

FACTS ABOUT
THE 3-YEAR



Replacement Levies



**Please
vote by
Feb. 9**

Camas School District is asking voters to approve an Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy and a Technology, Health, and Safety capital levy on February 9, 2021. These three-year levies replace the current levies which will expire at the end of 2021.

Read more about these funding measures inside. →

Local levies make the difference to our success

Camas Community,

It's hard to believe that 2021 is already here. I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday season and were able to recharge from what has been a very challenging past year. The pandemic has affected all aspects of our lives. Despite outstanding efforts from students, staff, and families in our transition to a remote learning environment, we miss the many in-person experiences we have come to love and expect in Camas. We will continue to gradually scale up our in-person learning throughout 2021, and safely work to recapture the magic of moments spent together. I cannot wait to see you again in our theaters, gyms, and of course at Doc Harris Stadium, celebrating our children and our Camas community spirit.

The citizens of Camas have a tradition of partnering with schools to care for our students. As superintendent, I get great joy in seeing the tireless work of staff, students, families and our entire community as we come together to ensure our kids have the best education possible. This wouldn't be possible without our critical community partnerships. Public education funding in Washington State relies on local, voter-approved funding measures. In Camas, levies currently fund about 20 percent of education costs. When you consider that means that one day each week is entirely funded by local dollars, you can see the impact your local tax dollars have on our students.

Our current Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) levy and our Technology capital levy will both expire in 2021. In February, we are asking voters to consider approval of two replacement levies (an EP&O and Technology, Health, and Safety capital levy) that will allow us to continue to provide the same high-quality education our students now enjoy, without a tax increase. The request is to replace the

expiring levies with three-year levies, which will provide the same outstanding academic and extra-curricular programs that our community expects and our students deserve. If approved, the overall local school tax rate with both levies in place will not go up. In fact, the rate will be close to what it was 20 years ago.



The EP&O replacement levy funds services and materials critical to student success. Things like smaller class sizes; special education services; accelerated programs for students; extracurricular programs, like athletics, band, drama, and academic teams; student health services; student safety; teacher training; and basic needs like maintenance, utilities, and curriculum materials. Our Technology, Health, and Safety capital levy provides critical infrastructures like networks, servers, Wi-Fi, 1:1 devices for our students, and modernizations to our fire protection systems.

Levy funds bridge the gap between state funding and the actual cost of education. Funding both the EP&O and Technology, Health, and Safety capital levies is a continued investment in our children's future. If you have questions, please visit the district website, www.camas.wednet.edu or contact our district office.

Camas is a great place to live and raise a family, and our schools are an excellent place to build our future. There is a rich tradition of supporting education in Camas, and it will only continue with your assistance. Please vote by February 9, 2021.

Thank you for your support of Camas Schools,

Jeff Snell
SUPERINTENDENT

Nine facts every citizen should know about school levies in Camas School District

1

Camas citizens are being asked to renew two replacement levies by February 9, 2021 to cover important programs and services not fully funded by the state.

2

Both propositions replace expiring levies and are not new taxes. Voters approved two levies by large margins in 2016. These levies expire at the end of 2021 and require a vote to renew the measures.

3

Levies are still needed to fund schools. While the state has increased funding for schools in recent years, state funding does not cover the full cost of operating a school district. Levies are still needed to fund nearly 20% of current costs. Levies are also needed to pay for critical infrastructure like HVAC systems, boilers, and roofs. They also fund about 98% of our technology costs.

4

The levies help all of our kids across all schools. Levy dollars are used at all 12 schools to provide programs and services to kids in preschool through 12th grade.

5

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will continue funding current programs our kids need and our citizens expect. These programs include athletics, music, performing arts, after-school programs, summer school, transportation, special education, and highly capable/honors programs. The levy also funds teachers, school safety personnel, counselors, nurses, librarians, and support staff. The levy allows for expanded course offerings so kids can take advanced courses and a wider variety of electives.

6

Tax rates for local levies will remain consistent over the life of the levies.

While tax rates listed in the voter pamphlet are estimates and actual tax rates are determined by the legislature and/or by changes in property values, we anticipate the rates will remain the same over the next three years.

7

Passing a local levy in CSD makes us eligible for more than \$1 million additional state dollars. If our voters approve the replacement Educational Programs & Operations levy, we will become eligible to receive \$1.8 million in levy equalization funding from the state, but only if the levy passes.

8

The Technology, Health, and Safety capital levy will repair, renovate, or replace existing essential systems in our facilities such as HVAC, roofs, floors, and outdoor facilities.

Maintaining our facilities is a significant cost not paid for by the state. We must take good care of our community assets so that they can be used far into the future. Thanks to citizens, we have several new schools and new facilities. However, others are aging and need maintenance and repairs.

9

The Technology, Health, and Safety capital levy funds 98% of the technology used across the district. As technology changes, students across all schools need access to current learning tools and a strong technology infrastructure. If approved, the Technology, Health and Safety capital levy supports the continued delivery on our promise to provide 1:1 technology tools for every student and ensure equity across the district.

Local levies support programs, services and school maintenance not funded by the state

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.

Replacement levies, like the ones proposed, are not new taxes, but rather the continuation of important, existing funding measures.



REPLACEMENT CAPITAL LEVY

The Technology, Health, and Safety capital levy would replace our existing technology levy, which expires in 2021. If approved, this three-year replacement levy would collect \$11.5 million, which would be used to repair, replace or modernize:



AGING STUDENT & STAFF COMPUTERS



HVAC, ROOFING, FLOORS IN OLD SCHOOLS

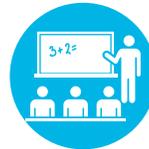


FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEM

REPLACEMENT EP&O LEVY

The Educational Programs & Operations levy provides about 20% of the school district's budget for educational programs, services, and daily operations. The proposed measure would renew the current levy that expires in 2021 and provide up to \$53 million over three years.

The replacement levy ensures that Camas can continue high-quality academic programs. The levy fills gaps in funding from the state or federal government in the following areas:



BASIC EDUCATION NEEDS



SPECIAL EDUCATION



ENRICHMENT & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



ACADEMIC SUPPORT for both advanced & struggling learners



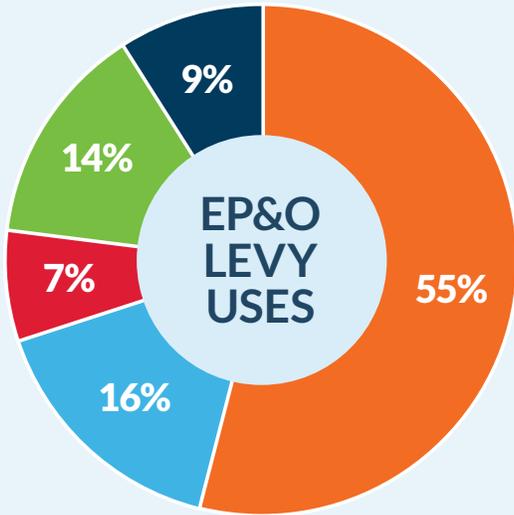
EXTRACURRICULAR TRANSPORTATION



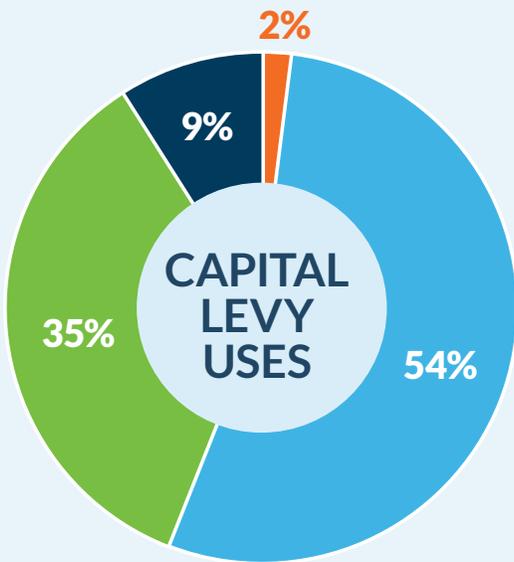
FOOD & NUTRITION SERVICES

LEVY ALLOCATIONS

Neither of the levies are new taxes, but simply the continuation of important funding measures. The charts below show the breakdown of how the funds are used.



- Additional Positions (Pay & Benefits)
- Special Services
- Extra Curricular
- Transportation
- Food Service



- Boilers
- Technology
- Roofs
- Fire Protection



No increase: Rates projected to stay the same

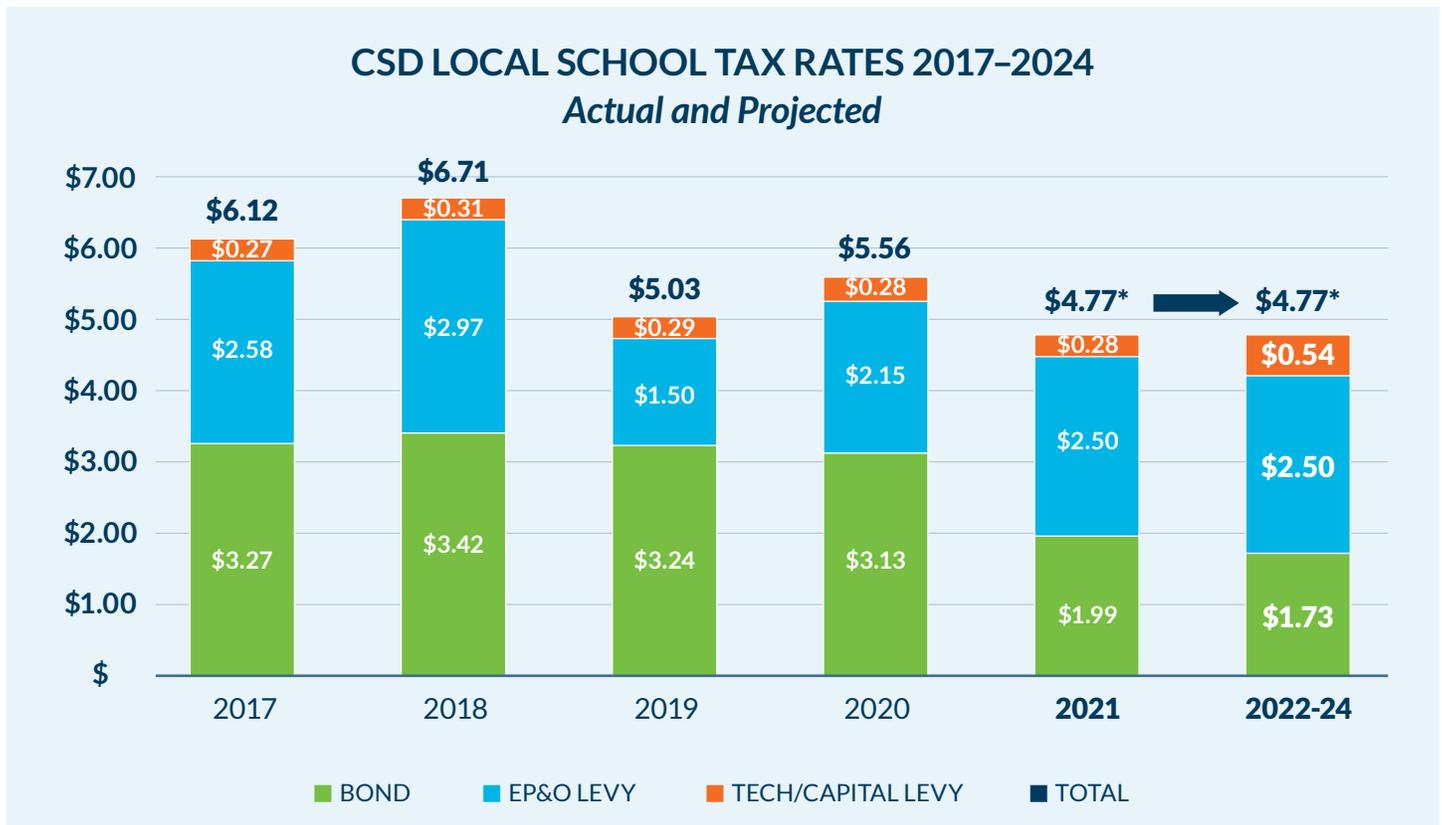
If approved, the renewal levies will not increase local taxes. Though the capital levy amount is increasing slightly, that increase is offset by a decrease in bond collection. The total projected local school tax rate (levies plus bond) will remain at the same rate as 2021—the lowest it's been in 13 years.

| LEVY | 2021 RATE PER \$1,000* | PROPOSED 2022-24 RATE* | 2022 COLLECTION | 2023 COLLECTION | 2024 COLLECTION |
|---------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| EP&O | \$2.50 | \$2.50 | \$17.18 million | \$17.69 million | \$18.22 million |
| Capital | \$0.28 | \$0.54 | \$3.71 million | \$3.82 million | \$3.94 million |

Combined local tax rates have gone down over the last five years and will stay low if the proposed levies are approved. Even with the approval of both the replacement EP&O levy and the replacement Technology, Health, and Safety capital levy, rates would be nearly as low as they were 20 years ago for the next three years.



The bottom line? If approved, the proposed levies will fund critical school programs and infrastructure without increasing local tax rates. It's a win-win for our kids and community.



* Future tax rates are estimates. Rates are per \$1,000 in assessed property value.



HISTORIC CSD TOTAL LOCAL SCHOOL TAX RATES



Postal Customer

Inside: Facts about the Feb. 9 replacement levies



VOTER INFORMATION

Ballots must be postmarked by February 9. This is an all mail-in election. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters by January 22. Please expect them to arrive in your mailbox no later than January 27.

Are you registered to vote? Registration materials are available at all schools, online at <https://voter.votewa.gov/> and at the Clark County Auditor's office. February 1 is the online deadline. February 9 is the in-person deadline.

LEARN MORE

www.camas.wednet.edu

Communication's office:
360-833-5563

Superintendent's office:
360-833-5412