



Resolution cover sheet

This form **must** accompany each resolution.

Name of District: Castle Rock School Dist. #401

District Address: 600 Huntington Ave. S.

Date of Election: February 11, 2025

Contact Person/Title: Chris Fritsch, Superintendent

Contact Phone: 360-501-2940 Email: cfritsch@crschools.org
sguest@crschools.org

Attorney for District: Cyntha Weed, Keil Gates LLP

Attorney Phone: 206-618-6050 Email: cynthia.weed@klgates.com

Type of Election (levy, bond, lid lift, etc.): Levy

Pass / Fail Requirement for this measure as determined by your legal counsel.
Please circle one: simple majority, supermajority, 60% plus validation, other (explain below)

Simple majority

Received

DEC 05 2024

Cowlitz County
Elections

Questions?

Cowlitz County Elections
Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
207 N 4th Ave, Room 205
Kelso, WA 98626

Phone: (360) 577-3005

Fax: (360) 442-7879

Email: elections@cowlitzwa.gov

Website: www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/elections

Committee For and Against appointment form

Name of Jurisdiction/Proposition No: Castle Rock School Dist # 401
 Jurisdiction Contact Name: Chris Fritsch, Supt. / Shawna Guest, Executive Assist
 Email: cfritsch@crschools.org Phone: 360.501.2940
sguest@crschools.org

Jurisdiction's responsibility:

- Email completed form to elections@cowlitzwa.gov on or before the resolution submission deadline. (Submission deadlines are located on page 20)
- Provide committee members with statement submission requirements and deadlines. (Requirements and deadlines are located on pages 15-18)

Questions? Call (360) 577-3005 or email elections@cowlitzwa.gov

**1st Committee Member must provide contact information for print in the local voters' pamphlet. 2nd and 3rd committee member contact information will be printed if provided.*

For committee (1-3 members)

1st Committee Member
Name <u>Paula Szczerba</u>
*Email (published in pamphlet) <u>Paulajeane.zerb@gmail.com</u>
*Phone (published in pamphlet) <u>(870) 584-7741</u>
*Website (published in pamphlet) <u>N/A</u>
2nd Committee Member
Name <u>Jessica Lakey</u>
Email <u>jessica_lakey@yahoo.com</u>
3rd Committee Member
Name
Email

Against committee (1-3 members)

1st Committee Member
Name
*Email (published in pamphlet)
*Phone (published in pamphlet)
*Website (published in pamphlet)
2nd Committee Member
Name
Email
3rd Committee Member
Name
Email

As Castle Rock grows, it's vital to ensure our schools remain strong and well-funded. With over 1,373 students enrolled, Castle Rock Schools need the support of the community to continue providing quality education. The state does not fully fund the education our children receive. Without this levy, critical programs that our students rely on will be at risk.

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy is essential to maintaining current programs and services that help students succeed. This levy bridges the gap left by insufficient state funding, supporting key staff such as teachers, counselors, special education personnel, custodians, and coaches—critical roles that ensure our schools run smoothly.

This levy also funds important student programs, including athletics, music, art, drama, and field trips, which are integral to a well-rounded education. These opportunities help students discover their potential and prepare for the future.

This proposition would replace the expiring levy, ensuring continued investment in our children's future. Without it, our schools would face devastating cuts to staff and programs.

The district is committed to monitoring expenditures closely. Regular updates will keep the community informed about how these funds are being spent, ensuring transparency and accountability.

Castle Rock's schools are the heart of our community. They provide our children with the foundation they need to succeed, and in turn, help our entire community thrive. By voting Yes, you are investing in our children's future.

Our children deserve the best education we can provide. Vote Yes for Castle Rock Schools!

Paula Szczerba

paulajean.zerb@gmail.com

360-358-2896

Election Date: February 11, 2025

Name of Jurisdiction Submitting Measure: Castle Rock School District No. 401, Cowlitz and Lewis Counties, Washington

Contact Name: Cynthia Weed

Daytime Contact Phone Number: 206.618.6050

Word count limit is 250. Current word count is 200

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT - PROPOSITION NO. 1

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Castle Rock School District No. 401 to replace an existing educational programs and operation levy that will expire at the end of calendar year 2025. The proposed three-year replacement educational programs and operation tax levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$3,397,250 in property taxes within the District for collection in 2026, the levy of \$3,635,000 for collection in 2027, and the levy of \$3,889,500 for collection in 2028, to support the District's educational programs and operations, that are not fully funded by the State of Washington, and properly meet the educational needs of the students attending District schools. In accordance with Resolution No. 2024-141, these taxes would be collected over three years and deposited in the District's General Fund to pay part of the educational program and operations support of the District. If authorized by the voters, and based on projected assessed valuation information, estimated levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value would be \$1.72 (2026 collection), \$1.75 (2027 collection), and \$1.79 (2028 collection). The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, contact your county assessor.

CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
COWLITZ AND LEWIS COUNTIES, WASHINGTON

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-141

- A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401, Cowlitz and Lewis Counties, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at a special election to be held therein on February 11, 2025, of the proposition of whether excess taxes should be levied of \$3,397,250 in 2025 for collection in 2026, \$3,635,000 in 2026 for collection in 2027, and \$3,889,500 in 2027 for collection in 2028, said excess taxes to pay part of the educational program and operations support of the District.

ADOPTED NOVEMBER 26, 2024

PREPARED BY:

K&L GATES LLP
Seattle, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-141

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401, Cowlitz and Lewis Counties, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the District at a special election to be held therein on February 11, 2025, of the proposition of whether excess taxes should be levied of \$3,397,250 in 2025 for collection in 2026, \$3,635,000 in 2026 for collection in 2027, and \$3,889,500 in 2027 for collection in 2028, said excess taxes to pay part of the educational program and operations support of the District.

WHEREAS, Castle Rock School District No. 401, Cowlitz and Lewis Counties, Washington (the "District"), for the past two 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, technology, athletics, and buildings; and

WHEREAS, the current educational programs and operations levies expire this year; and

WHEREAS, the money in and to be paid into the General Fund of the District during the 2026 through 2028 calendar 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 most recently by Chapter 410, Laws of 2019 (66th Legislature, 2019 Regular Session) and may be modified in the future by the State Legislature; and

WHEREAS, in order to properly provide for such educational programs and operations needs, 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 tax of approximately \$1.72 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to provide \$3,397,250, said levy to be made in 2025 for collection in 2026;
- B. A tax of approximately \$1.75 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to provide \$3,635,000, said levy to be made in 2026 for collection in 2027;
- C. A tax of approximately \$1.79 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation to provide \$3,889,500, said levy to be made in 2027 for collection in 2028; and

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 CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401, COWLITZ AND LEWIS COUNTIES, 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. \$3,397,250, said levy to be made in 2025 for collection in 2026;
- B. \$3,635,000, said levy to be made in 2026 for collection in 2027; and
- C. \$3,889,500, said levy to be made in 2027 for collection in 2028.

The estimated levy rate depends upon the final dollar amount of assessed value of the property within the District. At this time, based upon information provided by the Cowlitz County and Lewis County Assessor's office, the estimated levy rate for the 2025 levy is \$1.72 per thousand

dollars of assessed valuation, the estimated levy rate for the 2026 levy is \$1.75 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and the estimated levy rate for the 2027 levy is \$1.79 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon 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 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 excess levy funds.

Section 2. It is hereby found and declared that the best interests of the District require 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 11, 2025.

The Cowlitz County Auditor, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections 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 set forth below. The Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized and directed to certify the proposition to said officials in the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY

The Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 2024-141 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 program 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>
2026	\$3,397,250	\$1.72
2027	\$3,635,000	\$1.75
2028	\$3,889,500	\$1.79

all as provided in the Resolution 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 Cowlitz County Auditor with a courtesy copy to the Lewis County Auditor.

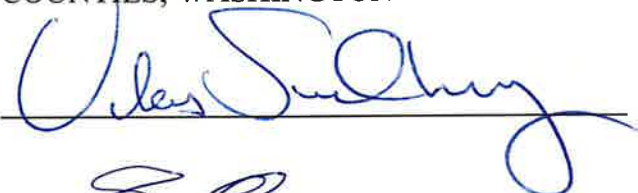
Section 3. For purposes of receiving notice of the exact language of the ballot title required by RCW 29A.36.080, the Board hereby designates the (a) Superintendent (Chris Fritsch); telephone: 360.501.2940; email: cfritsch@crschools.org and Director of Fiscal Services (Shelby Garrett), telephone: 360.501.3132; fax: 360.501.3140; email: sgarrett@crschools.org, and (b) bond counsel, K&L Gates LLP (Cynthia Weed), telephone: 206.618.6050; fax: 206.623.7022; email: cynthia.weed@klgates.com, as the individuals to whom the Cowlitz County Auditor shall provide such notice. The Director of Fiscal Services is


authorized to approve changes to the ballot title, if any, deemed necessary by the Cowlitz County Auditor or the Cowlitz County Prosecuting Attorney.


Section 4. Pursuant to RCW 29A.32, the Board of Directors hereby confirms the District's participation in the local voters' pamphlet for the February 11, 2025 election, which shall be prepared and published by Cowlitz County Elections and Lewis County Elections, including, but not limited to, an explanatory statement reviewed and approved by the District's attorney, and, if available, a Statement For and a Statement Against. 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 Castle Rock School District No. 401, Cowlitz and Lewis Counties, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 26th day of November, 2024.

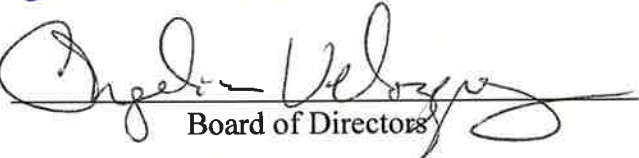
CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 401, COWLITZ AND LEWIS
COUNTIES, WASHINGTON











Board of Directors

ATTEST:



Secretary of the Board of Directors

OFFICIAL BALLOT
CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
COWLITZ AND LEWIS COUNTIES, WASHINGTON
February 8, 2022

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

CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY

The Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 2024-141 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 program and operations, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2026	\$3,397,250	\$1.72
2027	\$3,635,000	\$1.75
2028	\$3,889,500	\$1.79

all as provided in the Resolution subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401, Cowlitz and Lewis Counties, 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. 2024-141 of the Board (the "Resolution"), duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 26th day of November, 2024.

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 passage 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 26th day of November, 2024.



Secretary, Board of Directors

NOTICE
CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
COWLITZ AND LEWIS COUNTIES, WASHINGTON
February 11, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on February 11, 2025, 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
CASTLE ROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 401
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY

The Board of Directors of Castle Rock School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 2024-141 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 program and operations, which are not funded or not fully funded by the State:

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2028	\$3,889,500	\$1.79

all as provided in the Resolution subject to legal limits at the time of levy. Should this proposition be approved?

YES.....

NO.....

Cowlitz County Auditor