

# Bremerton school funding measures pass, North Mason's fails in early results

Chris Henry, Kitsap Sun Published 8:54 p.m. PT Feb. 11, 2020



Vote buttons in red, white, and blue with stars (Photo: SilverV, Getty Images/iStockphoto)

Two Bremerton School District measures, a school support levy and capital levy, were passing in preliminary results of Tuesday's special election.

A school support levy for North Mason School District was failing in both Kitsap and North Mason counties.

Bremerton seeks voter approval of a four-year school support levy that received 51.82% of votes cast in favor as of Tuesday evening, a narrow margin compared with 48.18% against the measure.

Bremerton's capital levy, which required a simple majority of 50% plus one vote, was passing easily with 56.87%.

School support levies supplement the state's basic education allotment to operate and maintain schools. Support levies pay for items like school safety, paraeducators, school nurses and counselors and extracurricular activities

Bremerton's school support levy would generate nearly \$55 million over four years beginning in 2021, with annual collection amounts ranging from \$12.8 million in the first year to \$14.5 million in 2024. About 15% of Bremerton's operating budget is locally funded, according to the district's website.

Bremerton's school support levy would cost property owners an estimated \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. That's up from \$1.50 per \$1,000 Bremerton property owners were assessed in 2019 and \$1.75 per \$1,000 in 2020. The increase was allowed under legislation passed in 2019.

Bremerton's capital levy would raise just more than \$6 million per year in 2021 and 2022 (\$12,556,000 total) for capital improvements throughout the district including plumbing, electrical, fire safety, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning upgrades.

The estimated capital levy rate would be \$1.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value, collected in 2021 and 2022. The capital levy replaces a one-year capital levy that expires at the end of 2020. The capital levy rate in 2020 is \$1.56 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

North Mason's proposal for a four-year school support levy was failing in Mason County with 55% voting against the measure. A total of 4,533 votes had been counted in North Mason by Tuesday evening.

A small number of Kitsap County residents live within North Mason School District boundaries. Out of 68 votes cast, 55.88% voted against the levy.

North Mason's four-year levy would have generated \$25.8 million over four years beginning in 2021. Annual collection amounts would have ranged from just less than \$6 million in 2021 to \$6.93 million in the last year of the levy.

The estimated tax rate had the levy passed would have been \$2.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value in all four years of the levy.

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