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SK levy is more than a 'replacement'

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The South Kitsap School District (SKSD) has once again proven why its voters no longer believe in its integrity. The so-called "Replacement Levy" is much more than that — it includes additional new taxation in the amount of \$1 per thousand of assessed valuation.

The current levy rate is \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation. The "Replacement Levy" is asking for \$2.50 per thousand. On a home assessed at \$350,000 — certainly less than the average assessment in the SK School District — that is an additional \$350 per year in new taxes. Yet the SKSD intentionally doesn't tell you that.

Of the letters in support of the levy that have appeared here — some were written by members of the teacher's union, as well as SKSD staff — including one last week meant to sound like it came from a supporting taxpayer, but failed to disclose the writer was actually the district's public information officer.

When coupled with the repeated failed bond issues over the new high school because district officials adamantly refused to answer direct questions about exactly how those multi-million taxpayer dollars would be spent, how much would be allotted to the existing high school, and exactly what it would pay for, is it any wonder that citizens in the SKSD haven't trusted it for years now?

I firmly believe the community would support a true "Replacement Levy" at the current \$1.50 per thousand rate, but this flim-flam is just one more notch in the SKSD's belt of years of blatant dishonesty.

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