

OPINION

School taxes could start to rise again

Dave Kimble, Manchester Published 2:17 p.m. PT Jan. 28, 2020

This year the state ended the 2019 tax break and has increased the tax we pay for education by \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. They also lifted the levy cap, so school districts can collect \$2.50 per \$1,000.

South Kitsap School District wasted no time raising our taxes! 2020 property tax increases are significant for some. Remember last year when SKSD promised no tax increase if we passed a bond for second high school? Folks are now seeing property tax increases ranging from \$50 to \$500 per month.

SK school board member Rebecca Diehl [testified in support of SB-6075 \(https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2020011233&startStreamAt=5631&stopStreamAt=5696&autoStartStream=true\)](https://www.tvw.org/watch/?clientID=9375922947&eventID=2020011233&startStreamAt=5631&stopStreamAt=5696&autoStartStream=true) (school enrichment levy rate increases) in Olympia on Jan. 22.

Her actions create a problem in that our full school board have not (yet) taken a formal/public position on this legislation. She testified that she represents 1,477 elected school board members throughout our state who support this legislation. Does this include the other four board members in SKSD?

A Facebook post reveals she meets with "Supporters of South Kitsap Schools" who hope to change the law to lower requirement to pass school bonds (from 60% down to 50%). They won't give up on dream of a second high school. Does she represent our entire school board during these meetings?

Please write your legislators. Ask them to vote NO on [SB-5066 \(https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=5066&Year=2019&Initiative=false\)](https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=5066&Year=2019&Initiative=false), [SB-6075 \(https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=6075&Chamber=Senate&Year=2019\)](https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=6075&Chamber=Senate&Year=2019) and HB-2237 (links to the text is available with this letter online).

Please [contact our legislators \(http://citizenssupportingsouthkitsapschooldistrict.com/contacting-your-state-legislators-.html\)](http://citizenssupportingsouthkitsapschooldistrict.com/contacting-your-state-legislators-.html) to share your opinion.

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