

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet - Special Election February 11, 2020

Voting Instructions:

Vote:

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

Sign:

- Sign & 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, WA
- Phone: 360-778-5102
- Email: elections@co.whatcom.wa.us
- Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
Election Day, February 11, open until 8:00 pm

Services Available:

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

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 Mail:

No stamp needed. Ballots must be postmarked by February 11.
USPS recommends mailing by February 5.

By Drop Box:

No postage needed. Boxes open January 22; close at 8:00 pm on February 11. Locations available:

City	Ballot Drop Box Location	Address
Acme	Acme Elementary School parking lot	5200 Turkingon Road
Bellingham	Whatcom County Courthouse; in south parking lot or inside at Suite 103	311 Grand Avenue
Bellingham	WWU - In front of the Wade King Student Rec. Center	1880 Bill McDonald Parkway
Bellingham	Whatcom Com. College, on campus beside Heiner Center	237 W. Kellogg Road
Bellingham	Haggen Sehome Village, northeast corner of parking lot	210 36th Street
Birch Bay	North Whatcom Fire & Rescue parking lot	4581 Birch Bay-Lynden Road
Blaine	Blaine Library parking lot	610 3rd Street
Custer	Outside Custer Elementary School	7660 Custer School Road
Deming	Deming Library parking lot	5044 Mt. Baker Highway
Everson	WECU parking lot	106 E. Main Street
Ferndale	Ferndale City Hall parking lot	2095 Main Street
Kendall	North Fork Library at Kendall parking lot	7506 Kendall Road
Lummi	Lummi Nation Admin. Building, outside main entrance	2665 Kwina Road
Lynden	Behind the Lynden Library	216 4th Street
Meridian	Laurel Grange parking lot	6172 Guide Meridian
Point Roberts	Inside the International Marketplace: <i>Drop Box available during store hours (8:00 am - 10:00 pm)</i>	480 Tye Drive
Sudden Valley	Security Office turnaround	Gate One
Sumas	Behind the Post Office in parking lot	534 Railroad Avenue

**Bellingham School District 501
Proposition 2020-9
Replacement Educational Support and Operations Levy**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #19-19 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 operations which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$1.85	\$31,000,000
2022	\$1.85	\$32,000,000
2023	\$1.88	\$33,500,000
2024	\$1.91	\$35,000,000

all as provided in District Resolution #19-19. Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-9 allows the levy of: \$31,000,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District No. 501 for collection in 2021, \$32,000,000 in 2022, \$33,500,000 in 2023, and \$35,000,000 in 2024 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 19-19, would be used to pay certain costs of education support and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.85 (2021 collection), \$1.85 (2022 collection), \$1.88 (2023 collection), and \$1.91 (2024 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Bellingham Public Schools' Operations Levy is expiring in 2020, and our support is needed to continue this essential funding. Levies are needed because the cost of educational services are not adequately funded by the state. The Operations Levy pays for nearly a quarter of the district's budget.

Our upcoming replacement operations levy supports teaching and learning by paying for teachers, counselors, nurses and other staff. It lowers class sizes and provides arts, music, athletics and other programs for the whole child. It also funds other basic operations and programs such as safety, Special Education, English Language Learner and highly capable programs. The levy supports food services and wellness, and funds field trips and Project Free Education.

Please visit bellinghamlevy.org for more information and a current list of the many endorsements of this important levy. Vote "Yes" on Bellingham Public Schools' Operations Levy.

Statement For prepared by: Citizens for Bellingham Schools; Bradley Swanson, Hannah Stone, and Jay Shilhanek

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

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Bellingham School District 501
Proposition 2020-10
Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #20-19 concerning a technology levy to replace an expiring technology levy. The proposition authorizes acquisition, installation and management of computer technology systems; enhanced infrastructure; staffing and training; licensing software; projects and infrastructure updates for school safety; maintenance improvement purchases, and other capital projects, and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$1.00	\$16,700,000
2022	\$0.95	\$16,400,000
2023	\$0.92	\$16,300,000
2024	\$0.87	\$16,000,000

as provided in District Resolution #20-19? Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-10 would allow the levy of: \$16,700,000 in property taxes within Bellingham School District No. 501 for collection in 2021, \$16,400,000 in 2022, \$16,300,000 in 2023 and \$16,000,000 in 2024. This levy, in accordance with Resolution #20-19, would be used to pay for learning technology, enhanced school safety infrastructure, maintenance and building improvements and related costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.00 (2021 collection), \$0.95 (2022 collection), \$0.92 (2023 collection), and \$0.87 (2024 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Technology is a critical part of today's educational program to prepare students for higher education and high wage jobs to contribute to our community and local economy. Bellingham Public Schools' Technology Capital Levy expires in 2020, and our support is needed to continue this essential funding. A positive vote would replace the expiring levy.

The Technology Capital Levy is a fundamental part of our instructional program that pays for student and school computers; classroom technology; digital resources; adaptive technologies for children with special needs; Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) resources; and Career and Technical Education (CTE) supports. The levy pays for staff who maintain equipment and professional development. Additionally, the levy supports our continued emphasis in teaching students about digital citizenship, online safety, empathy and responsibility.

The Technology Capital Levy supports school safety measures; maintenance equipment and replacement vehicles; portables; and windows in some of our schools. Without the levy, these items would be funded from the operating budget, which would reduce the number of teachers and increase class size.

Please visit bellinghamlevy.org for more information and a current list of the many endorsements of this important levy. Vote "Yes" on Bellingham Public Schools' Technology Capital Levy.

Statement For prepared by: Citizens for Bellingham Schools; Bradley Swanson, Hannah Stone, and Jay Shilhanek

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

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Ferndale School District 502, Proposition 2020-6
School Programs and Operations Replacement Levy**

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 16-2019 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 maintain and support the District’s educational programs and operations, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$2.50	\$15,360,000
2022	\$2.50	\$15,360,000
2023	\$2.50	\$15,360,000
2024	\$2.50	\$15,360,000

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-6 allows the levy of: \$15,360,000 in property taxes within Ferndale School District 502 for collection in 2021, \$15,360,000 in 2022, \$15,360,000 in 2023, and \$15,360,000 in 2024, to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 16-2019, would be used to pay costs associated with education and operations. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.50 (2021 collection), \$2.50 (2022 collection), \$2.50 (2023 collection), and \$2.50 (2024 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Please vote Yes to replace the current Levy, which expires at the end of 2020. Ferndale voters have renewed school levies since 1977. Our community values the people and programs that provide our kids the best education possible. The Levy funds 13% of the District’s budget, representing 20% of teacher salaries, 50% of classified staff, and extracurricular programs including athletics, drama, and music.

Research shows children involved in after-school activities are much more likely to graduate, which is why we’re proud that most of our Ferndale high school students participate in one or more activities.

Operating costs continue to rise, but the combined local Levy and State Levy rate is stable when compared to the combined rates from 2017. The District has been a good steward of our tax dollars. They continually receive clean financial audits and have demonstrated good faith in fulfilling the promises of the 2019 bond. The independent Community Bond Oversight Committee has communicated approval throughout the process.

Please vote “yes” to renew this crucial funding and continue providing the essential programs and tools our children need to succeed.

Statement For prepared by:

Support Ferndale Schools; Rob Fickeisen, Larry Brown, and Scott Locker

Rebuttal of Statement For

Ferndale voters have tolerated the status quo for 40 years. Now’s the time to take a stand against a bloated local and state education system, constantly demanding more money. To pay for the new High School, we have gladly made sacrifices and tightened our personal budgets. FSD must now do the same, and model to our students what it means to keep promises, even when difficult. Over \$17,000/student per year is enough. Vote No!

Statement Against

Vote No on this expensive \$2.50 levy! Ferndale voters approved the massive new high school bond, agreeing to pay twice the tax rate of the previous bond, based on the promise of an affordable local levy rate capped at \$1.50/ thousand. *Ten months later the school board broke that promise—twice!* They increased the 2020 local levy rate to \$2.17 and now want \$2.50 for 2021-2024. They put this levy in the February special election because fewer people vote, and you have not yet received your increased 2020 property tax bill.

This \$2.50 local levy, combined with the 2020 state levy increase from \$2.76 to \$3.20, will increase the school tax burden on a \$400k home from \$2,368/year to \$2,944/year. *This levy will cost \$400 more than we were promised by FSD, for a total \$576 tax increase!*

60%+ of your property taxes fund education. FSD’s budget has increased from \$55 million to \$78 million in only five years, while enrollment remains at 4,500 students. *That’s \$17,000+ to educate each student!* The issue isn’t funding, but poor management!

Vote No today! Insist that the school board bring the promised \$1.50 levy to the voters in the November general election.

Statement For prepared by:

Responsible Oversight Ferndale Committee; Andrew Gustafson, Benjamin Davenport, Chad Cristelli, Karl Uppiano, Peggy Uppiano, and Joey McAlpine

Rebuttal of Statement Against

The opposing statement contains inaccuracies and was submitted by those with a long history of opposing schools. The District is transparent. Promises have been met and verified by clean financial audits and an independent Bond Oversight Committee. Ferndale was built on a shared commitment to quality education for the common good. Now, let’s continue our legacy by paying it forward. The next generation is counting on you. Join us in voting, Yes!

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

Blaine School District 503

Proposition 2020-11

Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors of Blaine School District 503 passed Resolution #1920-02 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 maintenance and daily operations, including teachers, staff, classroom materials, and textbooks, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$1.2626	\$6,000,000
2022	\$1.2796	\$6,400,000
2023	\$1.2919	\$6,800,000
2024	\$1.3087	\$7,250,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-11 allows the levy of: \$6,000,000 in property taxes within Blaine School District 503 for collection in 2021, \$6,400,000 in 2022, \$6,800,000 in 2023, and \$7,250,000 in 2024, to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 1920-02, would be used to pay certain costs of District educational programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$1.2626 (2021 collection), \$1.2796 (2022 collection), \$1.2919 (2023 collection), and \$1.3087 (2024 collection). The exact levy rate will be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

As a lifelong resident of Blaine, a BHS graduate, father of two Blaine graduates, retired engineer and property owner, I support Blaine School District’s Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy. This is not a new tax, but rather a continuation of an existing one that provides 15% of operating costs for the district.

Although the State has recently increased its support of local schools in response to the McCleary decision, there are factors that make the response inadequate. First, the apportionment had to offset a \$2 million decrease in Blaine’s existing levy. Secondly, it came with new expenses in the way of additional staffing and compensation requirements. Finally, the funding model used has left large gaps in the funding of educational services.

I am grateful to live in a school district that values every student, every day. Our 2019 levy tax rate was 1.27 per thousand. This replacement levy will extend the great work being done in our schools for only 1.26 per thousand in 2021, with a maximum rate of 1.31 in 2024. Please join me in supporting our schools and bridging the gap to provide excellent opportunities for our children.

Statement For prepared by: Cliff Freeman & Rachelle Bouma

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.

**Lynden School District 504
Proposition 2020-2
Replacement of Existing Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 13-19 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:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$2.37	\$6,700,000
2022	\$2.41	\$7,200,000
2023	\$2.46	\$7,600,000
2024	\$2.50	\$8,000,000

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-2 would allow the levy of \$6,700,000 in property taxes within Lynden School District 504 for collection in 2021, \$7,200,000 in 2022, \$7,600,000 in 2023, and \$8,000,000 in 2024. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 13-19, would be used to pay certain costs of educational programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.37 (2021 collection), \$2.41 (2022 collection), \$2.46 (2023 collection), and \$2.50 (2024 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

By voting yes of the renewal Educational Programs and Operations Levy, you are helping to continue the quality education provided for all Lynden School District students. This 4-year levy replaces the current levy which expires in December 2020. Fund from this levy continue to bridge the gap between what the state allocates for basic education and the actual costs to provide the programs and services to meet the needs of all students. The EP&O Levy makes up approximately 12% of the Lynden School District's budget.

Passage of this replacement levy will ensure continued funding for additional classroom teachers to maintain smaller class sizes, extracurricular athletics and activities, educational support staff, facility maintenance, school safety, transportation, student nutrition, and student support programs such as special education, English Language Learners, and highly capable programs.

Let's give our students the best possible chance for a quality education and bright future by voting yes to renew the 4-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy. Let's work together to improve our schools, one ballot at a time.

Please do not delay. Mark and mail your ballot today! Vote yes for Lynden students.

Statement For prepared by: Citizens for Lynden Schools Levy Committee; Tammy Yoder and CJ Costanti

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

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Lynden School District 504
Proposition 2020-3
Facilities and Technology Projects Levy**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution #14-19 concerning a technology levy. This proposition authorizes the improvement and upgrade of District facilities; including educational technology, software and training; building and site improvements; and other capital projects; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$0.27	\$750,000
2022	\$0.26	\$750,000
2023	\$0.26	\$800,000
2024	\$0.25	\$800,000

all as provided in District Resolution #14-19? Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-3 would allow the levy of \$750,000 in property taxes within Lynden School District 504 for collection in 2021, \$750,000 in 2022, \$800,000 in 2023, and \$800,000 in 2024. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 14-19, would be used to pay for technology improvements for student learning, other capital projects, and related costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.27 (2021 collection), \$0.26 (2022 collection), \$0.26 (2023 collection), and \$0.25 (2024 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

A *Yes Vote* for the Facilities and Technology Levy ensures that our school district buildings will continue to serve as essential community assets. Due to the nature of state funding shortfalls items such as roofs, heating systems, and security systems require additional capital resources that come from our local levy. The Facilities and Technology Levy will also contribute towards our classrooms through investments in teacher and student devices and learning tools, plus staff training to provide our students a technology rich learning environment.

Passage of the Facilities and Technology Levy will provide for these projects and will address identified needs specifically related to maintaining school facilities, school safety, and technology. Funding from the levy will also ensure that other essential, existing programs and services to students will be maintained.

Let's give our students the best possible chance for a quality education and a bright future by voting yes to approve the 4-year Facilities and Technology Levy. Let's work together to improve our schools, one ballot at a time.

Please mark and mail you ballot today and *Vote Yes* for Lynden students!

Statement For prepared by: Citizens for Lynden Schools Levy Committee; Tammy Yoder and CJ Costanti

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

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Meridian School District 505
Proposition 2020-4
Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors of Meridian School District 505 adopted Resolution No. 08-19 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 maintain and support the District's current educational programs and operations, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$2.50	\$4,027,516
2022	\$2.50	\$4,269,167
2023	\$2.50	\$4,525,317
2024	\$2.50	\$4,796,836

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-4 would allow the levy of: \$4,027,516 in property taxes within Meridian School District No. 505 for collection in 2021, \$4,269,167 in 2022, \$4,525,317 in 2023, and \$4,796,836 in 2024. This levy replaces an expiring levy and, in accordance with Resolution No. 08-19, would be used to pay certain costs of District education programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.50 for collection in each of the years 2021 through 2024, inclusive. The exact levy rate will be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

The local levy in Meridian School District provides 13% of the operating budget for our schools. Without these funds our children would be in schools that could not offer the breadth of academic and athletic programs and supports that we enjoy in Meridian.

The District has been a good steward of our local tax dollars. They continually receive clean financial audits and have demonstrated they take good care of school buildings, grounds, equipment and buses.

Meridian schools are good places for our children and grandchildren to learn and grow. Please support our school by voting "Yes" on the levy.

Statement For prepared by: Meridian Citizens for Education Committee; J.D. Phillips, Bill Chambers, and Rob Horgen

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

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

**Meridian School District 505
Proposition 2020-5
Technology and Capital Projects Levy**

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 09-19 concerning a technology levy to replace an expiring technology levy. The proposition authorizes acquisition, installation and management of computer technology systems; enhanced infrastructure; staffing and training; licensing software; projects and facilities for school safety; and other capital projects, and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$0.40	\$644,403
2022	\$0.40	\$683,067
2023	\$0.40	\$724,051
2024	\$0.40	\$767,494

all as provided in District Resolution No. 09-19? Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-5 would allow the levy of: \$644,403 in property taxes within Meridian School District 505 for collection in 2021, \$683,067 in 2022, \$724,051 in 2023, and \$767,494 in 2024. This levy, in accordance with Resolution #09-19, would be used to pay for learning technology, enhanced school safety infrastructure, other capital projects and related costs. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$0.40 for collection in each of the years 2021 through 2024, inclusive. The exact levy rate will be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Technology levy funds will provide a sustainable source of funding for technology, safety, and security needs. The technology levy will provide for training, support, teaching and learning leadership, digital citizenship and integrated, effective instruction and equitable access. Our students must be able to compete in today's technical workplace - for their careers and beyond.

Technology levy funds will permit implementation of a technology initiative of one technology device for each middle and high school student; a minimum of one device per two students at the elementary level to encourage collaboration; a cohesive plan for integrating staff training and provide for a reliable infrastructure and devices for all learning spaces.

The District has been a good steward of our local tax dollars. They continually receive clean financial audits and have demonstrated they take good care of school buildings, grounds, equipment and buses.

Meridian schools are good places for our children and grandchildren to learn and grow. Please support our school by voting "Yes" on the technology levy.

Statement For prepared by: Meridian Citizens for Education Committee; J.D. Phillips, Bill Chambers, and Rob Horgen

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

Statement Against - No statement submitted.

Nooksack Valley School District 506

Proposition 2020-8

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 10 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 maintain current educational program funding levels and support the District’s educational programs, student services and operations:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$2.14	\$2,500,000
2022	\$2.27	\$2,700,000
2023	\$2.39	\$2,900,000
2024	\$2.50	\$3,100,000

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

Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-8 would authorize the Nooksack Valley School District 506 to replace an expiring levy. This levy allows the levy of \$2,500,000 in property taxes within the District for collection in 2021, \$2,700,000 in 2022, \$2,900,000 in 2023, and \$3,100,000 in 2024 to maintain current funding levels and support the District’s educational programs, services, [maintenance] and operations. Estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$2.14 (2021 collection), \$2.27 (2022 collection), \$2.39 (2023 collection), and \$2.50 (2024 collection). The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Our community has a long history of supporting the Nooksack Valley School District and placing value on education. Thank you for passing a bond to replace the aging Sumas Elementary and other projects. Let’s continue to provide the necessary education and operation fund our kids deserve. This levy replaces the expiring levy and will provide funds for essential school services through 2024. This is not a new tax. These services include lower class size, instruction material, technology, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, support services and staff and more. Our District has a reputation of fiscal responsibility and leverages our resources to the students’ greatest advantage.

With changes in state funding a maximum levy rate of \$2.50 was established. Other local districts are asking for the maximum rate for 2020. After carefully considering the needs of our schools and respecting our taxpayers, our school board passed a resolution requesting a replacement levy that incrementally increases the levy rate over 4 years. Voting yes to replace the levy is a vote to continue the quality education provided to all students in Nooksack Valley.

For more information regarding the replacement levy and how it impacts property taxes, please see the District website at www.nv.k12.wa.us.

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.

Mount Baker School District 507
Proposition 2020-1
Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy

Language on the Ballot

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 19/20:05 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 maintain and support the District's educational programs and operations, including teachers, staff, materials, athletics, arts, special education, facilities maintenance, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$2.50	\$5,000,000
2022	\$2.50	\$5,100,000
2023	\$2.50	\$5,200,000
2024	\$2.50	\$5,350,000

Should this proposition be approved?

Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 2020-1 allows the levy of: \$5,000,000 in property taxes within Mount Baker School District No. 507 for collection in 2021, \$5,100,000 in 2022, \$5,200,000 in 2023, and \$5,350,000 in 2024 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Resolution No. 19/20:05, would be used to pay certain costs of education programs and operations support. Based on projected information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value may be \$2.50 for collection in each of the years 2021 through 2024, inclusive. The exact levy rate shall be determined at the time of the levy.

Statement For

Voting yes for the Educational Program & Operations (EP&O) Levy maintains funding that represents approximately fifteen (15%) of the District's General Fund Budget.

This levy supports athletics, teaching, maintenance of school buildings, and other operational aspects of the District.

It is vital to the District operations that these levels be maintained for Mount Baker students.

Statement For prepared by:

Committee For Feb 2020 EP&O Levy; Chellie Anderson & Bridget Rossman

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.

Fire Protection District 8

Proposition 2020-7

Tax Levy for Maintenance, Facilities and Operations

The Board of Fire Commissioners of Whatcom County Fire Protection District 8 adopted Resolution No. 2019-03 concerning a proposition to finance maintenance and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy an excess property tax on all taxable property within the District for four years to be used for maintenance and operations, improving and repairing fire district facilities, and to maintain the current level of fire and emergency medical services. The levy amount shall be as follows:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2021	\$0.77	\$665,000
2022	\$0.80	\$715,000
2023	\$0.84	\$770,000
2024	\$0.87	\$825,000

Should this proposition be approved? Yes/No

Explanatory Statement

Whatcom County Fire Protection District 8 requests approval of a four year maintenance and operations property tax levy. As a result of declining tax revenues and increasing costs, the District’s regular tax levy is no longer adequate to continue providing fire and emergency services at existing levels of service or to make necessary facility improvements. By spreading costs over four years, the district is able to limit this levy to approximately 87 cents per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. If approved, the law prohibits any additional maintenance and operations tax levies for this four-year period.

Statement For

Please vote yes to renew Fire District 8’s M&O levy. This levy provides essential funding to ensure the staffing of the District’s fire stations 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to providing funding for staffing, the renewed levy will help to replace the departments aging fleet and provide some money for facility upgrades.

The two fire stations (Bennett Dr. and MacKenzie Rd) are both over 50 years old and are in need significant upgrades. The District’s fleet has 2 engines that need refurbishment and an ambulance that needs replacement.

The District has worked hard to keep costs down, but the reality is that expenses have grown at 3% per year while tax revenues are limited to 1 % increases. The District started the M&O Levy in 2016 as a way to help fill this gap.

The new levy returns the tax rate to \$1.97 per thousand of assessed value that was approved in 2016. This represents a 27-cent increase over 2019. The owner of a \$400,000 home would see their taxes increase by only \$108 a year or \$9 a month. Please vote yes to continue this critical funding into the future.

Statement For prepared by: Keith Neher, Jim Harber, and Frank White

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

Statement Against

No statement submitted.