

# Port Townsend school levies pass

## District to proceed with educational programs, facility upgrades

Posted Tuesday, February 12, 2019 8:24 pm

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The Port Townsend School District's two levies on the Feb. 12 ballot both were approved by voters.

Proposition 1, which replaces the expiring educational programs and school support levy, received 3,145 votes in favor, or 66.49 percent, to 1,585 votes against, 33.51 percent.

Proposition 2, a capital levy for safety, technology and facilities improvements, received 3,082 votes in favor, 65.17 percent, to 1,647 votes against, 34.83 percent.

"We are so grateful for the support of the Port Townsend community," Superintendent John Polm said. "The continued support for our community's children and the public schools is one of the best investments we can make."

Polm said the timing of the educational programs and school support levy's passage this month will help the district complete its budget development for school operations for the 2019-20 school year, as well as its longer-range budget planning through fiscal year 2022.

"The three-year educational programs and school support levy will help support the quality programs our students and community enjoy here in Port Townsend," Polm said. "We will prioritize our operations budget to best support the goals and objectives laid out by our governing board."

As for the capital levy, Polm said its passage enables the district to move forward with "much-needed projects" in all three of its buildings, including ADA-mandated access in the main and annex buildings at Port Townsend High School.

"The district will develop a prioritized project list moving forward," Polm said. "We intend to upgrade the high school's main building and annex with elevators so that there is access to all floors. We have projects at all three buildings that need to be evaluated and prioritized. Our goal is to finish the vision of Salish Coast Elementary, and to repair and upgrade facilities to better support our students, staff and community."