

# - Proposition No. 1 - Sales and Use Tax for Emergency Communication Systems and Facilities

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## Measure Text

The San Juan County Council adopted Resolution No. 49 - 2019 concerning the imposition of a sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities. This proposition would authorize the imposition of a countywide sales and use tax of five one-hundredths of one percent (0.05%) without an expiration date; and a second countywide sales and use tax of fifteen one-hundredths of one percent (0.15%) that expires after 60 months, with the revenue therefrom used for all expenses provided by statute for the design, financing, acquisition, construction, operation, remodeling and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities.

Shall this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

San Juan

San Juan County Council

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## Explanatory Statement

State law authorizes the San Juan County Council to submit a proposition to the voters, and if the proposition is approved by a majority of persons voting, fix and impose a sales and use tax to be used solely for the purpose of providing funds for costs associated with financing, design, acquisition, construction, equipping, operating, maintaining, remodeling, repairing, reequipping, and improvement of emergency communication systems and facilities.

The tax authorized is in addition to any other sales and uses taxes authorized by law and must be collected from those persons who are taxable by the state under Chapters [82.08 RCW](#) and [82.12 RCW](#) upon the occurrence of any taxable event within the county.

Under State law, the rate of tax may not exceed two-tenths of one percent of the selling price in the case of sales tax, or value of the article used, in the case of a use tax.

Emergency communication systems are used by the County Sheriff, emergency medical services, and fire districts to provide life-saving, vital, public safety response in timely, reliable, consistent and effective manner.

The County Council identified a need for improvements to the emergency communications system of the county system to upgrade and keep them current and to increase the saturation of signal and to avoid areas which prohibit or interrupt communications, especially when time is crucial.

This proposition will impose the tax in two parts. The first part, at a rate of five one hundredths of one percent (0.05 %) on the selling price will continue without a termination date. A second part, at a rate of fifteen one hundredths of one percent (0.15 %) on the selling price will continue for a period of sixty months at which time it will expire without any further action by the County Council or the voters.

The total amount of revenue to be generated by the first part of the tax or the second part of the tax will depend upon the actual sales that occur.

A “yes” vote is to approve this sales and use tax. A “no” vote is to reject the sales and use tax. If approved, appropriate notices will be given to the Washington State Department of Revenue so that collection schedules and related materials can be modified to notify vendors and those responsible for collecting the tax of the new rate.

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## Arguments For and Against

### Argument For

The current Emergency Responder communication system has major coverage gaps throughout every island in San Juan County – putting lives and public safety at risk every day. This measure will provide a countywide solution to ensure our first responders are able to communicate throughout emergencies to ensure vital resources are in place during both small- and large-scale emergencies.

So, why ask for a small increase of sales tax?

Emergency service is open to all, including island visitors, and sales tax is the way to ensure that all who visit and live here share the cost.

At just two-tenths of one percent of sales tax this ballot resolution will help fund a seamless, cross-agency radio communication network that will provide a solution to dangerous emergency communication issues; and after 60 months, the sales tax contribution will be reduced to just five one-hundredths of one percent).

The current system, which was installed in the 1960's and 70's, leaves several areas throughout the county where emergency service providers are unable to make contact with emergency dispatch and each other. This leaves EMS providers, firefighters, law enforcement, and public works unable to communicate throughout hazardous, unpredictable, and life-threatening situations.

The new system will be built on existing infrastructure and technology that OPALCO/Rock Island has already established and will significantly increase coverage over our varying terrain – giving our first responders the safe and effective means to communicate, providing a higher level of safety for all.

Please join us in voting YES!

Argument Prepared by

### Argument Against

**Rick Christmas, Pro Statement Committee Member**

**Rick Frazer, Pro Statement Committee Member**

**Karin Agosta, Pro Statement Committee Member**

# San Juan Island School District #149 - Proposition No. 1 - Capital Levy for School Facilities & Technology

Information

Explanatory Statement

Arguments For and Against

## Measure Text

The Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 19-012, concerning a proposition to fund improvements to school facilities and technology systems. This proposition authorizes the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, upon taxable property within the District in support of its Capital Projects Fund:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate per \$1,000 Assessed Value	Total Amount
2021	\$.3917919	\$1,353,750
2022	\$.3917919	\$1,353,750
2023	\$.3917919	\$1,353,750
2024	\$.3917919	\$1,353,750

Should this proposition be approved?

- Yes
- No

San Juan

## Links

[Campaign Contributions](#)

# San Juan Island School District #149 - Proposition No. 1 - Capital Levy for School Facilities & Technology

Information

Explanatory Statement

Arguments For and Against

## Explanatory Statement

San Juan Island School District seeks voter approval of a capital levy renewal of the District's earlier capital levy which expires in December of 2020. This represents a decrease of \$1.00 (one dollar) from the rate of the expiring levy. This levy would fund projects to improve the District's facilities and technology systems. Facilities projects include necessary repairs, renovations, and systems and equipment upgrades for the District's school buildings and grounds. Technology projects include the purchase of new computers and updating technology systems for students, teachers, and staff, as well as costs related to software licenses, training, and network systems.

If the levy is approved, taxable property within the District would continue to be taxed to pay for improvements over the next four years. The estimated rate of this levy is \$.3917919 per year for each thousand dollars of assessed property value. This represents a \$1.00 (one dollar) decrease from the rate of the expiring levy. The levy would generate funding in the amount of \$1,353,750 each year of the levy.

A "yes" vote approves the imposition of the levy. A "no" vote opposes the imposition of the levy. To pass, this measure must be approved by a simple majority of voters.

# San Juan Island School District #149 - Proposition No. 1 - Capital Levy for School Facilities & Technology

Information

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Arguments For and Against

## Arguments For and Against

### Argument For

The San Juan Island School District seeks voter approval to reauthorize the Capital and Technology levy for 2021-2024. The levy will fund capital improvements, major facility repairs, and technology equipment, infrastructure, and support.

“Basic Education Funds” from the State of Washington provide no funding for school district capital facility improvements and very little for technology. The District’s general fund pays for daily operating expenses and minor repairs of our facilities.

“Capital and Technology funds” are necessary to handle major repairs, system replacements, facilities improvements, and educational and support systems provided through technology.

The current Capital and Technology levy of \$0.46 per \$1,000 assessed value expires this year. In this election, the District is asking voters to approve a four-year levy of \$0.39 per \$1,000 assessed value. This lower levy rate will result in an annual cost of \$195 for a home assessed at \$500,000.

The Capital and Technology levy ensures the continuing excellence of our school facilities and sustains the delivery of a first rate education supported by a strategic replacement schedule for technology systems and devices. As a result, the levy guarantees that the District can direct a greater portion of the general fund to sustaining high quality instruction and reasonable class sizes.

Approval of this levy will fund major safety improvements at all three school campuses as well as art inclusion at the STEM building. Find

### Argument Against

the full list of capital and technology projects at  
<https://tinyurl.com/vt83jy>.

**Vote yes to support our schools!**

**Argument Prepared by**

**Committee for the Support of San Juan School  
District Levies and Bonds**

**Sarah Werling**

**John Carrier**

**Jose' Domenech**

**Contact**

**[sjilevy20@gmail.com](mailto:sjilevy20@gmail.com)**