



Sample Endorsement Vote Speech

Opening for Schools First Speakers

Hi, I am (your name), a (volunteer and/or parent aligned) with Schools First, the volunteer led organization that works to pass Seattle's school levy campaigns. Every three years, we gear up and travel around to schools to make sure parents know how important it is to pass these two school levy campaigns.

Opening for others

Hi, I'm (your name) speaking on behalf our (your school) and 53,000 kids in Seattle Public schools to help pass our upcoming SPS levies

There are 2 critically important school levies on the Feb. 12 ballot.

The first levy is the Operations levy, now called the Educational Programs & Operations Levy. It is a 3 year \$815 million levy replacing one that expires in 2019. It makes up for gaps in state funding. It funds critically needed day-to-day services like nurses, counselors, teacher salaries and special education services.

The second levy is the Capital Levy which is a 6 year \$1.4 billion levy. It is the 5th Building Excellence levy. This capital levy replaces one that expires in 2019 and will rebuild 8 schools, 2 schools will get additions, 72 schools get major preventative maintenance work, 76 portables go away and 2000 new classroom seats are created, and every school gets safety and security upgrades. Technology infrastructure and classroom technology are also part of this levy.

Several schools were renovated or built with the levy that is expiring like **(use local schools from BEX IV list in your area)** ex. *Magnolia Elementary and Cascadia Elementary*. Now it is time to invest in a new round of schools so that everyone has healthy and safe learning environments.

Neither of these levies are new taxes and the rate per thousand dollars of assessed value starts out the same and then declines over time. But because house values have risen and because the package before voters has large numbers associated with it, tax bills will go up. How much depends on the value of your house and decisions in the legislature.

We need voters to say yes to renewing both of these levies.

Now I've already heard a couple of questions so I'm going to put them out there:

Isn't funding basic education now a state responsibility and didn't my taxes just go up to pay for this change?

Yes and yes, but the so-called McCleary fix did not work out well for districts like Seattle. It left us with a gaping budget hole, which is why the school board decided to ask voters for a higher amount anticipating that the legislature will change state



law. If lawmakers don't lift the levy cap, Seattle will NOT be able to collect or use the full amount that voters will hopefully have approved.

The state has never assumed responsibility for facility funding. That is up to local voters. And, with over a hundred buildings, you can bet that the Seattle School District has a tremendous need to replace, modernize, and repair its facilities. The school district has a well-deserved reputation for delivering its capital projects on time and under budget.

We all know that our schools are underfunded.

I hope that (SCHOOL NAME) PTA will endorse these levies and make a donation to Schools First. Please help us contact voters and let your friends and neighbors know why 2 yes votes on Feb. 12th is so important. Personal donations are also an option and folks can donate online at www.schoolsfirstseattle.org

Thank you. I am happy to take questions and briefly speak to the **no arguments**.

People opposed to this levy have tax fatigue. Enough is enough. They say the district needs to live within its means and stop sticking homeowners with tax bills that they can't afford.

We cannot have a great city without great schools. Strong public schools are the heart of our community and an important investment in our futures. Voting yes on these school levies renews our commitment to 53-thousand school children and those who will follow them.

Thank you so much. I am passing around a clipboard if any of you want to volunteer to help us get the word out.

THE ENDORSEMENT VOTE MOTIONS

It's good to have someone at the PTA have the motion ready.

Here's some sample language, according to Robert's Rules, motions are needed, seconded, debate and then a vote.

These two motions can be combined into one

Endorsement Motion

"I, (Your name), move that (School name) PTA/PTO (board or general membership) endorse a YES VOTE on the two SPS levies, Proposition 1 and Proposition 2 on the February 12, 2019 ballot."

Donation Motion

"I, (Your name), move that (School Name) PTA/PTO make a \$ XX donation to Schools First to support the SPS Levies election in Feb. 2019.."

NOTE: after PTA/PTO endorses and confirms a donation amount, please indicate the endorsement on the Schools First website and send an email to Info@SchoolsFirstSeattle.org