

Greetings Fellow Citizens of North Mason!

In February of this year, our community voted to approve (by a 62% yes margin) a four-year educational levy on the ballot to provide supplemental educational funds for the North Mason School District. For this I would like to extend a heartfelt Thank You to you, our local community, for this generosity.

In a more perfect world, such a levy request for educational funds would not be necessary, as the state of Washington would fully fund all aspects of education for all our children. Indeed, our state legislature is currently working on creating plans for the state to meet this constitutional requirement, and if they succeed (I personally believe that they will) before the expiration of our levy, then the school district will at that time cease collection of the newly passed levy. I look forward to this potential eventuality becoming real!

Meantime, thanks to all of you, our school district will continue to have funds to pay for teachers we need to educate our children, to purchase sufficient textbooks, to secure appropriate technology and updated computers for our students, to fund gifted education programs and to supplement our special education services to our students who need it, among several other services and programs as well.

The North Mason School Board placed this levy on the ballot specifically to retain the same tax burden that was voted four years ago, rather than ask for a greater amount that could have been justified for additional needs we have identified; we did this partly because you, our voters, had earlier voted on the bond that has produced our new high school and is producing still more major construction over the next few years. We felt that this was not the time to ask for a greater financial tax burden from the community when you are already being so generous to and for our children.

My proverbial hat is off for you, citizens of North Mason, and I believe I can say THANK YOU to all of you for myself AND on behalf of the school board and the entire North Mason School District!

A special shout-out also goes to our volunteer Levy Committee Members: Andrea Bowman, Craig Patti, Laura Boad, Mike Southerland, Vicki Hopkins, Cathy Dunn, Valerie Johnson, Kathryn Whitney, Malynda Green, Katie LaVine, Jerry Wight, Valori Stoican, Dana Rosenbach and Thom Worlund.

--Art Wightman

Director District 1 and current President of the North Mason School District Board of Directors