

**OPINION**

# If that's 'winning', taxpayers lose again

**Dave Dahlke, Port Orchard** Published 10:14 a.m. PT Feb. 11, 2020

I found the statement in the Sun by Kitsap County Assessor Phil Cook to be shameful to those in South Kitsap who pay property tax to support local schools. Mr. Cook stated "South Kitsap is our winner this year for the largest increase on the tax bill." ("[Levy lid lift leads to tax hike in SK \(/story/news/local/2020/02/03/states-levy-lid-lift-leads-big-tax-hike-south-kitsap/2856668001/\)](#)," Feb. 3)

The South Kitsap School District decided to exercise its full taxing authority authorized, but not required, by the state legislature after receiving a huge funding increase through the state tax on property owners. For Mr. Cook to state that South Kitsap is the "winner" on school tax increases leads me to believe, as I always have, that the object of the school district is to grab every nickel it can through the property owners. This belief is only solidified by the drive to lower the bond passage to 50 percent plus one as was done with the levy issue in order to make it easier for school districts to get more funding thru local property tax.

If the ingenuity used to raise taxes was used to promote science we could have a housing development on Mars by now.

*Dave Dahlke, Port Orchard*

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