

# Sequim School District No. 323

## Proposition No. 2

### BONDS TO REPLACE AND UPGRADE DETERIORATING SCHOOLS AND IMPROVE SAFETY

The Board of Directors of Sequim School District No. 323 adopted Resolution No. 4/2024-2025, concerning a proposition to provide safe, modern facilities to enhance learning. This proposition would authorize the District to: replace Helen Haller Elementary; renovate Sequim High School (constructing instructional wings to replace separated buildings); improve safety/security at all schools (adding security vestibules, cameras, access controls); upgrade Greywolf Elementary (adding cafeteria, improving traffic/HVAC); upgrade athletic facilities for students/community; fix transportation facility; issue \$145,950,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 20 years; and levy annual excess property taxes to repay the bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 4/2024-2025.

Should this proposition be:

APPROVED [ ]

REJECTED [ ]

## Explanatory Statement

Written by **Foster Garvey P.C., Lee Marchisio, Bond Counsel**

Proposition 2 authorizes school construction bonds to replace and upgrade deteriorating and educationally outdated schools. Proposition 2 will improve student, staff and community safety and security, improve and expand educational opportunities and programs and provide safe, secure, healthy and modern learning environments.

The bonds will fund safe, modern facilities by allowing Sequim School District to: (1) construct a new elementary school to replace Helen Haller Elementary; (2) renovate Sequim High School (constructing instructional wings, including controlled access and modern learning spaces, to replace separated open campus buildings); (3) improve safety/security at all schools (upgrading security vestibules, cameras, access controls; improving bus loops, student pickup/drop off areas); (4) upgrade Greywolf Elementary (adding cafeteria for lunch service; improving bus loop/parking, HVAC/plumbing); (5) upgrade athletic facilities for student and community use (which may include installing multi-sport synthetic turf field at Sequim High School and modifying track); (6) fix transportation center. Further information is available at <https://www.sequimschools.org/>.

The \$145,950,000 of general obligation bonds will be repaid from annual excess property taxes sufficient to pay bond debt service over a maximum term of 20 years. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clallam County Assessor 360-417-2400, Jefferson County Assessor at 360-385-9105.

## Argument Against

While it is difficult to argue against improvements that enhance the safety, security, and learning environment for students, there is some additional information that might be useful for voters regarding Proposition 2.

Specifically, voters may value knowing that there is flexibility in the use of the bond funds as described in the Board Resolution (available on the District website) but this information is not included in the ballot language itself. In the Board Resolution, Sections 6 and 7, if excess funds become available, they could be used to pay off the bonds, or they could be used, following a public hearing, on other capital projects. In the Board Resolution, Section 8, if needs for capital projects change, the funding could be used to pay off the bonds or, following a public hearing, could be used on other capital projects.

Many voters will be considering the proposition based solely on the projects listed on the ballot. Consequently, it seems more appropriate that any surplus would only be used to pay off the portion of the bonds that were not needed for the listed projects. If capital project priorities change, then the board could go back to voters for additional bonding authority for those projects. Alternatively, greater transparency would have been achieved if the ballot language indicated that, if surplus funds were available as a result of the bond, or if priorities changed, those funds could be used to pay off the bonds, or for other capital projects.

**Written by: Patrick Guilfoile**

**Contact:** shadow\_user10@yahoo.com



Clallam County Official Local

# Voters' Pamphlet

February 11, 2025 Special Election

Sequim School District No. 323

## Returning Your Ballot

### By Official Ballot Drop Box

Drop Boxes are open 20 days before Election Day, 24 hours a day until 8:00 p.m. on Election Night.

Returning your ballot to a drop box reduces the cost of postage for the election.

**Clallam County Courthouse** – 223 E 4<sup>th</sup> St, Port Angeles

- Courthouse circular drive
- Courthouse sidewalk, across from disabled parking
- Elections and Voter Registration Office Room 042 (only available during business hours 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.)

**Carlsborg** – 261461 Hwy 101, near Sunny Farms, adjacent to Mill Rd

**Sequim** – 651 W Washington St, in the parking lot

**Clallam Bay** – 16990 Hwy 112, in front of the Clallam Bay Branch Library

**Forks** – 500 E Division St, outside Forks City Hall

**Neah Bay** – 1450 Bayview Ave, in front of Washburn's General Store by the left Totem Pole

**Seki** – 15 Sekiu Airport Road, at the PUD in the drive-up lane

### By Mail

No stamp is necessary if you use the return envelope that is provided with your ballot. Please make sure to have a postmark on or before February 11, 2025 when mailing your ballot. Check with your local Post Office for postmark cutoff times on Election Day.

## Accessible Voting

January 22 - February 11: Clallam County voters with disabilities have the option of voting independently and privately using an Accessible Voting Unit at the Clallam County Elections and Voter Registration Office (Room 042).

Published by

**Clallam County Auditor's Office**

(360) 417-2221 | 223 E 4<sup>th</sup> St, Ste 1, Port Angeles

[clallamcountywa.gov/elections](http://clallamcountywa.gov/elections)

[elections@clallamcountywa.gov](mailto:elections@clallamcountywa.gov)

## Argument For

**Why Now for a Construction Bond?** We are at a crisis point with our deteriorating and educationally outdated schools. This must be addressed Now! Many of our buildings were built in the 1960s and 1970s and don't meet current ADA, safety and security standards. In 2024, Sequim High School and Helen Haller scored *Poor* on their Building Condition Assessments. This means that major remodels, major repairs and possible replacements are needed *Within 5 Years*.

Helen Haller Elementary has accessibility deficiencies, obsolete classroom heating, corroding galvanized plumbing, and more. Sequim High School has serious security issues with the open campus, roofs and windows need to be replaced, and many systems are at the end of their useful lives. Greywolf Elementary has no cafeteria, issues with HVAC and plumbing, and serious problems with the bus loop. We are paying more to keep old buildings dry and warm, when replacing them would be more cost-effective.

**What is the Cost to Taxpayers?** Our school district is asking us to approve a 20-year Construction Bond paid with \$0.91 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, replacing the current \$0.42 Capital Levy that expires in 2025. If passed, this will be a tax increase of under \$20 per month, based on a \$470,000 median home value.

This critical investment will fund a new Helen Haller Elementary; major Sequim High School renovations; Greywolf Elementary improvements; upgraded Athletic Facilities; and Transportation, Safety and Security upgrades. *Please Vote Yes to approve our School Construction Bond Levy.*

**Written by: Dale Jarvis and Susan Fisch**

**Contact:** dale@djconsult.net

# Sequim School District No. 323

## Proposition No. 1

### REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LEVY

The Board of Directors of Sequim School District No. 323 adopted Resolution No. 3/2024-2025, concerning a proposition for a replacement levy for education. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of educational programs and operations expenses not funded by the State, including teachers, support staff, technology, curriculum, transportation, athletics, co-curricular activities and maintenance/operations:

| Collection Year | Esitmated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|-----------------|--|-------------|
| 2026            | \$0.94                                     | \$8,699,090 |
| 2027            | \$0.94                                     | \$9,011,259 |
| 2028            | \$0.94                                     | \$9,095,852 |
| 2029            | \$0.94                                     | \$9,398,099 |

all as provided in Resolution No. 3/2024-2025. Should this proposition be approved?

LEVY . . . YES [ ]    LEVY . . . NO [ ]

## Explanatory Statement

Written by **Foster Garvey P.C., Lee Marchisio, Special Counsel**

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Sequim School District to replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2025. The taxes collected by this replacement levy will be used to pay for expenses of educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State of Washington. These expenses include, but are not limited to, teachers, support staff, technology, curriculum, transportation, athletics, co-curricular activities and maintenance/operations. Further information is available on the District’s website at <https://www.sequimschools.org/>.

The proposed replacement levy would authorize the collection of taxes to provide up to \$8,699,090 in 2026, \$9,011,259 in 2027, \$9,095,852 in 2028 and \$9,398,099 in 2029. The levy rate required to produce these amounts is estimated to be \$0.94 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact levy rates and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available, call Clallam County Assessor at 360-417-2400, Jefferson County Assessor at 360-385-9105.

## Argument Against

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor to provide an “Against” Statement, so there is no “Against” Statement for this measure.

## Replacement Ballots

You have options to receive a replacement ballot if your ballot is lost, spoiled, or destroyed:

- Call or email our office
- Visit us in person
- Print a replacement ballot online at [www.VoteWA.gov](http://www.VoteWA.gov)



## To Register to Vote, You Must Be

- A citizen of the United States.
- A Washington State resident.
- At least 16 years old.  
If you are 16 or 17, you can sign up as a Future Voter and be automatically registered to vote when you qualify.
- Not disqualified from voting due to court order.
- Not currently serving a sentence of total confinement under the jurisdiction of the department of corrections for a Washington felony conviction.
- Not currently incarcerated for a federal or out-of-state felony conviction.

## Register to Vote & Update Your Voter Registration

### Online: [www.VoteWA.gov](http://www.VoteWA.gov)

- To register to vote
- To change your address
- To change your name
- To check your voting history
- To check your ballot status

Scan the QR code with your smartphone to visit [VoteWA](http://VoteWA).



### By Mail

Complete and return a Washington State Voter Registration form. Forms must be **received** in the Elections and Voter Registration Office by February 3, 2025.

### In Person

Visit the Clallam County Elections and Voter Registration Office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

### Registration Deadlines:

- Online and by mail through February 3, 2025.
- Elections and Voter Registration Office, in person through February 11, 2025 until 8:00 p.m.

## Remember to Sign Your Return Enevelope!

### Your signature is needed to make sure your ballot gets counted.

- The signature on your return envelope is compared to the signature on your voter registration record. Trained election officials verify each and every signature.
- If your signature is missing or does not match your voter registration record, the Clallam County Elections and Voter Registration Office will contact you by mail **before results are certified**. You will also be called or emailed if that information is available.
- If you registered to vote online with your Washington driver’s license, permit, or state ID number, or through Department of Licensing, the signature from your driver’s license, permit, or state ID will be on your voter registration record.

## Argument For

**Why Now for a School Levy?** For decades, our community has supported education levies to pay for critical local programs that are not covered by State and Federal funds. The \$8 million per year collected from this Levy pays for additional teachers to reduce class size, student support staff, counselors, school nurses, technology, music, drama, athletics, maintenance, and important programs that make our schools whole, and attracts new businesses helping to support our local economy. Our Levy is expiring in 2025 and *must* be renewed to maintain these services.

**What is the Cost to Taxpayers?** In 2021 voters approved a 4-year Levy of \$1.26 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Now our school district is asking us to renew this Levy at a lower rate of \$0.94 for 2026 through 2029.

**What does Voting Yes Mean for My Tax Bill?** When a Levy passes, the school district can only collect the total dollar amount approved by voters. Since the 2021 Levy vote, more homes have been built, property values have increased, and the actual assessment has dropped to \$0.87 per \$1,000. If we pass the Levy, the tax increase will be under \$3 per month, based on a \$470,000 median home value – a worthy investment for our kids and our community.

*Please Vote Yes to support future generations/our kids in Sequim and renew our Education Programs & Operations Levy.*

**Written by: Dale Jarvis and Susan Fisch**

**Contact:** [dale@djconsult.net](mailto:dale@djconsult.net)