



# Official Local Voters' Pamphlet Special Election - February 13, 2018

Dear Voters:

We're excited to launch our new ballot design with this election! Our outdated election system has been replaced and a new ballot design is one of the many new features. Simply fill in the oval next to your choice, it's that easy.

There is only one issue to vote on in this election; see the other side of this page for more information on the ballot measure.

Don't forget to return your ballot on time; deposit in a ballot drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day, or by mail with a postmark by Election Day.

Sincerely,

Debbie Adelstein  
Whatcom County Auditor

## Whatcom County Auditor's Office Election Division

Services include accessible voting using visual and audio technology, replacement ballots, and voter registration. Contact us for more information.

**Hours:** Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm\*  
\*Open until 8:00 pm on February 13

**In Person:** 311 Grand Avenue, Suite 103, Bellingham

**Phone:** 360-778-5102

**Fax:** 360-778-5101

**Email:** [elections@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:elections@co.whatcom.wa.us)

**Web:** [www.whatcomcounty.us/1574/Elections](http://www.whatcomcounty.us/1574/Elections)

For a list of the people and organizations that donated to state and local candidates and ballot measure campaigns, visit [www.pdc.wa.gov](http://www.pdc.wa.gov).

### Returning Your Ballot:



#### By Drop Box:

No postage needed.

Boxes open January 24. Boxes close at 8:00 pm on February 13.

Open Drop Boxes	Location	Address
<b>Bellingham</b>	Whatcom County Courthouse; in south parking lot or inside at Suite 103	311 Grand Avenue
	WWU Bookstore	501 High Street
	Whatcom Community College, on campus beside Heiner Center	237 W. Kellogg Road
	Haggen Sehome Village, northeast corner of parking lot	210 36th Street
<b>Acme</b>	Acme Elementary School	5200 Turkington Road
<b>Deming</b>	Deming Library	5044 Mt. Baker Highway
<b>Kendall</b>	North Fork Library at Kendall	7506 Kendall Road
<b>Sudden Valley</b>	Security Office turnaround	Gate One



#### By Mail:

One \$.50 stamp required.

Ballots must be postmarked by February 13. USPS recommends mailing by February 6.

**Bellingham School District 501**  
**Proposition 2018-1**  
**General Obligation Bonds - \$155,000,000**

**Language on the Ballot:**

The Board of Directors of Bellingham School District 501 adopted Resolution No. 25-17 concerning this proposition for bonds. This proposition would authorize the District to replace Alderwood, Sunnyland and Parkview Elementary Schools; make safety, technology and communication upgrades; upgrade existing facilities; add a gymnasium to Shuksan Middle School; complete high school fields, improve elementary fields; and complete remaining 2013 bond projects, to issue \$155,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within a maximum of 20 years, and to levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, all as provided in Resolution No. 25-17. Should this proposition be:

Approved  
Rejected

**Explanatory Statement:**

Passage of Proposition 2018-1 would allow Bellingham School District 501 to borrow \$155,000,000 by issuing general obligation bonds. In accordance with Resolution No. 25-17 approving this proposition, the bonds will pay for acquiring, renovating, upgrading, equipping and new construction of school facilities, including replacing Alderwood, Sunnyland and Parkview Elementary Schools; adding a gymnasium to Shuksan Middle School; upgrading safety, energy technology infrastructure, and communications; improving elementary fields; and making necessary capital improvements. The bonds would be repaid out of annual property tax levies over a period of up to 20 years.

**Statement For:**

Providing students with safe, educationally stimulating and structurally sound schools is core to The Bellingham Promise, the district's strategic plan and our community's collective commitment to Bellingham's children.

Unfortunately, we cannot rely on the federal and state government to fund school construction and maintenance. Therefore, school districts in our state ask local voters to approve bonds to cover these costs.

This bond represents the next step in our ongoing work to build a strong future for our community. A Facilities Task Force comprised of community members, students, parents and district staff worked together to develop the project list after thoroughly reviewing all school facility needs. They prioritized work that will enhance student safety and health; address equity by rebuilding the elementary schools that are oldest and in areas of greatest growth; protect our investment in existing schools through high-priority maintenance; and complete projects that began with the last bond.

Thanks to strong financial planning and the retirement of previous levies, we can approve this bond and meet the next round of school construction needs without increasing our local school tax rate. Continue our community's tradition of supporting education for generations to come. Vote "Yes" on the Bellingham Public Schools bond!

**Statement For prepared by:**

Citizens for Bellingham Schools; Bradley D. Swanson, Hannah E. Stone, and Jay Shilhanek

**Statement Against:**

No statement submitted.

*Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.*

**Mount Baker School District 507  
Proposition 2018-2  
Facilities And Technology Levy**

**Language on the Ballot:**

The Board of Directors of Mount Baker School District 507 passed Resolution No. 17/18:8 concerning this proposition for facilities and technology levies. The proposition would authorize modernization and repairs of District facilities, modernization and upgrades of District technology and computer systems for instruction and operations, and other capital project expenditures; and authorizes the following taxes in excess of regular property tax levies, upon all taxable property within the District:

<u>Collection Years</u>	<u>Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2019	\$1.11	\$1,670,000
2020	\$1.10	\$1,670,000
2021	\$1.09	\$1,670,000
2022	\$1.08	\$1,670,000
2023	\$1.07	\$1,670,000
2024	\$1.05	\$1,650,000

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

**Explanatory Statement:**

The District is seeking approval to renew a six (6) year Facility and Technology Levy. Levy funds would be used for necessary improvements to repair or modernize facilities or equipment to improve the student experience through expansion and upgrades of facilities, safety, playgrounds, parking lots, roofs, additional classroom space, child nutrition equipment, significant technology expansion, necessary repairs to modernize facilities or equipment, including, but not limited to major repairs and replacements, and other capital project expenditures. The levy would be \$1,670,000 in each year at estimated rates per \$1,000 of assessed value from approximately \$1.11 to \$1.05 over six years.

**Statement For:**

Voting yes for the Mount Baker Facilities and Technology Levy is a vote for quality schools facilities for our students and is a vote to protect the investment our community has made in our school facilities for years to come. The Facilities and Technology Levy will replace aging roofs, support security improvements to our schools, and improve our athletic facilities for the benefit of our students. It will also give our students access to modern technology to support learning and enable our students to use the tools necessary to be successful in a changing world. This levy replaces the existing Facilities and Technology Levy which is set to expire this spring and will support facility and technology improvements over the next six years. Vote yes for our students! Vote yes for our schools!

**Statement For prepared by:**

Mount Baker Citizens for Education; Bruce Burpee

**Statement Against:**

No statement submitted.

*Statements for, statements against, and rebuttals are the opinions of the authors and have not been checked for accuracy by any government agency.*