

ISLAND COUNTY -- Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

February 10, 2026 Special Election



Island County Elections Information

Hours Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Open until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day
Location Elections Office – 400 N. Main Street – Coupeville
Phone..... 360-678-8290
Email elections@islandcountywa.gov
Fax..... 360-678-2326
Website www.islandcountywa.gov/423/Elections-Voter-Registration

Services

Register to vote – Update an existing registration – Get a replacement for lost or damaged ballots – Accessible Voting Unit (Coupeville Office only) – Ballot drop box – Voting/Registration assistance is available

Are you away from home and did not receive your ballot? Do you want to check your ballot status online? Need to update your address? Visit www.votewa.gov or contact Island County Elections.

Return your ballot early

Whether returning your ballot by mail or by drop box, don't wait until Election Day! Get your ballot back early. If returning by drop box, the boxes for this election are located throughout Island County (see below). Drop boxes close promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. If returning by postal mail, your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day. No stamp is needed.

The US Postal Service recommends when returning your ballot by mail, you mail it 5-10 days before election day to ensure it is received by the deadline.

If you are returning your ballot fewer than 5 days before the election, it is strongly recommended that your ballot is returned to an Official Ballot Drop Box.

Appearance in the Voters' Pamphlet

Districts with items on the ballot are able to submit or not submit statements at their discretion. An office or ballot measure with no statement submitted will be designated as such.

Statement Disclaimer: Statements relating to ballot issues are provided by the districts appearing on the ballot. They are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for factual or grammatical accuracy by the Auditor's Office.

Public Information Disclosure

For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit www.pdc.wa.gov.

Ballot Mailing

Ballots are mailed to voters no later than 18 days before any election. If you don't have yours 10 days before the election, contact the Elections Office for a replacement or visit www.votewa.gov to print a replacement.

Returning your ballot

Sign your ballot return envelope. Ballots without a valid signature cannot be counted.

Ballot Drop Box Locations for this election:

- **Island County Elections Office**, 400 N. Main St., Coupeville
- **Camano Island Administration Office**, 121 N. East Camano Dr., Camano Island

Whether returning your ballot by mail or by drop box, don't wait until Election Day! Get your ballot back early. Official Ballot Drop boxes close promptly at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day. If returning by postal mail, your ballot must be postmarked by Election Day. No stamp is needed.

Voting Center & Accessibility Information

Accessible voting is available beginning 18 days before Election Day and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Elections Office. On Election Day, accessible voting is available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Assistance is available upon request.

A touchscreen accessible voting unit is available only at the Elections Office in Coupeville. The ADA compliant voting unit provides an alternative method of voting independently and privately for voters with accessibility, cognitive or mobility issues.

Proposition No. 1 -- Coupeville School District No. 204

Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of Coupeville School District No. 204 adopted Resolution No. 25-13, concerning a replacement levy for educational funding. This proposition would fund educational programs and operations that are not funded by the State and authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2027	\$0.78	\$3,955,000
2028	\$0.75	\$4,168,000
2029	\$0.72	\$4,392,000
2030	\$0.71	\$4,725,000

All as provided in Resolution No. 25-13. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Proposition 1 would replace an existing educational programs and operations levy that expires at the end of 2026. The replacement levy will pay for educational programs and operations that are not fully funded by the State, for example: teachers, nurses, counselors, paraeducators, support staff, extracurricular programs, programs to bring students up to grade level, advanced classes for high-achieving students, supplemental athletics, arts, music, career and technical education, textbooks and instructional materials, improved access for students and staff with disabilities, continued maintenance of school buildings, playgrounds and playfields, alarm and sprinkler systems, and school safety, security and emergency preparedness.

The levy would authorize collection of up to \$3,955,000 in 2027, \$4,168,000 in 2028, \$4,392,000 in 2029 and \$4,725,000 in 2030. The levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value required to produce these amounts are estimated to be \$0.78 in 2027, \$0.75 in 2028, \$0.72 in 2029 and \$0.71 in 2030. The levy rates and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District and the limitations imposed by State law at the time of levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available, call the Island County Assessor 360-679-7303.

Explanatory Statement prepared by Foster Garvey P.C.

Statement For

Coupeville schools are at the heart of our community. Proposition 1 ensures they remain strong by replacing a voter-approved levy that provides essential local funding. Passage doesn't create a new tax—it preserves the programs and services our students rely on every day.

This funding bridges the gap between what the state funds and what's actually needed; it pays for teachers and staff who keep class sizes smaller while providing individualized attention students need to thrive. It supports highly capable and vital social-emotional learning, and addresses learning gaps for students needing additional interventions.

Proposition 1 protects programs taxpayers value, including athletic, performing arts, and Career and Technical Education programs that help students build confidence while preparing for future careers in healthcare, business, and other career fields needed in our community.

Without this levy, opportunities will be reduced or eliminated, harming our students and weakening our community.

A YES vote on Proposition 1 is a fiscally responsible choice that maintains stable funding, protects existing programs, and preserves the quality of education that supports Coupeville's economy and community well-being. Please vote YES so Coupeville schools can continue to provide the quality education our community expects and our students deserve.

Prepared by Citizens for Coupeville citizensforcoupeville@gmail.com

Statement Against

School spending is on an unsustainable trajectory. This levy would only exacerbate this trend.

The current EP&O levy will raise \$2,700,000 in taxes this year. Proposition 1 proposes taxes of \$3,955,000 in 2027. That would be a 46% increase next year, plus annual increases of about 5% to 7.5% for the next three years.

Overall, Coupeville school district spending has risen about 22% in the last five years—that's higher than the inflation rate during the same period, which includes high inflation in the post-pandemic years.

While some proponents might point to the levy *rate* going down over the years, that's only due to our skyrocketing property prices, not lower *spending* by the school district.

Have your wages increased 46%? Can you count on wage increases of 5% to 7.5% annually in the years to come? We have to live within our means—as voters we need to ensure that our government agencies do as well, or eventually they will run out of our money.

School spending rising faster than wages and inflation is unsustainable. Vote this levy down and send the message to come back with a levy that doesn't increase taxes faster than wages.

Prepared by Committee for Sustainable School Funding sustainableschoolfunding@gmail.com

Proposition No. 2 -- Coupeville School District No. 204

Replacement School District Technology and Capital Projects Levy

The Board of Directors of Coupeville School District No. 204 adopted Resolution No. 25-14, concerning a replacement levy for technology and school improvements. This proposition would authorize the acquisition, installation, and implementation of computer technology systems, including infrastructure, hardware, software, applications, training, 1-to-1 student technology devices, security technology, and safety and other capital improvements, by levying the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, upon all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2027	\$0.12	\$600,000
2028	\$0.11	\$625,000
2029	\$0.11	\$650,000
2030	\$0.10	\$675,000

All as provided in Resolution No. 25-14. Should this proposition be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Proposition 2 would replace an existing school technology capital projects levy that expires at the end of 2026. The replacement levy would allow Coupeville School District to acquire, install, and implement computer technology systems, projects and facilities, for example: (1) upgrading infrastructure, acquiring hardware, licensing software, implementing applications and providing staff training; and (2) acquiring, installing and implementing 1-to-1 student technology devices, staff devices, equipment and resources to support classroom instruction and other technology to enhance student learning opportunities. The levy would also fund safety and other capital improvements to school facilities, including safety and security cameras and communication systems, and expansion of the District's technology backbone.

The levy would authorize collection of \$600,000 in 2027, \$625,000 in 2028, \$650,000 in 2029, and \$675,000 in 2030. The levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value required to produce these amounts are estimated to be \$0.12 in 2027, \$0.11 in 2028, \$0.11 in 2029 and \$0.10 in 2030. The levy rates will be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the taxable property within the District at the time of levy.

Exemptions from taxes may be available, call the Island County Assessor 360-679-7303.

Explanatory Statement prepared by Foster Garvey P.C.

Statement For

Like Proposition 1, Proposition 2 replaces a voter-approved levy passed in 2022. It does *not* create a new tax; it continues essential local funding that supports the programs and services our students and staff rely on in an increasingly digital world.

Technology levies are vital investments that ensure students have access to modern learning tools and safe school environments. This replacement levy will fund upgrades to school safety technology and alert systems, including cameras, intercoms, and secure entry access systems.

Levy funds also support safe, reliable internet access across all Coupeville School District campuses, helping protect students both in person and online. Passage of this levy will maintain 1:1 access to learning devices such as Chromebooks for students and iPads for our youngest learners, while supporting digital learning guided by educators who are attentive to age-appropriate screen time.

Funds will be used to replace and repair aging student and staff devices, protect prior taxpayer investments, provide engaging digital resources, support professional development, and fund necessary technology staff.

Without this levy, student and staff safety would be impacted and educational opportunities reduced. A YES vote sustains these essential services and helps prepare every student for their future.

Prepared by Citizens for Coupeville citizensforcoupeville@gmail.com

Statement Against

School spending is on an unsustainable trajectory. This levy would only exacerbate this trend.

Proposition 2 proposes a tax increase of 20% in 2027, plus annual increases of about 4% for the next three years.

Overall, Coupeville school district spending has risen about 22% in the last five years—that's higher than the inflation rate during the same period, which includes high inflation in the post-pandemic years.

While some proponents might point to the levy *rate* going down over the years, that's only due to our skyrocketing property prices, not lower *spending* by the school district.

Have your wages increased 20% or are you seeing your taxes increasing faster than your wages? We have to live within our means—as voters we need to ensure that our government agencies do as well, or eventually they will run out of our money.

School spending rising faster than wages and inflation is unsustainable. Vote this levy down and send the message to come back with a levy that doesn't increase taxes faster than wages.

Prepared by Committee for Sustainable School Funding sustainableschoolfunding@gmail.com

Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401

Proposition No. 1 – Safety & Infrastructure Levy

The Board of Directors of Stanwood-Camano School District No. 401 adopted Resolution No. 2025/2026-003 concerning a safety and infrastructure levy. This proposition would authorize the District to complete facility and infrastructure improvements, undertake safety related improvements, equipment and technology replacements, and other improvements and levy the following excess taxes for such purposes on all taxable property within the district:

Collection <u>Years</u>	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 <u>Assessed Value</u>	Levy <u>Amount</u>
2027	\$0.19	\$2,400,000
2028	\$0.53	\$6,700,000
2029	\$0.40	\$5,200,000
2030	\$0.37	\$4,900,000

as provided in Resolution No. 2025/2026-003.

Should this proposition be approved?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would authorize the Stanwood-Camano School District to levy \$2,400,000 in property taxes within the District for collection in 2027, \$6,700,000 in 2028, \$5,200,000 in 2029, and \$4,900,000 in 2030 to complete facility improvements, including a new roof at two schools, HVAC controls, fire alarm replacement, flooring, painting, window replacements, concrete and blacktop repairs, portable reconditioning, intercoms and speakers, other safety measures and technology replacements and other improvements. These taxes would be deposited in the District's Capital Projects Fund for such improvements to meet the current and future educational programs for its students. If authorized by the voters, such property taxes would be collected at a rate estimated to be \$0.19 per \$1,000/assessed valuation for 2027 collection, \$0.53 per \$1,000/assessed valuation for 2028 collection, \$0.40 per \$1,000/assessed valuation for 2029 collection and \$0.37 per \$1,000/assessed valuation for 2030 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, call your county assessor.

Argument For

Approving the Safety & Infrastructure Levy will allow Stanwood-Camano schools to complete overdue safety repairs and facility upgrades that can no longer be delayed.

After the 2022 levy did not pass, the district listened to community feedback and refocused this proposal to cover only the most essential building needs—roofs, fire alarms, heating and ventilation systems, playground safety, technology infrastructure, and security cameras.

If approved, this levy would increase the total local school tax rate by a small amount—still remaining below the average rate of neighboring school districts. For a typical homeowner, this means a limited, predictable increase dedicated solely to maintaining safe and functional learning environments.

Because the state does not fully fund school facility and safety needs, without this levy the district will be forced to divert General Fund dollars away from classrooms and staff to cover basic infrastructure—taking valuable resources from instruction.

Every project funded by the levy will be publicly tracked and audited, with clear reporting to ensure tax dollars are spent efficiently and exactly as promised.

Voting "Yes" is a vote for responsible investment in the safety and reliability of our schools—with transparency and measurable results.

Prepared by Jean Shumate, Ken Christoferson and Mandy Whitaker

Argument Against

As noted in law, the authority hosting a ballot measure is responsible for assigning pro and con committee members. If the authority is unable to do so, then the Auditor's Office makes efforts to find interested citizens residing within the jurisdiction.

No person in the jurisdiction contacted the Auditor's office to provide a statement, and there is no statements for this measure.

To get involved in future committees, sign up for Elections Newsflashes via email and/or text message at www.snohomishcountywa.gov/signup.



Be sure to mark your ballot and sign your envelope!