

# Kitsap County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet – Special Election – April 23, 2024

Central Kitsap School District No. 401 is participating in this election.

## Your Right to Privacy

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

## Questions or Need a Replacement Ballot?

If you have not received your ballot by April 11, or if your ballot is damaged or lost, you may request a replacement ballot by contacting Kitsap County Elections.

## Who May Vote

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

- A citizen of the United States.
- At least 18 years old.
- Not currently serving a sentence of total confinement in prison for a Washington felony conviction.
- Not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.
- Not disqualified from voting due to a court order.

## Options for Registering

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

# Central Kitsap School District No. 401

## Proposition No. 1

Central Kitsap School District No. 401  
Replacement School Support Levy for Educational  
Enrichment Programs and Operations

### Official Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Central Kitsap School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 09-23-24, concerning the replacement of an expiring school support levy. If approved, this proposition would provide funding for educational programs and operations not funded by the State by authorizing the District to levy the following excess taxes upon all taxable property within the District, all as provided in Resolution No. 09-23-24.

Collection Year	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$1.50	\$21,000,000
2026	\$1.50	\$22,000,000
2027	\$1.50	\$23,000,000

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes  
 No

## Explanatory Statement

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

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Central Kitsap School District No. 401 to renew an expiring levy for educational programs and operations by levying \$21,000,000 in property taxes for collection in 2025, \$22,000,000 for collection in 2026 and \$23,000,000 for collection in 2027.

In accordance with Resolution No. 09-23-24 approving this proposition, these taxes would be deposited into the District's General Fund and used to pay for day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, including safety and security personnel, special education, sports and activities, and student supports.

Based on projected assessed valuation information, the District estimates tax rates of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the levy's three collection years (2025, 2026, and 2027). Exemptions from taxes may be available to homeowners who are 61 or older, or disabled, and who meet certain income requirements. For information regarding exemptions, call the Kitsap County Assessor at (360) 337-7160.

## Argument For the Measure

Central Kitsap voters renew levies to close the gap between state funding and the actual costs of educating our kids. Our community has asked for transparency. Here it is.

### **This Is How Levy Failure Will Impact Our Students:**

Loss of 128 teachers and support staff. Middle school sports eliminated. High school sports funding eliminated. School Sheriff Officers and safety staff eliminated. Number of bus stops reduced, lengthening student bus rides. Reduction of elementary reading specialists, paraeducators, and crossing guards. Larger class sizes. Significant reduction of Advanced Placement classes, electives, and world languages. 18 support positions, including nurses, counselors, social workers, and paraeducators eliminated. Funding for after-school clubs, drama, music, and art eliminated. 24 grounds, maintenance, and custodial staff positions eliminated. Technology Help staff downsized.

This is not speculative; this is reality. Our levy rate is set as low as possible to still qualify for \$8,600,000 in extra state and federal funds. Levy failure means a total funding loss of \$29,600,000 for our district. *This impacts our students.* The district's budget is available at [https://ckschools.org/administration/budget\\_information](https://ckschools.org/administration/budget_information)

### **This Is Not a New Tax**

This levy maintains the current rate, a maximum of \$1.50 per \$1,000 – a per student revenue rate 45% lower than neighboring districts. Our district prioritizes stable levy rates and maximizes the educational value of our levy funds, providing opportunities for every student.

### **Please Vote Yes by April 23rd!**

*Keep our students safe and engaged in learning!*

## Rebuttal to the Argument Against

This *is* the reasonable levy the Against Schools Committee requests. Here are the facts: it *is* 10% of the budget (publicly available online)! It *minimizes* the tax burden with a cap at \$1.50/1,000. The state *only* funds 85% of special education and transportation, 6 nurses for our 19 schools, and no sports or extracurriculars. A levy loss affects kids, *not* administrators. *Our students succeed when we fund our schools.* Please vote "Yes!"

*Argument prepared by Catherine Pitcher, Chair; Jennifer Galvan and Joy Koenig, Committee Members, committee for the measure. For more information, go to <https://www.supportckschools.info/> or email [yesckschools@gmail.com](mailto:yesckschools@gmail.com).*

## Argument Against the Measure

Lower the levy! We support reasonable school levies (10% of budget), but our community wants more detailed transparency of funding and a thorough cost-benefit analysis. The levy is increasing from \$18.5 million to \$21, \$22, \$23 million, but why? The \$1.50/\$1000 assessed value is stretching taxpayers thin due to inflation and increasing home values. A \$500,000 assessed value home will pay \$750+/year for this levy. The community is feeling the tax load but not seeing desired results from CKSD. Therefore, we propose a lower-cost levy (and improved accountability) that will appease taxpayers and CKSD.

Over 500 comments were voiced in the CKSD community conversation. The community is concerned our past levy funds were used unwisely. Our competency test scores are low, controversial agendas are being pushed, expensive (\$200,000/year salary) staff have been added, enrollment is decreasing, and frugality is lacking. The community is concerned that CKSD is focused on costly unnecessaries and not enough on quality basic education.

We want our students to succeed! Luckily, Washington fully funds basic education including special education, transportation, LAP, and Highly Capable Programs. Of course, we also want sports, extracurriculars, nurses, etc, (levy funds) but we want our tax dollars to be used prudently. The community wants transparency and accountability from CKSD. They want better communication, trust, and a balance between what is necessary and reasonable to both CKSD and taxpayers. They want improved outcomes. Let's work together to decrease our tax burden and support the students!

## Rebuttal to the Argument For

Levy failure forces CKSD to negotiate. \$1.24/\$1000 is the minimum to qualify CKSD for \$8.6 million in extra funding. \$1.24 should bring in the same funding as the last few years to CKSD due to higher property values. CKSD wants \$1.50, but cannot show us any substantial progress this amount has made for the children. CKSD needs to lower the levy and show us progress to get our yes vote.

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