement Levy for Technology and Capital Improvements

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 1015 concerning a proposition for a replacement technology and capital projects levy. This proposition funds districtwide capital improvements, including security and safety enhancements, energy efficiency updates, facility renewal, technology and building system upgrades, and playground and site improvements and authorizes the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy Amount
2027	\$0.47	\$5,000,000
2028	\$0.47	\$5,175,000
2029	\$0.47	\$5,356,125
2030	\$0.47	\$5,543,590

all as provided in Resolution No. 1015. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Anacortes School District No. 103

Passage of Proposition No. 2 would authorize the Anacortes School District to replace an expiring technology and capital improvements levy with a four-year levy. If voters approve the proposition, the District will use the funds to engage in Districtwide improvements that may include safety and security enhancements; energy efficiency and lighting improvements in classrooms, common areas, and exterior areas; HVAC and plumbing efficiency upgrades; facility updates and maintenance projects; technology and building systems upgrades; playground and site improvements; and facilities and grounds modifications and enhancements. The focus of this levy is on preserving, maintaining and extending the life of existing District facilities.

The proposed levy would authorize the District to levy \$5,000,000 for collection in 2027, \$5,175,000 for collection in 2028, \$5,356,125 for collection in 2029, and \$5,543,590 for collection in 2030. Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$0.47 per \$1,000 of assessed value in each of the four collection years.

A property tax exemption may be available to certain senior or disabled homeowners who meet specified income limits. For information regarding exemptions, call the Skagit County Assessor at (360) 416-1780.

## Argument For

The Citizens for Anacortes Schools committee is asking you to vote Yes for the Technology and Capital Improvements levy! The current levy expires in 2026, leaving the district without resources for essential maintenance, infrastructure, safety and technology requirements. Our kids are asking You to ensure our schools are safe and reliable learning environments!

State financing only provides minimal funding for maintenance, safety infrastructure and technology requirements. This levy funds critical infrastructure such as roof and window replacements, heating and cooling upgrades, plumbing repairs, energy-efficiency upgrades, playground safety improvements, and security enhancements. Independent assessments have identified several Anacortes school repairs as urgent. If not addressed proactively, today's deferred maintenance becomes tomorrow's catastrophic failures. Without this levy, Anacortes School District would be required to divert funds from normal educational programs and operations to address a critical maintenance or safety issue. The funds from this technology levy also allow the district to invest in devices and learning software vital to our children's entry into the professional world as informed citizens.

Renewing the Capital Maintenance, Safety & Technology Levy provides:

Improved security in our schools; Improved overall conditions of school facilities; Improved technology to enhance learning for students and staff; Reduced future infrastructure costs by providing timely preventative maintenance

While this replacement levy has a small increase to cover increased costs, the Citizens for Anacortes Schools committee urges a Yes vote to renew the Capital Maintenance, Safety & Technology Levy—an investment in safe schools and a strong Anacortes future!

## Rebuttal of Argument Against

Proposition 2 addresses critical infrastructure needs that can't be delayed without risking higher future costs. A detailed and prioritized list of necessary facility and capital projects is publicly available on the ASD103 website. This levy replaces expiring funding and protects students, staff, and community through deliberate and responsible facility investments. For clarification, the median Anacortes household will realize a total increase of \$250 for both propositions, not \$240 per proposition as the against committee suggests.

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Committee: Citizens for Anacortes Schools  
 Committee Spokesperson: David Harris  
 Contact: 360-421-1494; davidharris2176@msn.com;  
[www.citizensforanacortesschools.org](http://www.citizensforanacortesschools.org)  
 Committee Members: Senator Liz Lovelett,  
 Jeannet Papadakis

The Skagit County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

## Argument Against

Vote No! Proposition 2 demands a major expansion of taxing authority — an average of \$5.27 million per year from 2027-2030, a 109% increase over the 2025 technology and capital levy of \$2.5 million. For a \$750,000 home, it adds another \$240 per year. Yet the district offers no itemized spending plan, only vague categories such as "HVAC," "security", "technology" and etc.

The district's 2025 Facilities Study identified \$13 million in documented needs, including \$5.1 million at Anacortes Middle School for a leaking roof and failing systems caused by years of deferred maintenance. These urgent, clearly defined problems are not prioritized in Proposition 2. Instead, the district repeats similar language from the 2022 levy at more than double the price.

The current technology and capital levy runs through 2026, yet the district provides no project list, no equipment inventory, no timelines, and no cost breakdowns for any "technology" or "capital" needs. Taxpayers are being asked to approve millions with no plan attached. The district has not explained what remains unfunded or why a dramatically larger levy is now required.

Meanwhile, school enrollment continues to shrink. With 2,621 students and falling, multiple campuses are underutilized. Responsible districts consolidate, right-size, and control costs — they do not expand tax levies to maintain excess capacity.

For \$5.27 million per year, voters deserve clear projects, defined costs, and real timelines. Proposition 2 provides none. Vote No on Proposition 2. Demand transparency, accountability and real planning before another dollar is spent.

## Rebuttal of Argument For

The proponents call this a "small increase", but Proposition 2 more than doubles the Tech & Capital levy, a 109% increase over 2025 levels. Voters are given no project lists, no costs and no timelines to justify it. The school administrator acknowledges the district borrowed money from its capital funds to make payroll, highlighting poor financial management, not underfunding. With declining enrollment and under-utilized facilities, expanding taxing authority without a clear plan is irresponsible.

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Committee Spokesperson: Judy Billings  
 Contact: 206-550-1836; judybillings90@gmail.com  
 Committee Members: Linnea McCord, Barbara Smart

## Proposition No. 1

### Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #911 concerning a proposition for educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District, to support the educational programs and operations of the District not funded or fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2027	\$1.81	\$13,104,088
2028	\$1.83	\$13,868,057
2029	\$1.84	\$14,593,356
2030	\$1.85	\$15,356,589

all as provided in Resolution #911. Should this proposition be approved?

### Explanatory Statement

Written by Burlington-Edison School District No. 100

Passage of Proposition 1 would authorize the Burlington-Edison School District to replace an expiring levy for school programs and operations by levying \$13,104,088 for collection in 2027, \$13,868,057 for collection in 2028, \$14,593,356 for collection in 2029, and \$15,356,589 for collection in 2030. In accordance with Resolution No. 911 approving this proposition, these amounts would be used to pay for day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, including but not limited to, classroom teachers; counseling, nursing and mental health supports; special education supports; instructional assistants; administrative support staff; bus drivers, custodians, maintenance staff; athletics, clubs, music and fine arts; and textbooks and classroom supplies.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$1.81 per \$1,000 of assessed value for collection in 2027, \$1.83 per \$1,000 in 2028, \$1.84 per \$1,000 in 2029, and \$1.85 per \$1,000 in 2030.

A property tax exemption may be available to certain senior or disabled homeowners who meet specified income limits. For information regarding exemptions, call the Skagit County Assessor at (360) 416-1780.

### Argument For

This February, our community again has the opportunity to support the amazing work happening across the Burlington-Edison School District by voting in support of a replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy. This levy replaces an expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy and allows the school district to continue funding for teaching and operational support staff, counselors and nurses, and staffing support for students in special education. This replacement levy also funds all of our athletics, performing arts and extracurricular activities in the district. Additionally, this replacement levy provides funding for curriculum and classroom supplies.

This is not a new tax – this is a renewal of existing funding that is currently set to expire in 2026. If approved, the combined tax rate for both replacement levies will be below \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, helping us to maintain one of the lowest local education tax rates in Skagit County. All funding from levies approved by Burlington-Edison voters stays in the district to fund Burlington-Edison School District.

Our community has a rich tradition of supporting our Burlington-Edison schools by passing levies. Voting "yes" on this Educational Programs and Operations levy will allow Burlington-Edison School District to continue providing high-quality education to Burlington-Edison students. Please vote Yes on February 10, 2026 for our students, staff, families and community!

### Argument Against

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor's Office to provide a statement. There are no statements against the ballot measure.

Committee: B-E Citizen for Schools  
 Committee Spokesperson: Kaaren Flint  
 Contact: [be.citizens.for.school2026@gmail.com](mailto:be.citizens.for.school2026@gmail.com)  
 Committee Members: Yessenia Rocha, Dan Fisher

## Proposition No. 2

### Replacement of Expiring Capital Projects Levy

The Board of Directors of Burlington-Edison School District No. 100 adopted Resolution #912, concerning a proposition for a capital projects levy. This proposition would authorize the District to make school facilities improvements, including technology system upgrades, security and safety enhancements, updates to infrastructure, systems and athletic facilities by levying the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District.

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000	Levy Assessed Value	Amount
2027	\$0.55	\$3,992,904	
2028	\$0.55	\$4,172,381	
2029	\$0.55	\$4,359,934	
2030	\$0.55	\$4,555,928	

all as provided in Resolution #912. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Written by Burlington-Edison School District No. 100

Passage of Proposition No. 2 enables Burlington-Edison School District to fund safety, security, and capital improvements throughout the District and will replace the expiring technology levy with a four-year levy. If voters approve this proposition, the District will use the funds to make Districtwide improvements consisting of: (1) safety and security improvements, including security cameras, access controls and fencing; (2) upgrades to technology infrastructure, including digital subscriptions; student, staff and classroom equipment and devices; staff salaries and professional development related to training and integration of technology; (3) building improvements, including modernization and remodeling of existing facilities.

The proposed levy will authorize collection of annual excess property taxes of between \$3,992,904 and \$4,555,928 from 2027 through 2030, for a maximum four-year total of \$17,081,147. Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates the excess property tax rate to be approximately \$0.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each year of the four-year levy.

A property tax exemption may be available to certain senior or disabled homeowners who meet specified income limits. For information regarding exemptions, call the Skagit County Assessor at (360) 416-1780.

## Argument For

Burlington-Edison School District continues to thrive and provide high-quality learning experiences and enrichment opportunities for our students. The replacement Capital Projects Levy will allow the district to continue providing these experiences and opportunities in ways that are both safe and innovative. This levy is not a new tax, but replaces an expiring Capital Projects Levy that expires in 2026. If approved, the combined tax rate for both replacement levies will be below \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, helping us to maintain one of the lowest local education tax rates in Skagit County.

The Replacement Capital Projects Levy continues funding for safety and security upgrades, including security cameras, access controls and electronic locking systems, and fencing. This levy also funds upgrades to technology infrastructure, classroom technology and devices, and training for teachers. Lastly, this levy provides funding for districtwide facility improvements, including roof replacements, HVAC system upgrades, parking lot improvements, and other remodeling and modernization projects.

When you vote for these levies, you vote for our students and our schools. Please vote Yes on February 10, 2026, to renew the Burlington-Edison School District levies.

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Committee: B-E Citizen for Schools  
 Committee Spokesperson: Kaaren Flint  
 Contact: [be.citizens.for.school2026@gmail.com](mailto:be.citizens.for.school2026@gmail.com)  
 Committee Members: Yessenia Rocha, Dan Fisher

## Argument Against

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor's Office to provide a statement. There are no statements against the ballot measure.

## Proposition No. 1

### Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Concrete School District No. 11 adopted Resolution No. 1533 concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operations expenses. This proposition would replace the expiring levy by authorizing the following excess taxes upon all taxable property in the District as an enrichment levy for the District's General Fund to support educational programs and operations not funded by the State:

<u>Collection Years</u>	Approximate Levy Per \$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy <u>Amount</u>
2027	\$1.38	\$2,150,000
2028	\$1.38	\$2,250,000
2029	\$1.38	\$2,370,000
2030	\$1.38	\$2,520,000

Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Concrete School District No. 11

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would replace an expiring levy and allow the levy in property taxes within Concrete School District No. 11 of \$2,150,000 for collection in 2027, \$2,250,000 for collection in 2028, \$2,370,000 for collection in 2029, and \$2,520,000 for collection in 2030. In accordance with Resolution No. 1533 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited in the Concrete School District's General Fund to pay part of the general expenses of operating the District which are not fully funded by the state. General expenses include employee costs, instructional materials, activities and sports, transportation outside of the basic school day, maintenance of facilities and other non-capital expenses of operating the District schools. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2027, \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2028, \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2029, and \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in 2030. The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call your county assessor.

## Argument For

Voters return to the polls to vote on continuing the existing Educational Programs & Operation (EP&O) Levy. This replacement levy will continue the \$1.38 per \$1000 of property value for taxpayers for the next 4 years. Total levy taxes will decrease as the capital funds levy will expire.

Voting against Prop 1. is a no-confidence vote for the next generation. Consider Washington State's "basic" funding, which falls short of funding essential staff, much less providing an enriching educational environment. This is a far cry from the support we should expect for the children of our community. It is up to us to provide nearly 20% of the school's budget. Additional needs, such as paid coaches; after-school transportation; athletic, extracurricular, and special education programs; and mental health services either would not exist, or would be pared down severely. General maintenance operations would also suffer. The loss of such a significant resource would cripple the district's budget.

Voting *No* is like telling our kids that they do not matter to us. Voting *No* would send the message that a subpar education and inadequate support is acceptable and will prepare them for adulthood.

A *Yes* vote for the Prop. 1 Educational Programs & Operation Levy Replacement is an opportunity for the community to contribute to the success of the next generation. All kids deserve a learning environment with resources that provide meaningful educational opportunities, necessary mental health services, and enriching extracurricular activities—an environment that instills confidence and prepares them for future success.

## Argument Against

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor's Office to provide a statement. There are no statements against the ballot measure.

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Committee: VoteYES For Concrete Schools

Committee Spokesperson: Joe Frank

Contact: 360-389-2743;

[yesforconcretesdlevy@gmail.com](mailto:yesforconcretesdlevy@gmail.com);

[yesforconcretesdlevy.wixsite.com/yesforconcretesdlevy](http://yesforconcretesdlevy.wixsite.com/yesforconcretesdlevy)

Committee Members: Rebecca Miller, Gabe Asarian

The Skagit County Auditor is not responsible for the content of statements or arguments (WAC 434-381-180).

## Proposition No. 1

### Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Conway School District adopted Resolution No. 2-2025 concerning educational funding. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District to support the District's educational programs and operations, and non-high payments to receiving high schools, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

Collection <u>Years</u>	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000	Levy <u>Assessed Value</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2027	\$1.36		\$1,540,000
2028	\$1.35		\$1,587,000
2029	\$1.34		\$1,635,000
2030	\$1.32		\$1,685,000

as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Written by Conway School District No. 317

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the levy of \$1,540,000 in property taxes within Conway School District No. 317 for collection in 2027, the levy of \$1,587,000 for collection in 2028, the levy of \$1,635,000 for collection in 2029, and the levy of \$1,685,000 for collection in 2030, 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 2026 for collection in the years 2027 through 2030. In accordance with Resolution No. 2-2025 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 that are not funded by the State. General expenses of the District include employee costs (salaries), instructional materials, special programs, activities and sports, technology systems operation, transportation costs, maintenance of facilities, non-high payments to receiving high schools 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 \$1.36 (2027 collection), \$1.35 (2028 collection), \$1.34 (2029 collection), and \$1.32 (2030 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Skagit County Assessor at (360) 416-1780.

## Argument For

### Vote Yes for Conway Students and Our Community

Conway School has consistently maintained one of the *lowest education tax rates in the county*. Our School Board takes a *conservative, responsible approach* to funding, ensuring every dollar is used wisely. The proposed levy includes *small, gradual increases* to keep up with rising costs, while still *lowering the actual tax rate* for residents each year.

This levy replaces both the current EP&O and Technology Levies at a lower rate per every \$1,000. The amount Conway taxpayers pay per \$1,000 of assessed value *will decrease annually*, and the *bond rate will continue at the same level or drop over the next four years*, which is a win for both education and taxpayers.

This levy is essential to maintaining *high-quality programs, curriculum, technology and staffing* that enrich student learning and support all learners. This levy will continue to ensure a safe and healthy learning environment.

A Yes vote is an investment in Conway's future—helping our students thrive today and strengthening our community for years to come. Many Conway graduates return to live, work, and give back to the same community that believed in them.

By voting Yes, you are ensuring that Conway continues to be a place where *students succeed, families are supported, and our community grows stronger together*. Vote Yes for Conway School—because *strong schools build strong communities*.

## Argument Against

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor's Office to provide a statement. There are no statements against the ballot measure.

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Committee: Conway School Levy Committee  
Committee Spokesperson: Katie Bohnet  
Contact: 509-301-5645;  
ConwayWashingtonLevyCommittee@gmail.com  
Committee Members: Hannah Pino, Travis Perrigoue

## Proposition No. 1

### Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Darrington School District No. 330 adopted Resolution No. 449-11-25, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000	Levy Amount
	<u>Assessed Value</u>	
2027	\$2.15	\$1,722,726
2028	\$2.15	\$1,774,408
2029	\$2.15	\$1,863,128
2030	\$2.15	\$1,863,128

all as provided in Resolution No. 449-11-25. Should this proposition be approved?

## Explanatory Statement

Darrington School District No. 330

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow the Darrington School District to replace an existing educational programs and operation levy that will expire at the end of 2026. The replacement levy will be used to pay expenses of educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, including: expenses of teaching, student support, school nurses and counselors, textbooks and classroom supplies, student transportation, security, student activities (such as band, music, art, world languages and extracurricular activities), professional development and training, and other school operations. Further information is available at [www.darringtonschools.org](http://www.darringtonschools.org).

The proposed four-year replacement levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$1,722,726 in 2027, \$1,774,408 in 2028, \$1,863,128 in 2029 and \$1,956,284 in 2030. The levy rate required to produce these amounts is estimated to be \$2.15 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact levy rates and amounts to be collected are subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners, contact Snohomish County Assessor 425.388.3433 or Skagit County Assessor 360.416.1780.

## Argument For

Vote 'Yes' for Darrington Kids!

As long time Darrington residents, we support the Darrington School District Education and Operations Levy. This is a replacement levy taking the place of the current levy that is expiring at the end of 2026.

Local levy funds are used to pay for expenses that are not covered by the state and federal government, such as athletics, art, music, culinary arts, most para-educators, and will provide additional electives and learning opportunities. This levy will provide funding for two full-time counselors focused on student mental health, smaller class sizes, targeted instruction and intervention for academically accelerated and struggling students.

Levy funds are also used to pay rent to the Darrington Community Center for school activities such as graduation, PE, and athletic events. This is the same gym that was built by Darrington community members and where generations of Loggers have played sports and created memories.

We are fortunate that our children are raised in a community that values academic and vocational education, the arts, athletics, and extracurricular activities for our students. Students would not have these opportunities without the community's continued support. This local levy has been generously approved by the citizens of this community for many years. Please join us in voting 'Yes' once more for the replacement levy to help our children continue to succeed and receive the quality education they deserve.

Vote 'Yes' for the levy!

## Rebuttal of Argument Against

It's hard to imagine how reducing the District's operating budget will result in improved academic performance. These levy dollars will provide essential funding for targeted academic improvement, will expand vocational programs, and will add new electives that help prepare students for life beyond high school. Darrington has very high attendance which speaks to student engagement. Let's support the students and provide them with opportunities to succeed.

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Committee Spokesperson: Eileen Chapman-Jones  
Committee Members: Kelli Smith

## Argument Against

*Vote No on the Darrington School District Replacement Levy*

Property taxes are already projected to rise by 15-20%--equating to an additional \$1,100-\$1,300 annually for the average homeowner, based on current assessed values. This proposed levy is an increase over the expiring one, further straining the burden on property owners. While everyone wants strong schools, we cannot ignore reality: the district already receives \$21,549 per student from state, federal, and existing local sources—one of the highest per-pupil funding levels in Snohomish County. Yet academic outcomes remain below 60% in both math and English language arts (includes reading).

The district has not demonstrated how the additional millions will directly reverse these trends. Past levy dollars have largely gone to salaries and operations rather than targeted academic improvement, classroom technology, or vocational programs. Enrollment continues to decline, spreading fixed costs over fewer students and inflating the per-pupil spending figure without corresponding gains. We support our schools, but we need accountability and a clear plan showing measurable improvement before asking taxpayers—many are fixed-income seniors and working families—for hundreds more each year. Please vote *No* and send the message: show us results first.

## Rebuttal of Argument For

No statement submitted.

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Committee Spokesperson: Bethan Cathart  
Committee Members: Ellerie Lewis, Sharon Wheeler



# Your signature matters



Under Washington State law, the signature on your ballot return envelope must match the signature from your voter registration record in order for your ballot to be counted. That means we check every single signature on every single return envelope in every single election. Each election, ballots are returned either unsigned or with a signature that doesn't quite match. Don't let that be you.

Here are a few tips to help make sure your signature passes the check and your ballot gets counted:

- If you register online, we pull your signature from the Dept. of Licensing, so check the signature on your drivers license or state ID and try to match that as closely as you can.
- Your signature does not need to be written in cursive or nicely or even legibly, it just needs to match the one that we already have on file. If you have a chicken scratch signature, that's okay! Just make sure you scratch it out the same way each time you vote.
- If you have no idea what signature you might have used or it's been a while and your signature has changed, you can always update your signature simply by returning a paper voter registration form. Returning a paper registration form will add your updated signature to your file.

If there is an issue with your signature not matching or if you just plain forgot to sign, we will send you a letter and, if we have your number, we'll reach out by phone as well. To make sure your ballot is counted, you'll need to fill out and return a simple form before the deadline.



## How to return your forms to Skagit County Elections:

- **Email:**

Take a clear photo or scan and send to [scelections@co.skagit.wa.us](mailto:scelections@co.skagit.wa.us). This is the fastest way to return forms to us. A clear photo is the key to success here!

- **Mail:**

Send to PO Box 1306 Mount Vernon, WA 98273

- **In person:**

Return it to our office by the deadline on your letter

700 S. 2nd St, Room 139

- **Fax:**

360-416-1699



**If you have questions about signature challenges or how to fix yours, please call us at 360-416-1702.**