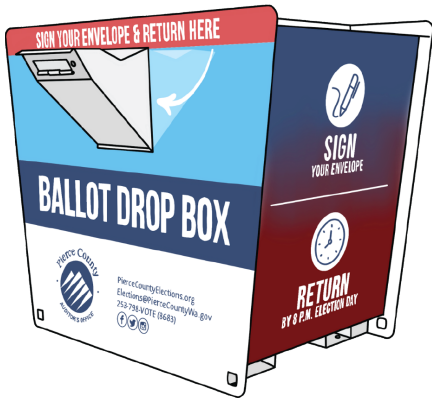


SPECIAL ELECTION APRIL 25, 2023

Official Local Voters' Pamphlet published
by the Pierce County Auditor's Office

Drop Boxes Open 24/7 beginning April 7, 2023



Scan to view drop box locations or visit
PierceCountyWA.gov/334

Using a Drop Box?
(No stamp required)
Drop off ballot by 8 p.m.
April 25, 2023.







Mailing your ballot?
(No stamp required)
Must be postmarked on
or before **April 25, 2023.**

NEED HELP?

Pierce County Election Center
2501 S 35th St. Suite C, Tacoma, WA 98409

Open Monday - Friday
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Extended hours on Election Day
8:30 AM - 8:00 PM

 PierceCountyElections.org
 **253-798-VOTE (8683)**
 Elections@PierceCountyWA.gov
   **Pierce County Auditor**

NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?

To register to vote, you must be:

- A citizen of the United States.
- A legal resident of Washington state.
- At least 18 years old by Election Day.
- Not serving a sentence of total confinement for a felony.

Three ways to register to vote and obtain a ballot:

- Online - VoteWA.gov
- By mail - Call us at (253) 798-VOTE (8683) and we will mail you a form.
- In person - Pierce County Election Center

Registration Deadlines

- Online/Mail - April 17
- In person - April 25

VOTER SERVICES

- Register to vote.
- Update voter registration.
- Replacement ballots for lost, damaged, or mismarked ballots.
- Disability assistance - Large font, color contrast, and audible ballot options.
- Track your ballot or print a replacement ballot at **VoteWA.gov**.



Ballot Title

The Board of Directors of Orting School District No. 344 adopted Resolution #3.2022-2023 concerning a proposition for bonds to finance capital improvements. This proposition would authorize the District to refinance land and construct a new Orting Elementary School; renovate and expand Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary School; construct labs, classrooms, gym and athletic spaces, including a wrestling room, at Orting High School; replace Cardinal Stadium turf; and if feasible, improve Orting Middle School, by issuing \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds maturing within 21 years; and levy excess property taxes annually to repay the bonds, as described in Resolution #3.2022-2023. Should Proposition No. 1 be approved?

Explanatory Statement

Passage of Proposition 1 would allow Orting School District to finance critical facility needs by issuing bonds. If voters approve this proposition, the District will use the bond proceeds to construct a new elementary school, and renovate and expand classroom and learning space at Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary School. The District will also use bond proceeds to expand classroom and laboratory space and construct a new gymnasium and athletic space at Orting High School, refinance the acquisition of land to construct a new Orting Elementary School, replace Cardinal Stadium turf, and if funds are sufficient, to add temporary student learning facilities at Ptarmigan Ridge Elementary School and make HVAC and field improvements at Orting Middle School.

If approved, the District expects approximately \$11,000,000 in state construction assistance funds to complete these projects. The \$150,000,000 of general obligation bonds would mature within 21 years, and be repaid from annual excess property tax levies. The excess levy rate is estimated to be approximately \$2.49 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Homeowners who are 61 years or older or disabled, and who meet low-income requirements may qualify for a property tax exemption. For information regarding exemptions, call the Pierce County Assessor at (253) 798-6111.

Statement For

Three of four Orting schools are significantly over their designed capacity. By the 2023-24 school year, our schools are expected to exceed our total capacity including portables. Orting Primary, built for 290 students in 1968, currently houses 550 students and is 87% over its designed capacity. The time to act is now!

This bond will construct a new K-5 Orting Elementary School on recently acquired land as well as eight permanent classrooms with a cafeteria and full kitchen to Ptarmigan Ridge. Modern security systems and on campus traffic improvements will improve school safety at our elementary schools.

Sixty percent of high school graduates live and work locally. This bond adds much needed career and technical education classroom and lab space at Orting High School preparing students for local careers. This bond replaces the previous bond passed in 2006 that built OMS and the OHS PAC.

Vote *yes* for Orting Kids!

Rebuttal

Traffic. Overcrowding. School safety. Career exploration and preparation. Replacing crumbling inadequate school buildings. Financial responsibility. These issues our community cares about! This bond replaces the previously approved bond averaging over \$3.14 with estimated rate of \$2.49 (including principal and interest). Years have been spent working with the community, discovering true needs, and planning for our kids' essentials. Keep Orting money in Orting! Our students and community benefit. Vote *yes*!

Committee Members: Jenny McKinney, Lucinda Creasy
jenny.yesortingkids@gmail.com

Statement Against

The Orting School District's cost analysis does not represent the full commitment required of taxpayers. This bond has a principal cost of *\$150 million dollars*. The district's bond management company estimates that interest will add \$100 million, for a total of *\$250 million dollars*. While their graphic states that the district projects that tax rates will stay stable, that is unlikely. Most of us are paying more for food, fuel, utilities, household goods, school clothes and supplies, and more. We must be discerning with how we permit our income to be used. We must consider future generations before we approve such a significant financial burden. Supporting schools is a good thing, but there are many ways to do that. At a time when individuals and families are having to tighten their financial belts, it is only right to expect the same of our government and its agencies. More at BondNo.com.

Rebuttal

What's critical for residents right now is keeping themselves, their families, and their homes healthy; to endure the current economic uncertainty. Pierce County requires county residency to engage on the school bond measures, not school district residency. I own property in and live in Pierce County. As a resident, taxpayer, homemaker, churchgoer, consumer, and volunteer, I am aware of needs through observation and conversation. More information can be found at BondNo.com.

Committee Members: Jeneen Breshears
info@BondNo.com