



Update - Stay Connected

February 9, 2022

2022 Levy Measures Likely to Pass

As of 8 p.m. on Election Night, all 3 levy measures in LWSD appeared to be passing! This is great news for our students and our schools.

Prop 1	Prop 2	Prop 3
YES: 56%	YES: 57%	YES: 54%
NO: 44%	NO: 43%	NO: 46%

A huge THANK YOU to all LWEA members who volunteered to knock doors and call voters

Brieanne Allen, Rush
Tara Belfield, RHS
Kristi Bryant, RC
Erica Bullock, Rush
Patti Cook, Rush
Sarah Cooper, Juanita
Karen Cosme, Wilder
Sharon Curry, RHS
Martha Daman, Renaissance

Axie Dompier, Rush
Marisa Gonzalez, Muir
Cookie Grant-Suggs, Rush
Cathey Hettinger, Barton
Jodie Howerton, Rush
Mary Lockett, Rush
Leanne Mawhinney, LWHS
Hattie Midboe, Stella Schola
Bridget Middaugh, Twain

Fareeha Nasir, Alcott
Kelli Osborn, Twain
Denise Radecke, Carson and Blackwell
Beth Schultz, Rush
Julie Thomas, Twain
Julia Vasiliauskas, TMS
Amy Waldroup, Barton
Miok Oh, Rush
Stacy Yu, Rush



Thank you also to everyone who put a sign in their window or yard, participated in sign waving, endorsed the levy, or talked someone into voting Yes! **THANK YOU for being united for the cause of public education for all students.**

What does passing all three levy measures mean for our students and our schools?

It means everything: see page 2

Prop 1

Programs like Special Education, Multi-Lingual Learning, and Highly Capable, music and arts education won't face cuts to staffing. We will be able to continue offering a broad array of course options at the high school level – including 0 and 8th period courses. We will maintain funding for student health: counselors, mental health supports, and school nurses. 14% of the LWSD overall budget is maintained by the passage of Prop 1.

Prop 2

Funding for classroom technology and student and staff devices will be maintained. Staff will continue to receive technology training for classroom instruction. We will preserve our ability to replace and update aging infrastructure and systems so that our buildings are safe and modern.

Prop 3

We will add classroom space to our schools so that students have adequate and appropriate spaces to learn: a new elementary school in downtown Redmond to accommodate 550 students; additions at Finn Hill, Kirkland, and Redmond middle schools to accommodate 600 students; additional capacity at high schools for 1,200 students; acquisition of property for future schools.

Loan Forgiveness Program Saved an LWEA Member \$58,000



What about you?

In 2008, LWHS teacher Jill Johnson still owed about \$60,000 in student loans. In that year, she applied for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program. Unfortunately, her loans were sold shortly thereafter, and **the new payment plan disqualified her from PSLF.** Jill continued making payments on her loans until all loan payments were paused during the COVID-19 national emergency.

Fast forward to October 2021: the U.S. Department of Education, under the direction of President Biden, announced a **limited-time change to PSLF rules** that expanded the conditions under which a borrower might become eligible for loan forgiveness.

Jill took notice. Now her previously disqualified payments would count towards her PSLF eligibility. **The October 2021 expanded rules meant that Jill's loans were now eligible for forgiveness!**

Jill completed her application for loan forgiveness in October 2021. **In January she learned that her outstanding loan balance of \$49,000 was now \$0. Additionally, she will receive a refund of \$9,800 for previous loan payments that were made after the required 120 payments.**

You too may now be eligible for loan forgiveness under this temporary rule change! Please review the [PSLF information from last week's Update](#) to learn if you qualify and how to apply.

This opportunity is temporary, has limited funding, and must be provided on a first come, first served basis. Once all funds are used, the TEPSLF opportunity will end.

**LWEA Officers and
Executive Committee**

President:

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LWEA Office / 425-822-
3388

Vice President:

[Katie Badger](#)
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Primary Rep:

[Patti Cook](#)
Rush / 425-936-2690

Intermediate Rep:

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Alcott / 425-936-2490

Middle School Rep:

[Hattie Midboe](#)
Stella / 425-936-2475

High School Rep:

[Sharon Curry](#)
RHS / 425-936-1800

Specialists Rep:

[Amy Waldroup](#)
Barton / 425-936-2480

Special Services Rep:

[Cookie Grant-Suggs](#)
Rush / 425-936-2690

Ethnic Minority Rep:

[Cathey Hettinger](#)
Barton / 425-936-2480

LWEA
WE are YOU
This is your union!



National School Counselors Week, Feb 7-11, 2022

Our counselors:

- Are actively committed to help our students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents
- Work with educators to help students explore their potential and set realistic goals for themselves
- Identify and utilize community resources that help students become productive members of society
- Enable students to achieve success in school

To All Our Fabulous Counselors.....

*Thank
You*

UPDATE ON WASHINGTON CARES FUND FOR LONG TERM CARE (LTC)

On January 27, 2022, the Governor signed house bill (HB) 1732 delaying the collection of the Washington Cares Fund premiums until July 1, 2023. The bill was not signed into law prior to running the January payroll and we notified you that premiums were deducted from the January paychecks. With the passage of HB 1732, employers are required to refund premiums deducted within 120 days. The payroll department will refund the January deductions in the February paychecks. The refund will be displayed on your check stub as a negative deduction amount with the description RWCF- REFUND WA CARES.

If you have any questions regarding your February pay, please contact Payroll and Benefits at: askpayroll@lwsd.org.

More information about the long term care plan can be found at [Washington Cares Fund](#). If you have any questions or concerns about the Washington Cares Fund, please contact your legislator.



A Friend in Need

Miguel Viamonte, Rosa Parks Elem, is in need of shared leave due to ongoing medical issues. Any support through shared leave donations is greatly appreciated.

Please consider a [Shared Leave Donation](#) by filling out the donation form and sending it to HRLeaves@lwsd.org. Thank you.

Marketplace

Ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis. All ads must include a home email and/or phone number. Send directly to [Terri Neely](#) in the LWEA office.



Feb. 14
Valentine's Day

Feb. 14
Secondary Grading
Deadline Extension

Feb. 15
Exec Committee

Feb. 17-21
Mid-Winter Break

Feb. 22
Rep Assembly



Do you know of some outstanding WEA Education Staff Associate (ESA) employees

 in your building or district? These are your school psychologists, school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, speech and language pathologists and audiologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and behavior analysts.

It has been a hard year for all educators, but our ESA peers have carried exceptional loads above and beyond the demands of what they always have done. Here's your chance to honor their work.

[Nominations are open](#) for the 2022 WEA Education Staff Associate of Year. Complete nomination packets are due no later than 5 p.m. Friday, Feb. 18.

Our ESA peers often go unrecognized in our schools, and this is the chance to recognize their impact on students in Washington. There is no award like this offered by any other state affiliate of NEA.

[Follow this link](#) to complete the nomination form.

If you have questions, please contact [Adrienne Brand](#).

Thank you for nominating a worthy peer!

STEM, Creativity Blended Learning Summer Site Leader Opportunity

The National Inventors Hall of Fame is in need of a new **site director** this summer for Lake Washington, July 11-15, for the non-profit, **one-week** blended learning [Camp Invention](#) program that fosters innovative mindset through STEM hands-on thematic immersion.

The Camp Invention program offers the following for local educators that get involved:

- Stipend Compensation
- Imbedded practical Professional Development of IB/STEM curricula
- Transference ideas to integrate into their school year
- Leadership Resume strengthener
- Evidence-based student impact: [Join a Virtual Visit to Camp Invention!](#)

Here's a look at this year's newly released 2022 Camp Invention program called [EXPLORE](#). The Invention Education infused pedagogy cultivates social-emotional learning, inventive thinking, growth mindset, entrepreneurship and builds confidence in essential 21century skills.

We understand that it is a challenging time for our educators to take on extra responsibilities. However, Camp Invention offers a turnkey framework and support for local teams to execute this impactful opportunity for students with simplicity. Program support starts immediately in order to set our team up for success. If you are interested in having a brief conversation to learn more about the site leader/director role please contact Annette at aphillips@invent.org, OR 330.815.0889 or schedule a brief Zoom Chat [here](#).