



City of Seattle: November 4, 2014 General with Special Elections

Proposition Numbers 1A and 1B

Proposition 1A (submitted by Initiative Petition No. 107) and **Proposition 1B** (alternative proposed by the City Council and Mayor) **concern early learning programs and providers of such services for children.**

Proposition 1A: (Initiative 107) would establish a \$15 minimum wage for childcare workers (phased in over three years for employers with under 250 employees); seek to reduce childcare costs to 10% or less of family income; prohibit violent felons from providing professional childcare; require enhanced training and certification through a training institute; create a workforce board and establish a fund to help providers meet standards; and hire an organization to facilitate communication between the City and childcare workers.

Proposition 1B: As an alternative, the Seattle City Council and Mayor have proposed Proposition 1B (Ordinance 124509), which would fund the four-year initial phase of a City early learning program with the goal of developing a widely-available, affordable, licensed, and voluntary preschool option. The Ordinance requires support, training and certification for teachers. The program uses research-based strategies, includes evaluation of results, and provides tuition support. This proposition authorizes regular property taxes above RCW 84.55 limits, allowing additional 2015 collection of up to \$14,566,630 (approximately 11¢ per \$1,000 assessed value), totaling \$58,266,518 over four years.

1. **Should either of these measures be enacted into law?** Yes [] No []

2. **Regardless of whether you voted yes or no above, if one of these measures is enacted, which one should it be?** 1A [] 1B []

How many votes to pass? Simple Majority as to the first part of the question; simple majority of votes cast is 50%, plus one vote or more to pass.

If the first part of the question is approved, then the option with the most votes in the second part, regardless of how many or how few votes that is, will be approved through second question (Seattle City Charter, article IV)

ABOUT THIS MEASURE

This measure asks voters a two part question; the parts are tied to each other and the parts taken together combine to form a single election decision by the voter. It is very important for voters to carefully consider what each part of this measure is asking as they make their selections.

This is a question out to the voters of the City of Seattle, affecting the residents of the City of Seattle. The City of Seattle has the same boundaries as the Seattle School District, except for two voting precincts. The City of Seattle and the Seattle Public Schools (Seattle School District) are not the same governmental authority.

The first question is whether either of the two alternative proposals for preschool and pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) education in the City of Seattle, should be adopted. Both of these proposals concern early learning programs and providers of Pre-K services for children.

This question is not asking, "Do you support preschool or Pre-K in general?" This question is asking specifically, "Do you want either proposal 1A or 1B to become law in the City of Seattle, and be implemented?"

The voter does not get to directly connect their "yes" vote with one of the two options. They are asked to vote for either yes and no for implementing a new Pre-K plan in Seattle, without knowing which plan would be put in



place, and then, in the next part of the ballot, they may vote for which plan they prefer, if, on the first part, “yes” is the winner among the voters.

Voters may vote on the second question of plan preference, even if they voted “no” on the first question. Indeed, since one plan or the other will be started if the most voters vote “yes”, then all voters, regardless of how they vote on Part 1 of the measure, should make a decision and plan on voting in Part 2

The vote will be decided one of three ways:

1. If more voters vote for “no” than “yes” on Part 1, neither Pre-K program of the two offered will be put in place.
2. If more voters vote for “yes” than “no” on Part 1, and more voters vote for 1A than 1B, then the new pre-K regulations in the 1A proposal will be implemented, and the 1B plan will not be required to be used.
3. If more voters vote for “yes” than “no” on Part 1, and more voters vote for 1B than 1A, then the pilot pre-K in the 1B proposal will be started, and the 1A regulations will not be required to be implemented.

Within this document, the voter will find a simplified ballot description for each of the alternative propositions, as well as arguments in favor of each of the plans, as well as an overall “no” vote

WHAT THIS MEASURE WILL DO

If a majority of Seattle voters choose “yes” on the first part of the question, then one of two early learning measures will be put in place. The two possible plans do very different things.

WHAT THE 1A PLAN WOULD DO: Currently, state law requires most child care providers to be licensed and disqualifies people with certain types of crimes in their background. Certain requirements also exist for amount of space –indoor and outdoor – per child in facilities, and number of caregivers or teachers per child, depending upon age. Wages are not set by the state, except that they must comply with minimum wage and other employment laws.

The City of Seattle does not currently license or regulate early learning and child care services.

Proposition 1A would adopt some local city laws for providers of early learning and childcare services within Seattle. Child care providers include all early learning and preschool providers, including any City of Seattle preschool program providers.

Current law requires a \$15/hr. minimum wage for most Seattle employees, which will be an increase from current minimum wage, and increased in three phases covering *three to seven years*, and beginning April 1, 2015. Proposition 1A would speed up that schedule for early learning and child care teachers and staff, creating a separate schedule for workers in these categories, to be phased in over *three years* for certain employers beginning January 1, 2015.

Proposition 1A would also require implementation of a policy that no family should pay more than 10% of gross family income on early education and child care, and would be similar to existing state law in barring people with certain crimes in their past from working or teaching at a child care facility, or from child care being provided in unlicensed facilities.

Proposition 1A would also require the City to hire a “Provider Organization” to facilitate communications between the City and child care teachers and staff. To be selected, an entity must have “existed for more than 5



years, have successfully negotiated an agreement with a governmental entity on behalf of child care teachers and staff, not be dominated by advocates for employer or government interests, and offer membership to teachers and staff.”

Proposition 1A would require that a “Professional Development Institute” for the purpose of providing formal training and certification for early learning and child care teachers and caregivers be established by the City of Seattle that must be funded by the City and be jointly controlled and operated by the City and the Provider Organization. Early learning teachers and child care staff would have to take training and be certified through the Institute.

Proposition 1A would also create a “Workforce Board” to recommend policy and spending priorities for the training of early learning and care teachers and staff, to oversee the Professional Development Institute, and to oversee a Small Business Early Childhood Resource Fund created to help small and nonprofit child care providers meet the Initiative’s requirements. The Mayor and the Provider Organization would each appoint half of the Board.

Proposition 1A would also allow certain persons to sue the City to enforce its terms and entitle such persons to attorney’s fees and costs if the City is found in violation.

HOW MUCH WOULD PROPOSAL 1A COST?

Proposition 1A identifies no specific funding sources for the Professional Development Institute, the Small Business Early Childhood Resource Fund, or to hire a Provider Organization. There would be costs, but the financial plan to raise or find the revenue and to pay for the new requirements is not contained in the measure. As this is primarily a regulatory measure, there are not yet any specific numbers estimating cost to implement the new requirements.

WHAT THE 1B PLAN WOULD DO:

Currently, the City of Seattle is served by private preschool and child care providers licensed and regulated by the state. Proposition 1B would adopt the City Council and Mayor’s proposed pilot of a City-supported preschool program and approve a property tax increase to fund the program for four years. The City’s preschool program would be voluntary and would serve 3- and 4-year-olds, providing free tuition for families at or below 300% of the federal poverty level and setting tuition on a sliding scale for other families, with some level of subsidy for all families.

The City would contract for preschool services with eligible providers licensed for safety and certified for quality. Major program elements would include training for directors, supervisors, and teachers, including professional development, coaching and mentoring; education pathway advice for teaching staff; independent evaluation of how the program is set up and run; creation of data systems; quality assurance; and reporting outcomes. The City would facilitate communications with teachers and staff, parents and guardians, and other relevant parties.

An Oversight Committee would be established to make formal recommendations on program design, including teacher professional development and training, and funding and to monitor progress. The City would determine the most appropriate manner to ensure the preschool program is accessible to the families who need it the most, which still balancing a mix of children from all income levels. This would include ways to address economic, cultural and language barriers to child and family participation and ways to be responsive to the specific needs of low income, immigrant and refugee communities, and communities of color. The City Council may amend the program as necessary.

HOW MUCH WILL MEASURE 1B COST? The levy would allow 2015 collection of up to \$14,566,630 (approximately 11 cents per \$1,000 assessed value) and \$58,266,518 over four years.



Arguments for a vote for 1A	Arguments for a vote for 1B
<p>Seattle is facing a childcare crisis, and kids pay the real price when parents can't afford to pay and teachers can't afford to stay in their jobs. Proposal 1A helps kids by working toward more affordable childcare. Quality, licensed childcare now costs Seattle families more than in-state tuition at the University of Washington. Some single mothers pay up to 52% of their income on licensed childcare. Initiative 107 requires City Hall to work with the community to develop goals and a timeline for addressing this crisis.</p> <p>Due to low wages and erratic training, up to 38% of our children's caregivers leave their jobs each year. This is most harmful to children in critical early developmental stages. Leading national research shows children who experience consistency in their caregivers are significantly better prepared to succeed in school and life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizen's Initiative 107 (plan 1A) raises standards for <i>all</i> of Seattle's young children. • Ensures all of Seattle's 4,500 licensed teachers receive needed world-class training and a \$15.00 per hour minimum wage. • Sets a long-term goal of reducing childcare costs to 10% of a family's income. • Improves safety standards by prohibiting violent felons from providing childcare (licensed or unlicensed). • Establishes a training advisory board that includes parents and teachers who know firsthand the challenges of affordable, high quality childcare. <p>Citizen's Initiative 107 is affordable. By making efficient and strategic reforms to our existing system, only Initiative 107 helps more kids without raising property taxes. Leveraging private, federal and state funds – Initiative 107 is estimated to cost half that of City Hall's plan, while reaching five times the number of teachers and children they teach. Only Initiative 107 addresses the needs of our children, from birth to school age, instead of waiting until a child turns three years old.</p>	<p>Providing quality preschool for children across Seattle regardless of whether they are poor, rich, or in-between is one of the most important things we can do as a city.</p> <p>We need a program that focuses on the well-being of our kids, which includes high quality standards, and is fully funded. The City of Seattle's preschool program (Proposition 1B), is the only option on the ballot that fits all three requirements.</p> <p>Nearly a quarter of Seattle schoolchildren fall behind by grade three, and the numbers are worse for children of color, low income and immigrant kids. We can fix this problem – kids who experience quality preschool have better high school and college graduation rates, lower levels of behavioral problems, and have greater economic success as adults. Providing quality preschool in facilities licensed for safety will ensure our kids enter kindergarten ready to learn.</p> <p>The targeted, voluntary Seattle Preschool Program makes quality preschool an affordable reality for Seattle's 3- and 4-year old children. Unlike the competing plan, Prop 1B establishes strong quality standards to ensure kids learn the skills they need to succeed in the K-12 system.</p> <p>This is a realistic, fully funded plan. The Seattle Preschool Program (Proposition 1B) is funded with a modest property tax levy of about \$43 a year for a family living in a \$400,000 home. This investment funds preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds using a sliding payment scale and provides subsidies to families based on financial need, making preschool free for 4-person households making up to \$71,000 per year.</p> <p>The opposing plan includes many costly mandates but doesn't provide any funding for these new requirements or to assist those families struggling to afford preschool. Also unlike the competing plan, Proposition 1B funds training and skills development for participating preschool teachers to help them meet the program's standards, and ensures those teachers earn salaries comparable to elementary school teachers.</p>

Arguments for Vote No

The most important thing to remember is that the first yes/no question is *not*: Do you think pre-school is important, or do you want better preschool programs?

The first question is: Do you like one of these specific plans for pre-school services in Seattle? And do you like the one you didn't choose enough to be satisfied with it if the measure passes and your choice is not the winner?

One of the first things responsible parents teach their children is not to gamble with important decisions.

This entire measure is fundamentally a gamble – a voter has to answer yes or no without even knowing what, exactly, they are voting for: Are they voting for a package of new regulations with no funding source, or a four-year pilot program with a large expense?

Most people in Seattle want quality pre-school, that's a fact. Parents care about their children's future, and want the benefits that early learning opportunities such as Pre-K programs produce.

Both of these measures have benefits, and both have drawbacks. Both have funding packages that raise eyebrows. Neither is the best solution, or standing alone, even a good solution. Both plans should be sent back to the drawing board to work together, with each other and with the Seattle School District, to come up with a truly comprehensive Seattle pre-K plan.

Voters should know what they are voting for, and voters should be able to count on clear, easy to decipher and understand measures that have been thoroughly developed before asking for final, binding, approval

Vote NO on the first part of this Proposition – should one of these plans be approved? No, neither PROPOSITION is ready.

Then, regardless of whether you vote "yes" or "no" to the first part of the question, select the preschool plan that you feel best fits the needs of the city, if the "yes" side prevails above.

