

Levy Q&A

2017



Local levies make the difference to our success

The Camas School District is asking voters to approve a four-year Maintenance and Operations Levy and a Technology Levy to replace the current levies which will expire at the end of 2017. Ballots for the February 14 levies will be mailed to voters' homes in mid-January.

Look inside for detailed info about these funding measure.

Replacement levy
election to fund
educational and
technology programs
February 14, 2017



{ MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT }

Community support creates great schools



It is hard to believe that 2017 is already here. I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season. This fall we welcomed 7,000 students into our classrooms. These 7,000 students represent the best of us. Their success is supported by our outstanding staff and our wonderful community that

embraces each of them. Our community was formed as a mill town. As we continue to grow it's important to hang on to these mill town values: hard work that leads to dedication, persistence that leads to achievement, and contribution that builds community. Mill town pride is about those values. Mill town pride is about caring for each of our 7,000 students.

The Camas community has a tradition of partnering with schools to care for our students. As superintendent, I see the work of staff, students and our community in ensuring our students have the best education possible. This wouldn't happen without our community partnership. Part of that partnership includes local funding. Public education funding in Washington state relies on local taxes. In Camas, levies currently fund about 20 percent of education costs. When you consider that one day each week is entirely funded locally, you can see the impact your local tax dollars have on our students.

Our current maintenance and operations levy and our technology levy will both expire in 2017. In February, we are asking voters to approve replacement levies that will allow us to continue to provide the same high-quality education our students now enjoy. The request is to

replace the expiring levies with four-year levies which will provide the same outstanding academic as well as extra-curricular programs that our community expects and our students deserve.

The maintenance and operations replacement levy funds services and materials critical to student success. Examples include: smaller class sizes; special education services; accelerated programs for students; extracurricular programs, like athletics, band, drama, and academic teams; student health and media services; student safety; teacher training; and basic needs like maintenance, utilities, and curriculum materials. Our technology levy provides for infrastructure like networks, servers, Wi-Fi, and devices our students use. Levy funds bridge the gap between state funding and actual costs.

Funding both the operations and technology replacement levies is a continued investment in our children's future. If you have questions, please visit the district website or contact us. Please vote by Feb. 14, 2017.

There is a rich tradition of supporting education in Camas, and it will only continue with your assistance. Camas is a great place to live and raise a family; and our schools are a great place to build the future.

Thank you for your support of Camas Schools.

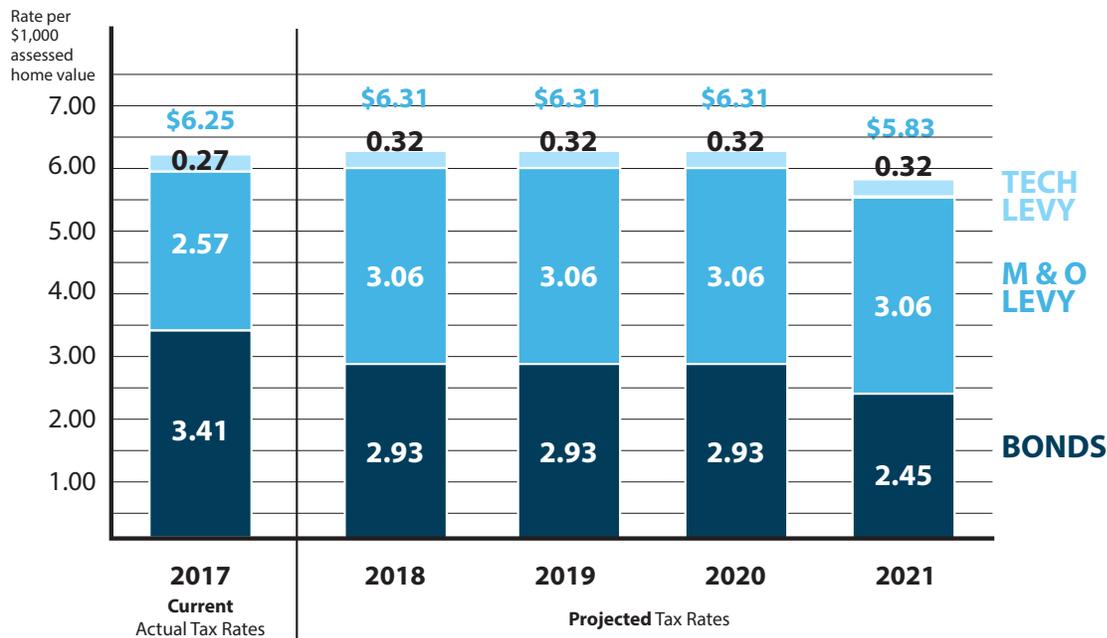
With Mill Town Pride,

Jeff Snell
Superintendent



{ TOTAL TAXES }

HOW MUCH DO CAMAS PATRONS PAY FOR ALL LOCAL SCHOOL TAXES?



WILL MY TOTAL TAXES INCREASE WITH APPROVAL OF THIS LEVY?

For the first three years of the upcoming four-year levy cycle, Camas residents would pay an additional 6 cents per \$1,000 of their assessed home value, for a total of \$6.31 per \$1,000 of assessed home value. The chart below gives examples of the total tax increase based on home value. Because levy rates are based on future assessed values, the state rates are projected.

| Home Value | 2017 Actual Rate per \$1,000 | 2018 Projected Rate per \$1,000 | Annual Increase | Monthly Increase |
|------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| \$300,000 | \$6.25 | \$6.31 | \$18.00 | \$1.50 |
| \$500,000 | \$6.25 | \$6.31 | \$30.00 | \$2.50 |
| \$700,000 | \$6.25 | \$6.31 | \$42.00 | \$3.50 |

Maintenance and Operations Levy

Did You Know?

Each year Camas School District spends an average of \$9,559 per student.

HOW DO M&O LEVY FUNDS BENEFIT STUDENTS?

SMALLER CLASS SIZES—additional staffing to help maintain low class size

TEXTBOOKS AND CURRICULUM MATERIALS—math, science, English, and history textbooks, including novels, materials for reading and writing instruction, and supplemental teaching materials for all subjects

STUDENT SAFETY—including our school resource officer, security personnel/supervision, drug and alcohol intervention programs and anti-bullying programs

GROUND, MAINTENANCE AND UTILITIES—costs for maintenance and custodial services, grounds, heating and lighting our buildings and fields, insurance and transportation

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES—including athletics, band, choir, dramatic productions, and academic teams such as Knowledge Bowl, Science Olympiad, and FIRST Robotics

SPECIAL EDUCATION—adaptive equipment for children with special needs, staff including teachers and paraprofessionals, textbooks, supplies and materials needed for special services programs

STUDENT HEALTH—counselors, most nurses, health room paraprofessionals, health screenings, and student health plans for medically fragile children

ACCELERATED PROGRAMS—training for advanced placement courses, world language classes, Science Olympiad programs for grades 3-12, FIRST Robotics program, Math, Science and Technology Magnet program, elementary highly capable programs and middle school Honors/Pre-AP programs

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT—all personnel to support information technology used throughout the district

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING—workshops, seminars, and any related special training for our staff

SCHOOL LIBRARIES—library staff, library books, curriculum and reference materials

WHAT IS A MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS (M&O) LEVY?

A maintenance and operations (M & O) levy provides local funding support for educational programs and services.

WHY IS THE CAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT PROPOSING A LEVY?

The state provides a portion of the total dollars necessary to maintain basic education. The federal government provides additional funding. Local levy dollars make up the shortfall (approximately 20 percent of the district's budget).

IS THIS A NEW TAX?

No. This levy replaces the current levy which expires in 2017. The Camas School District has had an M & O levy in place for more than 44 years.

WHY IS THE DISTRICT ASKING FOR A REPLACEMENT LEVY NOW?

Voters must reauthorize the levy for each year of funding. Voters approved the current levy in 2013 for four years. The replacement levy on the February 14, 2017, ballot will continue programs and services for four more years: 2018 through 2021.

WHY A FOUR-YEAR LEVY?

Multiple-year levies help with budget planning and ensure stable funding for the near future. Additionally, a four-year levy reduces election expenses.



WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE M&O LEVY PROPOSAL?

The district is requesting authorization of \$16.1 million for 2018, \$16.58 million for 2019, \$17.08 million for 2020, and \$17.59 million for 2021.

HOW MUCH WILL THE M&O LEVY COST?

If approved, the levy would cost taxpayers a projected \$3.06 per \$1,000 of assessed home value.

WHY IS THERE AN INCREASE IN THE M&O LEVY?

Continued growth in enrollment increases operational costs. Our growth continues to out-pace the funding we receive from the state. The district will also use levy money for start-up operational costs for the new Project-Based Learning Middle School Program, Lacam Heights Elementary, and Project-Based Learning High School.

In addition, an all-time high number of students are participating in expanded extracurricular programs. The levy money must cover the added expense of state-level competitions, based on the tremendous success of our extracurricular programs. Costs are also rising for curriculum, labor, student health and safety, and insurance.

IF HOME VALUES INCREASE OVER THE NEXT FOUR YEARS, CAN THE DISTRICT COLLECT MORE?

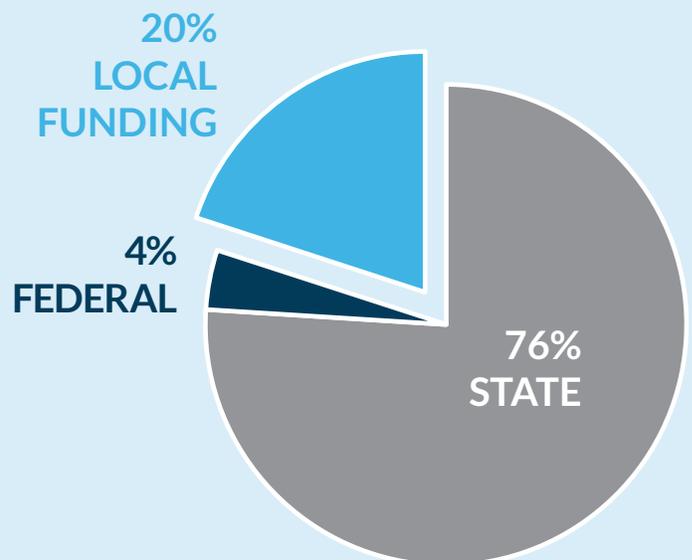
No. The total amount collected is fixed by the school board resolution. If home values increase, the rates will go down to compensate, so that the total collected is the same.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LEVY AND A BOND?

“Bonds are for Buildings” and “Levies are for Learning.” Levy dollars can only be allocated to programs that directly impact student success and achievement in the classroom. Levies need 50% support to pass and bonds require a 60% passage rate. Bonds are used for construction projects that address facility deficiencies throughout the district. While Camas voters passed a bond in 2016 to construct and improve district facilities, these replacement levies continue funding the teaching, learning, health, and safety programs occurring within their walls.

WHAT ARE LEVIES FOR?

Levies provide local funding that bridges the gap between what the state and federal governments pay and the actual costs of operating our schools. Levies make up about 20% of the district's total operating revenue.



Technology Levy

Did You Know?

In every classroom across the district, students of all ages are using technology to learn reading, writing, math, social studies, and science.

HOW DO TECH LEVY FUNDS BENEFIT STUDENTS?

Technology will continue to be purchased and upgraded for students throughout the district. Tech levy funds pay for hardware, software, licensing and infrastructure, and other tools as designated to be age-appropriate and enhance the district's curriculum and learning goals. Specifically, the technology levy funds:

MOBILE COMPUTING SOLUTIONS FOR STUDENTS—laptop computers, tablets, and handheld devices

ONLINE LEARNING SPACE—student access to calendars, assignments, and digital resources for learning

STANDARD CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT—expansion and upgrade computers, projectors, document cameras, and amplification systems

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—training for teachers to blend and integrate technology into teaching and learning

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT—network systems, hardware and software, and technical assistance

HOW MUCH WILL THE TECHNOLOGY LEVY COST?

The estimated rate is \$.32 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

WHAT IS THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE TECH LEVY PROPOSAL?

The district is requesting authorization of \$1.7 million for 2018, \$1.75 million for 2019, \$1.8 million for 2020, and \$1.85 million for 2021.

Spotlight on Technology

Camas School District's commitment to supporting technology is real. One example is manifested through the "One:World" initiative with the goal to connect each student ("one") with the world around them through technology.

We are investing in our future leaders and continuing to create a digital-age learning culture by deploying Chromebook™ notebook computers to students in grades 6 and 9. These devices are for use at both home and school and are essential to powerful learning. The Technology Levy will help ensure that by the fall of 2019, all students in grades 6–12 will have been issued a device. Additionally, shared classroom devices will still be available to all students in grades K–5.



The Election



WHAT PERCENTAGE OF “YES” VOTES IS REQUIRED FOR LEVY APPROVAL?

A 50 percent majority of “yes” votes is required to approve both the replacement maintenance and operations (M&O) levy and the technology levy.

WHEN WILL BALLOTS BE AVAILABLE?

This is an all mail-in election. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters by January 23. Persons who reside in Clark County but who will be out of town between January 23 and February 12 may call the elections office to have a ballot mailed to an alternate address.

HOW CAN I CAST MY BALLOT?

Ballots must be postmarked by February 14 or dropped off at the Elections Office (1408 Franklin Street, Vancouver). On Election Day, ballots may be dropped off at: Dorothy Fox Elementary and the downtown Camas Post Office drive-up drop box.

WHO PROMOTES PASSAGE OF THE LEVIES?

The Camas Citizens’ for Quality Schools, a community group that stays informed about Camas School District and endorses and promotes levies. For information or to become a member, go to <http://www.facebook.com/VoteCamasSchools> or contact Alicia Brazington at VoteYesCamas@gmail.com.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEVIES?

A school district can, and must, provide information about proposed levies to the citizens of the community. The school district puts levy information on the district website and mails a levy brochure to all community residents.

Go to the Camas School District website at www.camas.wednet.edu. Community members also are welcome to contact the district’s communication office at 360-833-5563, the Superintendent’s office at 360-833-5412, a school board member, or their local school principal.

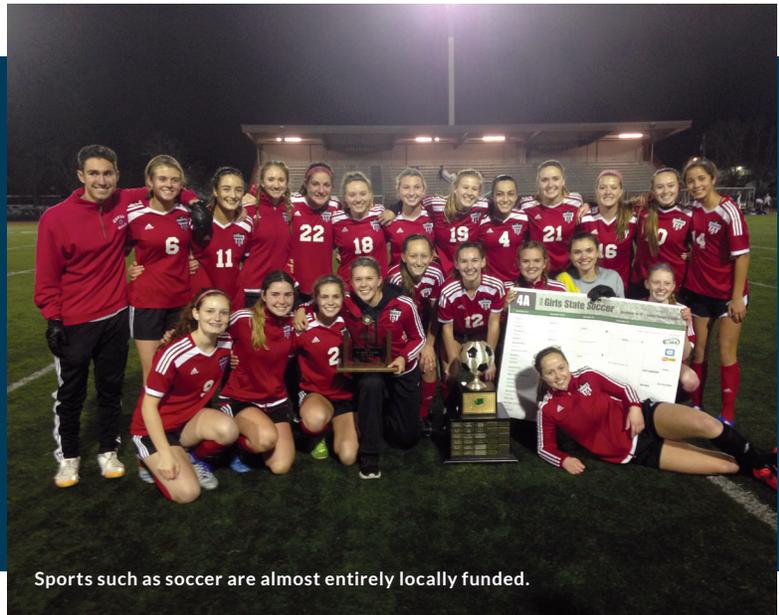


Activities that engage students beyond the school day are almost entirely locally funded.

Postal Customer

Camas Vision:

Together we envision a birth-to-beyond high school educational system that responds to our ever-changing and diverse world by empowering students and community through learning.



Sports such as soccer are almost entirely locally funded.

Did You Know?

Due to gaps in state funding, the following programs are only possible with local support:

- Sports**
- Extra-curricular programs**
- Advanced Placement courses**
- Smaller class sizes**
- Transportation (partially funded)**
- Student safety**
- Supplies and other non-employee costs**

Camas Noted for Great Schools

Local support helps students thrive

Camas School District has a long history of providing a quality education unparalleled in many parts of the country. Camas schools are consistently recognized for high levels of student achievement and academic excellence. The district's success is reflected through numerous state and national awards. Camas students also prevail on the athletic fields and in school clubs. The CHS football team and the girl's soccer team both won the 2016 state championships!