

Benton County

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet

April 22, 2025 Special Election

Registration Deadlines:

These deadlines apply to new registrations & voter updates!

Mail: April 14

Online: April 14

In-Person: April 22

Military & Overseas Ballots Mailed:
March 19

Ballots Mailed: April 2

Additional Resources:

Local Election Information
www.bentoncountywa.gov/auditor
County Information
www.bentoncountywa.gov/auditor
State Election Information
www.sos.wa.gov
Campaign Finance Information
www.pdc.wa.gov

Ballot Drop Box Locations:

Rivers Edge Plaza (Drive up)

2600 N. Columbia Center Blvd., Richland

Benton County Elections Center

7122 W. Okanogan Pl. Bldg. F, Kennewick

Benton County Campus (Drive up)

7122 W. Okanogan Pl., Kennewick

Kennewick - City Hall (Drive up)

210 W. 6th Ave., Kennewick

Finley Middle School (Drive Up - In Parking Lot Streetside)

37208 S. Finley Rd., Kennewick

Prosser Courthouse

620 Market St., Prosser



BENTON COUNTY WA
Auditor | ELECTIONS

Finley School District No. 53 I Proposition No. 1

PROPOSITION NO. 1

FINLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 53

REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATION LEVY

The Board of Directors of Finley School District No. 53 adopted Resolution No. 2025-02, concerning a proposition to finance educational programs and operation expenses. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, replacing an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District’s educational programs and operation expenses not funded by the State of Washington:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2026	\$1.89	\$1,660,000
2027	\$1.99	\$1,790,000

all as provided in Resolution No. 2025-02. Should this proposition be approved?

☐ LEVY ... YES ☐ LEVY ... NO

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

PROPOSITION NO. 1 – REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATION LEVY

Passage of Proposition No. 1 would allow Finley School District to levy taxes for a two-year period to pay for expenses of educational programs and operation that are not fully funded by the State of Washington. These expenses include, but are not limited to: teaching and support staff; school safety; instructional materials; special education; student programs and activities; band; art; drama; athletics; building maintenance and operations; smaller class sizes and other educational programs and operation expenses. Further information is available on the District’s website at <https://www.finleysd.org/district/levies>

The proposed two-year levy would authorize collection of taxes to provide up to \$1,660,000 in 2026 and \$1,790,000 in 2027. The levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value required to produce these amounts are estimated to be \$1.89 in 2026 and \$1.99 in 2027.

The estimated levy rates for the proposed levy are less than the estimated rate of \$2.50 in 2026 and 2027 that was proposed at the February 2025 election.

The exact levy rates and amounts to be collected may be adjusted based upon the limitations imposed by State law at the time of the levy. Exemptions from taxes may be available to certain homeowners. To determine if you qualify, call the Benton County Assessor at 509-786-2046.

Pro Committee Statement

Dear Finley Residents,

Please consider voting YES for this replacement levy for educational programs and operations. With the current levy expiring at the end of this school year, this funding is essential to maintaining the programs and staff that our students depend on.

By passing this levy, we can minimize reductions to *athletics, clubs, and essential staff*, including classified, certificated, and administrative positions. It will also help ensure that *all three schools in the Finley School District remain open and operating as close to current levels as possible*. It is important to note that the district will still need *to reduce programs, staffing, and operating costs by approximately \$1,000,000* at these proposed rates; however, failure to pass will result in over *\$2,000,000* in reductions. These programs and staff are vital for providing the well-rounded education our students deserve and for supporting their success.

This replacement levy reflects a significant reduction in cost compared to past measures that recently failed, demonstrating the district’s commitment to fiscal responsibility while prioritizing student needs. Every dollar from this levy will go directly toward the programs and resources that make a difference in our schools.

By voting YES, you’re investing in the future of our students, our schools, and our community. Let’s work together to ensure our children continue to thrive in safe, supportive schools with access to the programs and opportunities they need.

For more information regarding anticipated budget reductions and current budget needs and costs, please visit the district website at <https://www.finleysd.org/>.

Pro Committee Rebuttal Statement

No Statement Submitted

Pro Committee

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Con Committee Statement

I understand the reasons that schools initially integrated a held levy to increase taxes to provide schools with additional funds for programs like athletics and extra-curricular activities. But today these programs are included in most school budgets.

As a property owner I am against funding this next year’s School Levy that increases my taxes for the following reasons.

Our school district is asking for a levy upon local property owners for additional funding for our school programs. This same district receives funding from the federal government for other programs such as free school lunches and other benefits. As a property owner my budget has not increased in an inflationary government but has created more hardship and this hardship has impacted on our bottom line which has caused me to manage my budget differently. Maybe the district needs to better optimize their budget?

Also, I would like to praise our teachers/coaches, administrators and bus drivers for continuing their best efforts in a failed levy. I have not seen any of these professionals decide to downgrade their performance because of a levy not passing. As I have also not seen my student’s grade downfall because of a failed levy.

I say let’s not pass this next year’s levy and ask the professionals at the school district to budget wisely and examine if we indeed need to pass more taxation on already overtaxed property owners and support our schoolteachers and professionals in an affordable manner.

Con Committee Rebuttal Statement

Please vote NO on the upcoming levy. As our entire country is forgoing transformation into accountability to our taxpayers, we should follow suit in our communities and hold our school to budget.

Every year we are threatened to raise our taxes or we see reductions in our local school programs. This threat is tiresome, and our teachers and coaches will continue to share their expertise with our students with a NO vote to the levy.

Con Committee

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