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South Kitsap voters being asked for too much spending

Dave Kimble, Manchester Kitsap Sun

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If South Kitsap School District's \$271 million bond passes, how will your part of our community benefit? Will you enjoy three new elementary schools, one Discovery/Explorer School, or some upgrades to the south end of SKHS? There will only be about \$24M "leftover" for other building improvements district-wide, assuming there are no cost overruns. And there is still a lot of deferred maintenance on SKSD'S existing buildings.

Carefully consider SKSD and South Kitsap Fire & Rescue future bond and levy requests, as these are overlapping taxes. SKFR passed their \$180M six-year levy, now they plan to run equipment and building bonds in 2024, followed by another levy in 2025. SKSD will have technology, operations and maintenance levies in 2024 and 2025. These represent considerable increases in everyone's property taxes.

The current interest rates and costs on SKSD'S \$271M bond would add an additional \$227M of debt over the next 22 years. Such additional property taxes for some may be fine, but for most these increased taxes might

break their budgets. It's easy for SKSD and SKFR to tell us they need to more, but we must first consider "their wants vs. their needs" when we vote on these ballot measures.

"It's the kids" who will be paying for these bonds and levies, though many have no voice or vote on these debts now. Ballot fatigue is real and it's coming soon! Our choices are crystal-clear. For me, I will continue to vote with my pocket book.

Remember. Ballot postage is free, so please return your ballots this November.

Dave Kimble, Manchester