

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

Special Election - February 12, 2019

Voting Instructions:



Vote:

- Mark your ballot
- Put your ballot into the security sleeve
- Place the security sleeve inside the return envelope and seal



Sign:

- Sign and date the voter declaration



Return

- Return your ballot to the Auditor's Office, Election Division

Voting Center:



Whatcom County Auditor's Office - Election Division

- 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham
- Phone: 360-778-5102
- Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us
- Web: www.whatcomcounty.us/1574/Elections
- Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Open until 8:00 pm on Election Day



Services Available:

- Accessible voting using visual and audio technology
- Replacement ballots
- Voter registration



For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.

Returning Your Ballot:



By Drop Box:

No postage needed. Boxes open January 23; close at 8:00 pm on February 12.

Locations available:

Bellingham - 311 Grand Avenue: Whatcom County Courthouse, inside at Suite 103

Bellingham - 209 Grand Avenue: South parking lot of Courthouse

Birch Bay - 4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road: North Whatcom Fire & Rescue Station parking lot

Custer - 7660 Custer School Road: Custer Elementary parking lot

Everson - 106 E. Main Street: WECU parking lot

Ferndale - 2095 Main Street: in the Ferndale City Hall parking lot

Lummi - 2665 Kwina Road: outside the Lummi Nation Administration Building

Sumas - 534 Railroad Avenue: behind the Post Office



By Mail:

No postage needed for *this* election.

Ballots must be postmarked by February 12, 2019.

Ferndale School District 502
Proposition 2019-2
General Obligation Bonds - \$112,000,000

The Board of Directors of Ferndale School District 502 adopted Resolution No. 18-2018 authorizing bonds to fund several capital projects. This proposition authorizes the District to (1) construct and equip a new high school facility to replace the existing Ferndale High School, modernize the Performing Arts Center and provide for District-wide critical maintenance, safety and security needs including controlled building access and LED security lighting; (2) issue \$112,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 22 years, and (3) levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 18-2018.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2019-2 would allow Ferndale School District to borrow \$112,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 18-2018 approving this proposition, the bonds would pay for planning, constructing, and equipping a new high school facility to replace Ferndale High School; modernizing the Performing Arts Center; and providing for various projects across the district such as controlled building access, exterior lighting, security fencing, critical maintenance upgrades, water tanks, roofing, fire panels, and security systems. The \$112,000,000 in bonds would be repaid through new annual property tax levies over a period of up to 22 years.

Statement For*

The majority of our community (58.64%) voted in favor of the November bond, but we came up short of the finish line (60%). Providing the educational opportunities students need to succeed in the 21st century still requires a new Ferndale High School; therefore, the school board decided to rerun the bond.

Having a qualified workforce is fundamental to our community's economic strength. While the high school offers many excellent programs, its decades-old buildings and electrical systems restrict programs like Career and Technical Education from utilizing current training equipment and methods, preventing students from gaining skills necessary to succeed in the workforce.

A community-led bond task force reviewed district needs and costs before developing the bond; they decided that rebuilding was a more fiscally responsible use of taxpayer dollars than renovation. A new building will also substantially lower annual operating costs, freeing up money to maintain other district schools.

Trust has been an issue. So seven skilled community volunteers, selected by bond task force members, comprise an oversight committee and are ready to proactively monitor all bond-related spending. The time is now; your "Approved" vote can push us across the finish line. Great communities have great schools. Learn more: www.supportferndaleschools.com.

Statement For prepared by:

Support Ferndale Schools; Victor Boulos, Maralise Fegan & Eugene "Bud" Larson

Statement Against

No statement submitted.

**Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.*

Nooksack Valley School District 506
Proposition 2019-1
General Obligation Bonds - \$29,700,000

The Board of Directors of Nooksack Valley School District adopted Resolution No. 8 concerning this proposition for bonds. The proposition authorizes the District to add classrooms to address overcrowding in Everson and Nooksack Elementary Schools, remove and replace Sumas Elementary School, renovate auxiliary gymnasium and Performing Arts Center, upgrade concessions and restrooms, upgrade mechanical systems at NVHS, enhance District-wide safety/security and additional critical maintenance projects, to issue \$29,700,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20.5 years, and to levy excess property taxes annually for repayment of the bonds, as provided in Resolution No. 8.

Should this proposition be: Approved/Rejected

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2019-1 would allow Nooksack Valley School District 506 to borrow \$29,700,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 8 approving this proposition, the bonds will provide additional capacity and provide upgrades and safety enhancements by adding classrooms to Everson and Nooksack Elementary schools, replacing Sumas Elementary and undertaking improvements, upgrades and renovations to the auxiliary gymnasium Performing Arts Center, concessions and restroom areas in athletic facilities and ventilation systems and heating (HVAC) controls. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 20.5 years.

Statement For*

Voting “Yes” is a vote to provide long-term space solutions for our rapidly growing enrollment. The bond will allow us to improve school safety and security as well as modernize schools to enhance student learning.

Our committee carefully considered several options before recommending this package. We all agreed that Sumas Elementary needed more work than a remodel could accomplish. We all agreed permanent classrooms better serve our students than portables. We all agreed that we needed to finish off the high school projects. We all agreed that our district has a history of making wise financial decisions and maintaining facilities as long as possible.

Tax structures for school have changed. The State is now funding a larger share of operating costs, but still doesn’t fund construction. With these changes our local taxes will be less than in 2018, even after the passage of the bond. Monthly tax on a \$300,000 home in 2018 was \$149. With the passage of the bond, monthly tax on that home in 2020 will be \$114.

Our community has a long history of supporting the District and our students. Let us continue this partnership dedicated to our kids. Please vote “Yes” on the bond.

Statement For prepared by: Jennifer Lautenbach & Scott Mitchell

Statement Against

No statement submitted.

**Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.*

Concrete School District No. 11 - Proposition No. 1
Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs & Operations

The Board of Directors of Concrete School District No. 11 adopted Resolution No. 1271 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 Year</u> | <u>Approximate Levy Rate Per \$1,000 Assessed Value</u> | <u>Levy Amount</u> |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|
| 2020 | \$1.50 | \$1,500,000 |
| 2021 | \$1.50 | \$1,500,000 |

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

The Concrete School District is seeking to renew the existing educational programs and operations levy for a period of two (2) years. Concrete School District #11 serves the community by providing education for approximately 500 students and their families. For all students, having enhanced services is important, whether it’s access to technology, before-school or after-school programs, summer-school programs, sporting activities, clubs, or additional services which are not funded through basic education. Levy funding provides essential funding for maintenance and operations of school district facilities including energy costs. With the passage of recent legislation, local levy funding is capped at \$1.50 per 1,000 dollars of assessed property value. This replacement levy represents a reduction of local Concrete taxpayer contributions by \$1.28 per thousand of assessed value.

Statement For

A lot of news stories covered the McCleary Decision of the Washington State Supreme Court mandating that Washington State fully fund public K-12 education and end the practice of local school districts using levies to meet operating costs. Very few news reports closely followed the State Legislative process that attempted to do that. Even fewer readers or listeners that followed the news understand the ramifications of what the legislature actually did. Some of the key mismatches in this entire process were the differences between the words and definitions used by the State Supreme Court, the State Legislature, and local school districts as directed by the Office of State Public Instruction. Thus, the legislature did not pass a funding plan to fully fund local school districts, only what they narrowly defined as “basic education”. The legislature recognized this shortcoming and its future impacts, and compromised by allowing school districts to continue raising some funds using local levies. That compromise is far from perfect because it placed a significant cap of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of property valuation on any levies, including those already passed at a higher amount. By the time the final state budget was finally approved, far less funding for our schools materialized than had been envisioned, but that levy cap remained in place. Supporting the Concrete School District levy request will not end their anticipated budget crunch, but it will lessen it and give the legislature time to re-address school funding. Support the levy.

Statement For prepared by: Committee Spokesperson: Dianne Aamot Phone: 360-708-5553;
Email:dianneamot@gmail.com Members: John Boggs

Statement Against

No Arguments Against Proposition No. 1, Concrete School District No. 11, Replacement of Expiring Levy for Educational Programs & Operations were submitted.

Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.