



Kitsap County Republican Party
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Resolution Recommending a “No” Vote on the South Kitsap School District Levy Election on February 11, 2025

WHEREAS, The South Kitsap School District is holding a special election on February 11, 2025, for the purpose of raising property taxes to fund an excess levy;

WHEREAS, The average per-students funding in Washington state has doubled in the past 10 years to \$18,354 per student in 2022-2023;

WHEREAS, Washington state teacher salaries have increased roughly 68% (the best in the nation) in the past 10 years and the state now has the second-highest average annual salary, after adjusting for the cost of living, at \$75,573, and the third-highest average starting salary, at \$48,433;

WHEREAS, Student performance continued its downward decline as shown by federal test scores that were released in January 2025, showing that 69% of Washington eighth graders were not proficient in reading compared to 58% in 2013 and 71% of Washington eighth graders were not proficient in math compared to 58% in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Research has consistently shown that there is no correlation between school funding and student performance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Kitsap County Republican Party recommends a “No” vote on the February 11, 2025, South Kitsap School District excess levy and calls on the South Kitsap School Board and Superintendent to re-evaluate their current spending and make student performance their highest priority.

Adopted by the Kitsap County Republican Party Executive Board on February 3, 2025.

Sources:

- *Kitsap County Official Local Voter’s Pamphlet – Special Election – February 11, 2025*, Kitsap County Auditor, <https://www.kitsap.gov/auditor/Documents/LVP%20South%20Kitsap%20SE%20Feb%202025%20Web.pdf>
- *K-12 Education Facts 2024*, House Republican Caucus, <https://houserepublicans.wa.gov/k-12-education-facts>
- *Education spending has doubled in ten years, and most of the money went to hiring administrators and non-teachers* by Liv Finne, Washington Policy Center, October 21, 2024, <https://www.washingtonpolicy.org/publications/detail/education-spending-has-doubled-in-ten-years-and-most-of-the-money-went-to-hiring-administrators-and-non-teachers>

- *The Nation's Report Card*,
https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile/overview/WA?cti=PgTab_OT&sub=MAT&chort=1&st=MN&sfj=NP&sj=WA
- *Nation's Report Card reveals a math problem in WA*, The Seattle Times, January 30, 2025,
<https://archive.ph/Wkvog>
- *New Nation's Report Card reveals how WA schools, test scores stack up to rest of the US* by Daniel Schrager, Bellingham Herald, February 1, 2025,
<https://www.bellinghamherald.com/news/state/washington/article299521594.html>
- *Why Washington State Is One of The Best In the US For Teachers* by Robb Francis, News Radio 610 KONA, November 13, 2024, <https://610kona.com/washington-state-teachers-salary>
- *Does Money Matter in Education? A Policymaker's Guide* by Lawrence O. Picus, National Center for Education Statistics, <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs97/web/97536-2.asp>