

CHILDREN'S INITIATIVE LEVY LID LIFT EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

This proposition would authorize Whatcom County to levy an additional regular property tax at the rate of \$0.19 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation on all taxable property within Whatcom County to fund increased early childhood programs and affordable childcare to improve kindergarten readiness and increased access to support for homeless and otherwise vulnerable children. The levy would be authorized for a ten-year period, with collection beginning in 2023. Levy funds would be deposited in a separate fund ("Healthy Children's Fund") which would be subject to an independent performance audit every other year to evaluate progress and recommend improvements or adjustments.