

Vote YES!
FOR OUR SCHOOLS

ROOM FOR EVERY CHILD
NO TAX RATE INCREASE

APRIL 26
LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT



Lake Washington School District Bond

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do we need the April 2016 bond?

The Lake Washington School District is one of the fastest-growing in the state. We have grown from sixth to fourth largest this year alone. To put things in perspective, that means we have 34 classrooms worth of new students. But we don't have 34 spare classrooms available for those students. And the projections are we will keep growing.

Our schools are already overcrowded, the district is using a lot of portables, and the problem is just getting worse. By next school year there will be 168 portables in the district; that is the equivalent of 7 elementary schools worth of classroom space.

We can solve this problem and make sure our kids continue to have excellent educational opportunities. That's what this bond does: Reduces overcrowding without raising our tax rate.

What does the bond do?

The bond proposition appearing on the April 26, 2016 special election ballot will address our increasingly overcrowded schools and improve educational opportunities for Lake Washington School District students without raising our tax rate. It focuses on our schools' most urgent needs -- those that will have the greatest impact on students -- through an efficient, long-term approach that tackles priorities in stages.

Specifically, passage of this bond will allow LWSD to:

- Build two new elementary schools
- Build one new middle school
- Rebuild and enlarge Juanita High School
- Rebuild and enlarge Kirk Elementary School
- Rebuild and enlarge Mead Elementary School
- Remodel Old Redmond School House for preschool
- Replace portables at Explorer Community School
- Provide needed special education program space

To learn more about the bond components, please visit www.lwsd.org

Join us and Vote YES for Lake Washington Schools.
Paid for by the Lake Washington Citizens Levy Committee
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How was the bond proposition created?

To address these growth and overcrowding challenges and maintain a high quality education, the Lake Washington School District created a volunteer citizen based task force of 63 participants to provide input into a comprehensive 15 year plan that is both responsible and fiscally disciplined. This plan prioritizes severe overcrowding and addresses the most immediate issues with existing facilities while incorporating growth projections into the plan. The April 2016 bond is an important piece of this plan. To ensure your tax dollars go as far as possible, LWSD is using cost-effective design principles recommended by the Task Force and are engaging industry experts in the planning and design of new schools, including development of a construction advisory group.

How can you do this without raising taxes?

This plan also recognizes the need for good fiscal planning and timing. By paying off other bonds and levies, including the 2011 capital levy, the plan can be delivered without raising tax rates. What this means is we are essentially taking advantage of the older bonds and levies being paid off and issuing new bonds while keeping the tax rate the same as in 2015. In addition, this plan is also eligible for state matching funds to allow the investment to go further.

What happens if the bond doesn't pass?

The need for this bond is critical. A short term plan that added more portables and involved a district wide reboundary has already been utilized. We need a long term solution for our children, our schools, and our community. If this bond doesn't pass and the district cannot secure enough money fast enough to address our growing needs, the Long-Term Facility Planning Task Force recommends even more portables, more boundary adjustments, and eventually year-round schools if more schools cannot be built in the future. More information on the Task Force recommendations can be found at www.lwsd.org.

What types of property tax exemptions are available for seniors and disabled citizens?

You may qualify for a property tax exemption from \$35,000 to \$40,000 if you are a property owner 61 years or older, or are retired due to a service or job-related disability. You can learn more by calling the King County Assessor's Office at 206-296-7300.

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How can I register to vote?

It's simple and only takes a few minutes online. Go to www.vote.wa.gov and register to vote no later than March 28.

How can I get involved?

Volunteer on the campaign. Learn more at www.vote4lwsdkids.org

How can I help if I can't volunteer on the campaign?

- Like the campaign Facebook page and invite your friends to like it:
www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids
- Follow us on Twitter and retweet our tweets: <https://twitter.com/YesForLWKids>
- Use your social media to show support your support of the bond



#Yes4LWKids

- Please use these links in your posts to direct people to more info:
 - Campaign website: www.vote4lwsdkids.org
 - Facebook page: www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids
 - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YesForLWKids>
 - LWSD district website: www.lwsd.org
- Register to vote no later than March 28th! Encourage your friends to register to vote! It only takes five minutes and you can do it online:
www.vote.wa.gov
- Spread the word to your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues

**Vote YES for our kids, schools and community
by April 26th!**

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