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Kitsap Sun

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TWIN PEEKS



A pair of juvenile raccoons climb a cedar tree in a forest near Brownsville on Nov. 12. MEEGAN M. REID/KITSAP SUN

NKSD putting operations levy on 2026 ballot

Jeff Graham
Kitsap Sun | USA TODAY NETWORK

North Kitsap School District is putting a four-year educational programs and operations (EP&O) levy on the ballot for Feb. 10, 2026 after school board members unanimously voted Thursday, Nov. 13, to approve the measure.

NKSD's proposed levy would replace an existing four-year levy that voters approved in 2022 and expires at the end of 2025. The new levy would seek to collect over \$89 million (\$21,010,031 in 2027, \$21,834,134 in 2028, \$22,549,886 in 2029 and \$23,966,542 in 2030). The estimated tax rate would be between \$1.40 and \$1.43 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Operation levies supplement the state's basic education allotment to operate and maintain schools. NKSD officials state that levy funding covers approximately 16% of the district's operating budget (roughly \$21 million annually) and helps pay for classroom support, special education, transportation, food service, athletics and activities, day-to-day operations and utilities.

NKSD's facility advisory committee is continuing to meet to discuss a future capital levy proposal that would address school building conditions, safety needs, and long-term maintenance priorities. A resolution could be presented during the school board's meeting on Dec. 11. If approved, the capital levy would be placed on the Feb. 2026 ballot.

Court to review the policy for asylum-seekers

Maureen Groppe and Aysha Bagchi
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The Supreme Court will decide whether the federal government can turn asylum-seekers away at the U.S.-Mexico border if too many migrants want the chance to apply.

The court on Nov. 17 agreed to review a practice known as “metering,” which has been used by both Democratic and Republican administrations.

The Justice Department said the practice is a critical tool when there are surges of people at the border; however, lower courts said federal law allows migrants to seek assistance once they've reached U.S. territory.

Thirteen asylum-seekers and the immigrant rights group Al Otro Lado, Spanish for “on the other side” or “across,” challenged the practice in 2017 on behalf of migrants who were turned back to Mexico. Their lawyers said in a Nov. 17 statement that turning asylum-seekers back at the border was an “illegal scheme.”

See COURT REVIEW, Page 2A

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