

Amendment 5 Version 3 to CB 120981 DEEL Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy
ORD

Sponsor: Councilmember Rinck

Allow for Additional Investments in Fresh Bucks for Students and Their Families

Effect: This amendment would add \$2,000,000 annually, or \$12 million total, to the expected revenues generated by the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy proposition submitted to voters upon passage of Council Bill 120981. This additional revenue would allow for investments to support the Fresh Bucks program for K-12 students and their families.

Fresh Bucks is a voucher program for healthy food, distributing \$40 a month to individuals with a household income of less than or equal to 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) to purchase fruits and vegetables at participating farmers markets and grocery stores. The 2025 Adopted Budget includes \$6.9 million for the program, which has an enrollment of 12,000 households, and currently has a waitlist of 4,122 households. The Human Services Department reports that 18,000 youth in Seattle qualify for free or reduced lunch at Seattle Public Schools.

The estimated additional tax rate needed to allow for this additional investment would be \$.006, or six-tenths of a cent, per \$1,000 of assessed value, with an estimated average additional tax burden of \$6.26 per year to a median-value property.

To allow for the additional expected revenue to be reflected in the Council Bill and the proposed ballot measure, this amendment adds one cent to the maximum allowable tax rate proposed, from \$0.71 per \$1,000 of assessed value in the first year, to \$0.72. The final version of the bill for Full Council consideration will reconcile all proposed changes to the tax rate based on the estimated additional revenue needed to incorporate all amendments.

This amendment would also add “food assistance for students and their families” to the list of educational support services that may be supported by the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise (FEPP) Levy, under the “K-12 health and safety” category.

The list of educational support services is a non-exhaustive list intended to illustrate the types of investments that could be supported by the FEPP Levy. It does not bind the Council to funding those services. However, if this amendment passes and additional revenue is raised, Council’s intent would be to use the amended additional revenue, averaging \$2,000,000 per year, towards supporting school-based distribution of Fresh Bucks vouchers to students and their families.

If the proposition is approved by voters, funding for specific items would be appropriated by Council through the adoption of an Implementation and Evaluation Plan, and during Council budget deliberations.

Amend Section 3 of CB 120981 as follows, and reconcile the referenced total levy amount as needed to incorporate all amendments to CB 120981:

Section 3. Definitions. As used in this ordinance:

* * *

G. “Education-support services” means the programs and activities referred to in Section 6 of this ordinance.

H. “Education-support services funding” means not less than \$~~1.25421~~1.2662 billion of the increased levy amount over six years, resulting from this ordinance’s passage.

* * *

Amend Section 4 of CB 120981 as follows, and reconcile the referenced tax rate and total levy amount as needed to incorporate all amendments to CB 120981:

Section 4. Levy of regular property taxes – Submittal. The City submits to the qualified electors of the City a proposition as authorized by RCW 84.55.050 to exceed the levy limitation on regular property taxes contained in RCW 84.55.010, for property taxes levied in 2025 through 2030 for collection in 2026 through 2031, respectively. The proposition shall be limited so that the City shall not levy more than a total tax rate of \$3.0~~42~~ per \$1,000 of assessed value in the first year, representing an additional tax rate of \$0.7~~42~~ per \$1,000 of assessed value in the first year. The proposition is expected to raise approximately \$~~1.25421~~1.2662 billion in aggregate over six years for education-support services funding used to provide education-support services for Seattle children, youth, and families. The levy amount in the first year shall be used to determine subsequent years’ allowable regular levy limit in accordance with chapter 84.55 RCW. Amounts collected in excess of the education-support services funding amount are available for other City

purposes for which the City's regular levy may be applied. In accordance with RCW 84.36.381 and RCW 84.55.050, the City will exempt seniors, veterans with disabilities, or other persons with disabilities who qualify under RCW 84.36.381 from the increased levy amount resulting from the proposition's passage. Pursuant to RCW 84.55.050(4), the maximum regular property taxes that may be levied in 2031 for collection in 2032 and in later years shall be computed as if the levy lid in RCW 84.55.010 had not been lifted under this ordinance.

Amend Section 6 of CB 120981 as follows:

Section 6. Education-support services. Services funded by proceeds are intended to increase access and delivery of childcare and preschool; academic, health, and safety supports for K-12 students; college and career pathways; and comprehensive support services. Levy investments shall be guided by the Statement of Policy, Priorities for Levy Funding, and Implementation Principles set out in Section 2 of this ordinance. Initially, these core strategies will be pursued through education-support services that include:

* * *

C. K-12 health and safety. Major program elements are intended to increase Seattle student physical and mental wellness, with services that may include, but are not limited to: comprehensive primary medical care, mental health care, oral health care, health education, care coordination, facilities grants, connection and referral to community supports, food assistance for students and their families, violence prevention, and outreach.

* * *

Amend Section 10 of CB 120981 as follows, and reconcile the referenced tax rate as needed to incorporate all amendments to CB 120981:

Section 10. Election – Ballot title. The City Council directs the City Clerk to file this ordinance with the Director of Elections of King County, Washington, as ex officio supervisor of elections, requesting the Director of Elections to call and conduct a special election in the City in conjunction with the state general election to be held on November 4, 2025, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the City the proposition set forth in this ordinance. The City Clerk is directed to certify to the King County Director of Elections the ballot title approved by the City Attorney in accordance with their responsibilities under RCW 29A.36.071. The following ballot title is submitted to the City Attorney for consideration:

THE CITY OF SEATTLE

PROPOSITION NO. 1

Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy

The Seattle City Council adopted Ordinance No. XXXXX concerning replacing an expiring levy to fund education support services.

The City of Seattle's Proposition 1 would replace an expiring levy, funding childcare and preschool; academic, health, and safety supports for K-12 students; college and job readiness; and other supports, as provided in Ordinance XXXXX.

It authorizes a six-year levy for collection beginning in 2026 of an additional \$0.7~~4~~2/\$1,000 of assessed value, for a maximum total levy rate of \$3.0~~4~~2. 2026's amount will be the base for subsequent levies through 2031. RCW 84.36.381's senior citizens and disabled persons exemption applies.

Jasmine Marwaha

Select Committee on the Families, Education, Preschool and Promise Levy

June 12, 2025

V3

Should this levy be approved?

Yes

No