



Resolution Cover Sheet

This form is mandatory and must accompany each resolution.

Name of District: Rochester School District
District Address: 10140 Highway 12 SW, Rochester, WA 98579
Date of Election: February 13, 2024
Contact Person: Jennifer Bethman Title: Superintendent
Contact Phone: 360-273-9242 Email: jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu
2nd Contact Person: Jill Pratt Title: Business Manager
2nd Contact Phone: 360-273-5536 ext. 1005 Email: jpratt@rochester.wednet.edu

Attorney for District: Cynthia Weed
Attorney Phone: 206-370-7801 Attorney Email: cynthia.weed@klgates.com

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, sales tax, etc.): Levy (Proposition 1)

Pass/Fail requirement for this measure as determined by your legal counsel: 50% +1

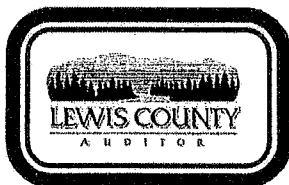
☒ Simple majority or majority 50% +1 ☐ Supermajority or 60%

Applicable statutory reference as determined by legal counsel: _____

Validation requirement as determined by your legal counsel. The minimum number of voters "required" to turnout (cast a ballot) in an excess levy or bond election.

This issue requires validation: ☐ Yes ☒ No

This form must accompany each resolution filed with Lewis County Elections. The contact person or persons should have the authority to do so and be available to answer questions.



For/Against Committee Member Appointment Form

Name of District: Rochester School District
District Contact Name: Jennifer Bethman
Email Address: jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu Phone: 360-273-9242

Jurisdiction's responsibility:

1. Email completed form to elections@lewiscountywa.gov by the resolution submittal deadline.
2. Provide committee members with statement submission requirements and deadlines. Committees are solely responsible for submitting voters' pamphlet statements to the Elections Division.

Deadlines are on page 13 of the administrative rules. Questions? Contact the Elections Department at: elections@lewiscountywa.gov or call 360.740.1278 or 360.740.1164

Information for inclusion in voters' pamphlet:

"For" Committee (1-3 members):

Committee Name: Support Rochester Schools
Phone: 360-742-8022 Email: YesRochesterSchools@gmail.com Web: YesRochesterSchools.org
Committee Member #1: Amanda Bocook Email: YesRochesterSchools@gmail.com
Committee Member #2: Mark Steelhammer Email: _____
Committee Member #3: Barbara Munsell Email: _____

"Against" Committee (1-3 members):

Committee Name: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____ Web: _____
Committee Member #1: _____ Email: _____
Committee Member #2: _____ Email: _____
Committee Member #3: _____ Email: _____

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY

RESOLUTION NO. 23-15

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401, Thurston County, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at a special election to be held therein on February 13, 2024, of the proposition of whether excess taxes should be levied of \$5,513,424 in 2024 for collection in 2025, \$5,886,159 in 2025 for collection in 2026, \$6,189,745 in 2026 for collection in 2027, and \$6,400,128 in 2027 for collection in 2028, said excess taxes to pay part of the cost of educational programs and operations support of the District.

ADOPTED OCTOBER 25, 2023

PREPARED BY:

K&L GATES LLP
Seattle, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 2023/2024-001

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401, Thurston County, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at a special election to be held therein on February 13, 2024, of the proposition of whether excess taxes should be levied of \$5,513,424 in 2024 for collection in 2025, \$5,886,159 in 2025 for collection in 2026, \$6,189,745 in 2026 for collection in 2027, and \$6,400,128 in 2027 for collection in 2028, said excess taxes to pay part of the cost of educational programs and operations support of the District.

WHEREAS, Rochester School District No. 401, Thurston County, Washington, (the “District”), for the past four years has had in effect an educational programs and operations levy in order to enable the District to pay for its educational programs and services, including teaching, school supplies, athletics, buildings and transportation; and

WHEREAS, the current school programs and operations levies expire in 2024; and

WHEREAS, the money in and to be paid into the General Fund of the District during the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 school years will be insufficient to enable the District to pay for necessary educational programs and operations and to properly meet the educational needs of the students attending District schools; and

WHEREAS, the existing authority for the imposition of local tax levies and use of local revenues (including the proceeds of tax levies) has been modified by Chapter 410, Laws of 2019 (66th Legislature, Regular Session) and may be modified in the future by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, in the event the State Legislature increases education funding to the District, the District would, therefore, review annually and determine the need to roll back the levies; and

WHEREAS, in order to fund day-to-day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the state, including college and skilled trades readiness; arts and athletics;

curriculum materials; technology; and additional staff including nurses, counselors and school resource officers; the Board of Directors of the District deems it necessary to levy the following taxes upon all of the taxable property within the District in excess of the maximum annual tax levy permitted by law to be levied within the District without a vote of the electors:

- A. A levy in the amount of up to \$5,513,424, said levy to be made in 2024 for collection in 2025;
- B. A levy in the amount of up to \$5,886,159, said levy to be made in 2025 for collection in 2026;
- C. A levy in the amount of up to \$6,189,745, said levy to be made in 2026 for collection in 2027; and
- D. A levy in the amount of up to \$6,400,128, said levy to be made in 2027 for collection in 2028;

WHEREAS, prior to the time the ballot proposition authorized in this resolution is submitted to the voters, the District will have received approval of its educational programs and operations/enrichment tax levy expenditure plan from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction as required under RCW 84.52.053(4); and

WHEREAS, the Constitution and laws of the State of Washington require that the question of whether or not such excess taxes may be levied must be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401, THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON, as follows:

Section 1. The following taxes for the District's General Fund should be levied upon all of the taxable property within the District in excess of the maximum annual tax levy permitted by law to be levied within the District without a vote of the electors:

- A. A levy in the amount of up to \$5,513,424, said levy to be made in 2024 for collection in 2025;
- B. A levy in the amount of up to \$5,886,159, said levy to be made in 2025 for collection in 2026;
- C. A levy in the amount of up to \$6,189,745, said levy to be made in 2026 for collection in 2027; and
- D. A levy in the amount of up to \$6,400,128, said levy to be made in 2027 for collection in 2028;

The estimated levy rate depends on the limitations of state law and information. At this time, based on state law, the estimated levy rate for the 2024 levy is \$2.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, the estimated levy rate for the 2025 levy is \$2.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, the estimated levy rate for the 2026 levy is \$2.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and the estimated levy rate for the 2027 levy is \$2.50 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The exact levy rate and amount shall be adjusted based upon the legal levy limits and the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy. Upon approval by the voters of the proposition substantially in the form set forth below, the District may use the proceeds of said levies during the 2024-2025, 2025-2026, 2026-2027, 2027-2028 and 2028-2029 school years by incurring an indebtedness by the issuance of short term obligations against the General Fund of the District, as authorized by Chapter 39.50 RCW, and may expend the proceeds of said levies to pay such part of the general expenses of educational programs and operations of the District during such school years as may be authorized or allowed by law for the use of local levy funds.

Section 2. It is hereby found and declared that the best interests of the District require the submission to the qualified electors of the District of the proposition of whether or not the District shall levy such excess tax for their ratification or rejection at a special election to be held therein on February 13, 2024.

The Thurston County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in Thurston County, Washington, is hereby requested to call and conduct said special election to be held within the District on said date and to submit to the qualified electors of the District the proposition substantially in the form hereinafter set forth. The Secretary of the Board of Directors is hereby authorized and directed to certify said proposition to the Thurston County Auditor substantially in the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS
REPLACEMENT LEVY

The Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 23-15 authorizing a replacement levy to continue support for educational programs. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District to maintain current educational programs and operation expenses not fully funded by the State (including special education, nurses, counselors, graduation readiness, technology, athletics, and extracurricular activities):

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2025	\$2.50	\$5,513,424
2026	\$2.50	\$5,886,159
2027	\$2.50	\$6,189,745
2028	\$2.50	\$6,400,128

subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

YES..... ☐

NO..... ☐

The Secretary of the Board of Directors of the District is hereby directed to deliver a certified copy of this resolution to the Thurston County Auditor.

Section 3. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot title required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates (a) the District's Business Manager (Jill Pratt) telephone: 360.273.5536, ext. 1005; email: jpratt@rochester.wednet.edu; and (b) special counsel, K&L Gates LLP (Cynthia Weed) telephone: 206.370.7801 and cell: 206.618.6050; email: cynthia.weed@klgates.com, as the individuals to whom the Auditor shall provide such notice. The Business Manager is authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Auditor or the Thurston County Prosecuting Attorney.

Section 4. Pursuant to authority granted by RCW 29A.32.220, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the District's participation in the local voters' pamphlet for the February 2024 election and requests that the Thurston County Auditor prepare and publish a voters' pamphlet for this proposition. The District understands and agrees that it will be required to pay its proportionate share of the expenses of the voters' pamphlet.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401, Thurston
County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 25th day of October, 2023.

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401,
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

DocuSigned by:

B James (Neil) Turner

05DF85491E0C498... President and Director

DocuSigned by:

Grant Rodheaver

535AD8A55D1C40D...

Director

Director

DocuSigned by:

Michael Langer

F03FA3CC68F84B7...

Director

DocuSigned by:

Thomas Trott

6A9E1E2898854DD...

Director

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Jennifer Bethman

340987a41031462...
Secretary, Board of Directors

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401, Thurston County, Washington, (the "District") and keeper of the records of the Board of Directors (the "Board"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

1. That the attached resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 23-15 of the Board (the "Resolution"), duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 25th day of October, 2023.

2. That said meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law, and to the extent required by law, due and proper notice of such meeting was given; that a legal quorum was present throughout the meeting and a legally sufficient number of members of the Board voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the Resolution; that all other requirements and proceedings incident to the proper adoption of the Resolution have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed; and that I am authorized to execute this certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 25th day of October, 2023.

DocuSigned by:
Jennifer Bethman
34090FA41D17440
Secretary, Board of Directors

OFFICIAL BALLOTROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

February 13, 2024

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote in favor of the following proposition, place a cross (X) in the square opposite the word "YES"; to vote against the following proposition, place a cross (X) in the square opposite the word "NO."

PROPOSITION NO. 1

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS
REPLACEMENT LEVY

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Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
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2026	\$2.50	\$5,886,159
2027	\$2.50	\$6,189,745
2028	\$2.50	\$6,400,128

subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

YES ☐

NO ☐

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
THURSTON COUNTY, WASHINGTON

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 13, 2024, a special election will be held in the above-named school district for the submission to the qualified electors of said school district of the following proposition:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

ROCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS
REPLACEMENT LEVY

The Board of Directors of Rochester School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 23-15 authorizing a replacement levy to continue support for educational programs. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District to maintain current educational programs and operation expenses not fully funded by the State (including special education, nurses, counselors, graduation readiness, technology, athletics, and extracurricular activities):

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
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2026	\$2.50	\$5,886,159
2027	\$2.50	\$6,189,745
2028	\$2.50	\$6,400,128

subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

YES..... ☐

NO..... ☐

Thurston County Auditor

Election Date: February 13, 2024

Name of Jurisdiction Submitting Measure: Rochester School District No. 401, Thurston County, Washington

Contact Name: Cynthia Weed

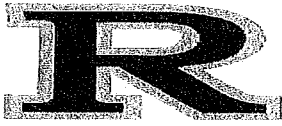
Daytime Contact Phone Number: 206-623-7580; cell: 206.618.6050

Word Count – 170; limit is 175

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT - PROPOSITION NO. 1

Passage of Proposition No. 1 allows the levy of: \$5,513,424 in property taxes within Rochester School District No. 401 for collection in 2025, \$5,886,159 in 2026, \$6,189,745 in 2027, and \$6,400,128 in 2028 to replace an expiring levy. This levy, in accordance with Board Resolution #23-15, would be used to maintain day to day school operations to meet student needs not funded by the State, including teachers, college and skilled trades, readiness, arts and athletics, curriculum materials, technology, and additional staff, including nurses, counselors and school resource officers. If authorized by the voters, property taxes, based on projected assessed valuation information, would be levied at an estimated levy rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for each of the collection years, 2025 through 2028. The actual levy rates will be adjusted based upon the assessed value of property within the District at the time of each levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Thurston County Assessor at (360) 867-2200.



Jennifer Bethman <jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu>

Rochester School District Explanatory Statements

Weed, Cynthia <cynthia.weed@klgates.com>

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 10:49 AM

To: "elections@co.thurston.wa.us" <elections@co.thurston.wa.us>

Cc: Jennifer Bethman <jbethman@rochester.wednet.edu>, "George, Peter M." <Peter.George@klgates.com>

Hello:

Rochester School District will be delivering to packets for ballots for the February 2024 Election (levy and bond). Although they will include explanatory statements, this email will confirm that we drafted them for the District.

Regards,

Cynthia




Cynthia M. Weed
K&L Gates LLP
925 Fourth Avenue #2900
Seattle, WA 98104
Phone (DID): 206-370-7801
Cell: 206-618-6050


Home: 206-332-1676
Fax: 206-370-6201
cynthia.weed@klgates.com

www.klgates.com

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2 attachments

 Rochester School District No. 401- Explanatory Statement--Bond Election (Feb. 2024)_USW_Active01_507261533_1.DOCX
23K

 ROCHESTER SD 401--Explanatory Statement--EP&O 4 Year Levy (February 2024) (Prop 1)_USW_Active01_507261396_1.DOCX
24K