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| <b>Respondent Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| City of Deer Park & Committee to Support Deer Park Schools                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Complainant Name</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Richard Schut                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Complaint Description</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <p><a href="#">Richie Schut</a> reported via the portal<br/>(Tue, 7 Oct 2025 at 9:05 PM)</p> <p>In September 2025, the City of Deer Park included a two-sided, full-color promotional flyer in its official water utility bill mailing sent to residents. A copy of this flyer is attached as evidence.</p> <p>The flyer explicitly advocates for a specific outcome in an election. It prominently features the phrases "VOTE YES! DEER PARK SCHOOLS CAPITAL LEVY" and "Your vote counts! Please vote yes for our kids!" This material is not an objective or fair presentation of facts; it is unambiguous campaign advocacy designed to persuade residents to vote in favor of the Deer Park School District's 2025 Capital Levy.</p> <p>This action appears to be a direct violation of RCW 42.17A.555, which prohibits the use of public office or agency facilities to promote a ballot proposition. The City of Deer Park utilized its public facilities, specifically its official stationery (the utility bill envelope), its postage and mailing system, its comprehensive resident mailing list, and the staff time required to prepare the mailing, to distribute this political advertisement.</p> <p>Furthermore, it is public knowledge that the City of Deer Park has a vested interest in the passage of this levy, as it has an agreement with the Deer Park School District for a land deal that is contingent upon the levy's approval. This financial and operational interest provides a clear motive for the city to promote the measure, but it does not exempt it from state law.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <p>The inclusion of a "VOTE YES!" political flyer by the City of Deer Park in its official water utility bills has several significant and damaging impacts on the public:</p> <p>Erodes Public Trust and Impartiality: Official government communications, such as a utility bill, carry an implicit seal of authority and neutrality. By inserting explicitly partisan campaign material into this official mailing, the City of Deer Park creates the appearance of an official government endorsement for one side of a political issue. This undermines the public's trust in the city government as an impartial entity that serves all residents, regardless of their political views on the school levy. It blurs the critical line between governance and campaigning.</p> <p>Misappropriation of Public Funds and Resources: This action constitutes a misuse of public resources to support a political campaign. While the flyer may have been printed by a private committee, the public's resources were used for its distribution. This includes the staff time required to insert the flyers, the use of the city's official mailing infrastructure, and the delivery system funded by taxpayers and ratepayers. These resources are intended for essential public services, not to advocate for a specific outcome in an election.</p> <p>Creates an Unfair and Uneven Playing Field: The City's action provides a significant and unfair advantage to the campaign supporting the levy. The pro-levy committee received free, targeted distribution to a comprehensive list of residents through a trusted, official channel. Opponents of the levy have no equivalent access to this powerful communication tool. This government intervention skews the public discourse and undermines a fair democratic process, where both sides of an issue should be able to make their case to voters on equal footing.</p> <p>Establishes a Troubling Precedent: Allowing a municipal government to use its official channels to promote a ballot measure, especially one in which it has a vested financial interest via a contingent land deal, sets a dangerous precedent. It could encourage the use of public resources to influence future elections, further eroding the separation between neutral government operations and political advocacy.</p> |
| <b>List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Attached is a scan of the double side flyer sent with our water bill from the city of deer Park.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Every property owner in the Deer Park City limits.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Certification (Complainant)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

# VOTE YES!

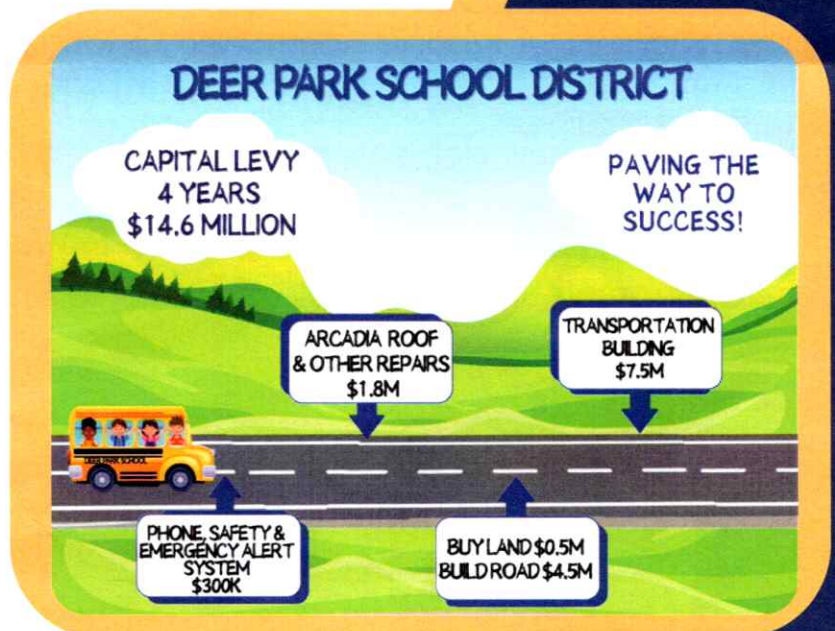
## DEER PARK SCHOOLS CAPITAL LEVY

Preserving our Past.  
Planning our Future.

The proposed 4-year, \$14.6 million short-term capital levy will provide vital funding as the district preserves our current buildings while planning for the future. Since we've paid off the High School bond, this will only increase our taxes temporarily by \$0.42/\$1000 and will fund the following projects: safety/security and communications district-wide, new roof and HVAC system at Arcadia, secure the last land available in Deer Park for the district and road infrastructure, and replace the nearly 100-year-old transportation facility. Your vote counts! Please vote yes for our kids!

**BALLOTS DUE  
NOV. 4TH**

Paid for by the  
Committee to Support Deer Park Schools



# Every Vote Counts!

## **Why a Capital Levy Instead of a Bond?**

After two failed bond attempts in 2024, the Facilities Advisory Committee is recommending a short-term, 4-year capital levy to cover four priority projects.

- The projects are smaller in scope (\$14.6M total), which is better suited for a levy than a bond.
- Levies are shorter term, expire after four years, and require 50% voter approval (bonds require 60%).

## **When is the current bond paid off?**

The existing High School bond will be fully paid off this year!

## **What will it cost taxpayers?**

- Proposed levy: \$1.45 per \$1,000 assessed value
- Current bond (ending 2025): \$1.03 per \$1,000
- Difference: only 42¢ more per \$1,000 of assessed value. For the median Deer Park home valued at \$400,000, the cost comes to \$14 per month for just four years to invest in our schools and community.

## **How will funds be monitored?**

A citizen-led Levy Oversight Committee will review spending and ensure transparency, accountability, & trust.

## **Why no athletics projects?**

The Facilities Advisory Committee prioritized urgent facility needs. Athletic improvements will be considered in a future bond.

## **What about a new elementary school?**

That need remains. After completing levy projects, the district may pursue a bond for a new elementary school and other improvements around 2030, designed to maintain stable and predictable rates long term.



Learn More!

<https://www.dpsd.org/page/levy2025>