



Longview/Kelso Building Trades Council

Mike Bridges, President

Adam Davis, Recording Secretary

February 5, 2024

Re: Support Longview School District Levy 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

The Longview/Kelso Building and Construction Trades Council (LKBCTC) and its affiliates are in full support of the 2024 Education Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy for the many reasons listed below.

- This levy is not a new tax; it is just a replacement for the existing levy that expires at the end of 2024.
- The levy provides much-needed funding for approximately 15% of the District's annual budget.
- The levy currently funds 69 teachers and other certified employees, as well as another 65 school support employees.
- Levy dollars help pay for text books and other teaching materials.
- Sports and other curricular activities are almost completely funded by levy dollars.
- School transportation services are partially funded by local levy funds.

If the EP&O Levy fails, we will see a reduction in the number of teachers and counselors, which will then create larger class sizes in which students will not receive the individual attention they need. A levy failure will also result in fewer classroom materials, as well as less funding for security and building maintenance.

The LKBCTC and the Longview School District have partnered over the years to create more awareness for pathways into trade careers through our robust apprenticeship programs. This can be seen through the pre-apprenticeship program the Longview School District partnered with the LKBCTC and other community partners to create. That program shines a light on alternative pathways to a family-wage career while teaching students skills that can lead them to success in a high-demand skilled trade. LKBCTC wants to see those students succeed, along with all the other students in the Longview School District, and passage of the EP&O Levy is essential to that success.

I hope you will consider joining the LKBCTC in supporting the 2024 EP&O Levy.

Sincerely,


Mike Bridges

President, LKBCTC

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