

## HOW DO LEVY DOLLARS BENEFIT STUDENTS?

### THE REPLACEMENT M & O LEVY ENTIRELY OR PARTIALLY FUNDS:

- Smaller class sizes.
- All extracurricular programs including athletics, music, drama, key club and mock trial. (As enrollment increases, so does participation in extracurricular activities).
- Counselors, nurses, paraeducators.
- Student safety (fencing, security systems, campus Resource Officers at two schools, and an internet predator blocking program).
- Community Education: This program receives no state funding. The district subsidizes \$10,000; remainder is covered by participation fees.
- Library collections and textbook adoptions including new and expanded libraries at JDZ Elementary and Liberty and Skyridge middle schools.
- Accelerated programs including after-school activities, foreign languages, art and highly capable programs.
- Special education including paraprofessionals, nurses, counselors, and additional resources.
- Increases in utilities, fuel, repairs and insurance.

## NEW HOUSING TO PAY MORE TOWARD SCHOOLS

Rapid housing development growth within the Camas School District boundaries has added hundreds of students to schools over the last several years - and the new construction boom continues. That is why the Camas School District, like others in the area, collects impact fees on new construction. Beginning this month (January 2006), the Camas School District will be authorized to collect \$4,000 per each single family home building permit and \$2,000 per multi-family home building permit issued within the District boundaries.

*Impact fees can only be used to help with student housing - much like bond funds. Impact fees cannot be used for general operating costs such as those covered by levy dollars.*

Impact fees collected by school districts can only be used toward defraying project costs associated with student housing. To that end, Camas is using the \$1 million it collected last year in impact fees toward the remodeling of Liberty Middle School, reconfiguration of JDZ and any portables needed at other school sites.



LIBERTY MIDDLE SCHOOL WILL OPEN ITS DOORS IN THE FALL OF 2006.

CAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT  
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## SNAP SHOT OF LEVY FACTS

1. Camas voters will be asked to support a four-year maintenance and operations levy to replace the one expiring at the end of the year. Mail-in ballots will be mailed to homes on January 20 and must be postmarked and returned by February 7, 2006.
2. This is not a new tax. It replaces the levy approved in 2003. The proposed levy rate is \$2.26 per \$1,000 assessed property value.
3. Quality education in Camas is a bargain; taxes for schools remain considerably less than those in neighboring districts.
4. The board also approved a resolution to place a two-year replacement transportation vehicle levy on the same ballot.
5. This is NOT a bond election. Bond funding is used for capital projects only. Remember, BOND = BUILDING; LEVY = LEARNING.

CAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT

# FLYER

NEWS ABOUT THE CAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT • WINTER 2006



## SPECIAL LEVY EDITION

*Continuing the tradition of quality programs...*

### Voters asked to approve replacement levy

The Camas School District will ask its voters to support a four-year maintenance and operations levy and a two-year transportation vehicle measure to **replace** the ones expiring at the end of the year. Mail-in ballots will be mailed to homes on January 20 and must be postmarked and returned by February 7, 2006.

The proposed replacement M & O levy would collect \$2.26 per \$1,000 assessed property value in each of the four years. The current levy is at \$1.97 per \$1,000. The levy would raise \$8.2 million, \$8.8 million, \$9.4 million and \$10.1 million respectively over the next four years.

A two-year replacement transportation vehicle levy is also on the ballot. The transportation tax rate



will remain the same as the current one, collecting 10 cents per \$1,000 for both 2007 and 2008.

Both levies replace measures approved in 2003 that expire this year. Some of the programs and activities covered by levy dollars include enhanced student safety programs; special education; library collections; textbook adoptions; athletics and accelerated programs for students. Levy funding also subsidizes Community Education and pays for escalating utilities, fuel, repairs, and insurance costs.

"Quality education is a bargain in Camas, where taxes for schools remain considerably less than those in neighboring districts," said Superintendent Mike Nerland.

Nerland said the board chose to run a four-year rather than a three-year levy to save on election expenses and provide more stable funding for long-term financial planning.

Ongoing technology upgrades and expanded student learning opportunities are funded by levy dollars.

## ELECTION INFORMATION

The February 7, 2006 election is an all mail ballot election.

Ballots will be mailed to all registered voters on January 20 and must be returned, or postmarked by February 7.

### SEE INSIDE FOR ANSWERS TO:

- What do levy dollars fund?
- How does the Camas School District levy request compare to other area district levy rates?
- What will I pay?
- What has changed since the last levy in 2003?

# Costs and student enrollment increase while the overall tax is projected to decrease after 2007

## OVERALL TAX COSTS PROJECTED TO DECREASE OVER LIFE OF THE LEVY

**It is important to note that even though the \$ per assessed value for the levy are going up, the actual TOTAL COMBINED rates for all approved and proposed school taxes will SLIGHTLY DECREASE for the balance of the approved levy term.**

	2004 ACTUAL	2005 ACTUAL	2006 PROJECTED	2007 PROJECTED	2008 PROJECTED	2009 PROJECTED	2010 PROJECTED
M&O LEVY	1.97	1.97	1.97	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26
TRANSPORTATION	0.14	0.10	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10*	0.10*
BONDS	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.13	2.05	1.97	1.90
TECHNOLOGY	0.10	0.24	0.22	0.22	0.22*	0.22*	0.22*
<b>TOTAL TAXPAYER COST</b>	<b>4.63</b>	<b>4.73</b>	<b>4.70</b>	<b>4.71</b>	<b>4.63</b>	<b>4.55</b>	<b>4.48</b>

\* NOTE: These levy funds have not been approved by the board or a vote of district taxpayers. However, even if these projected amounts become actual amounts, the total cost of school taxes still decreases.

The \$.29 per \$1,000 increase for the proposed replacement levy is due to many factors including:

- A dramatic rise in enrollment (22% increase since 2003), which increases operational costs.
- Startup and ongoing costs associated with the remodel and opening of the former Camas High School as Liberty M.S., the district's second middle school, and expanding JDZ to a K-5 elementary school from its current fifth/sixth grade configuration in the fall of 2006.



Levy dollars help pay for library materials at all Camas schools, plus, over the next several years, they will help expand the library collection at JDZ and purchase new materials for Liberty Middle School.

•An all-time high in the number of students participating in extra-curricular programs and successful athletics programs; which drives increased costs for additional coaches and advisors, travel, and added expenses for regional and state-level competitions.

•Support of technology not covered by the current technology levy, including hardware and software upgrades, staffing and new Internet-predator-blocking software.

•The newly board-adopted nutrition policy provides for a healthy

## Double-digit enrollment and cost increases drive budget

**THE NUMBER OF STUDENTS AND COSTS HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE LAST LEVY WAS APPROVED IN 2003.**

	2002-03	2005-06	PERC. INCREASE
Enrollment (Headcount)	4,299	5,261	22.38%
Students Participating in Athletics	730	919	25.89%
Fuel	\$ 74,357	\$ 180,000	142.08%
Utilities	880,179	1,172,398	33.20%
Student Safety & Health	142,508	263,509	84.91%
Insurance	148,940	265,933	78.55%
Classroom Supplies & Materials	381,074	432,735	13.56%
Textbooks	98,060	119,870	22.24%

school food program, along with additional physical activity requirements. This helps ensure compliance with state and federal mandates for student health as well as community needs. Current state funding does not provide full reimbursement.

•Even with rapid student enrollment growth over the past five years, the district still maintains the current level of programs and services for students without additional funding. In order to maintain current programs and handle further increases in student participation, an increase to revenue is required.

## QUESTIONS ANSWERED ABOUT TAX RATES

If you have a \$250,000 house and pay \$2.26 per \$1,000, you will pay \$565 in levy taxes a year beginning in 2007.

Tax year	Rate	Property Value	Yearly	Monthly
2006	\$1.97	\$250,000	\$492.00	\$41.04
2007	\$2.26	\$250,000	\$565.00	\$47.08

If the district increases in assessed value over the next four years, the cost per thousand for taxpayers will not increase, and the district will not receive more money. The levy amount cannot be increased without another vote.

It is also possible (and likely, based on conservative estimates) that the taxes will go DOWN as assessed values increase.

There are possible exemptions from this tax for disabled citizens or property owners who are 61 and older. Call the Clark County Assessor's Office at 360-397-2391 for more information on who might qualify.



Levy dollars help fund extracurricular and sports activities. The success of Camas athletic teams, coupled with a significant increase in the number of students participating in sports, adds to increased costs.

## CAMAS LEVY RATE IS LOWER THAN MOST DISTRICTS

With a solid tax base including robust industrial and high-tech companies, Camas School District taxpayers are able to pay less per \$1,000 of assessed value than neighboring districts. Yet we still have solid educational programs and opportunities for students.

School District	Proposed 2007 Levy Rates
Battle Ground	\$2.59
Camas	\$2.26
Evergreen	\$3.11
Green Mountain	\$2.91
Hockinson	\$2.45
La Center	\$2.99
Ridgefield	\$2.15
Vancouver	\$2.94
Washougal	\$2.76

## REPLACEMENT TRANSPORTATION LEVY NEEDED

The two-year transportation tax rate will remain the same as the current one, at 10 cents per \$1,000 for both 2007 and 2008. This levy replaces the expiring levy.

The transportation levy pays for new buses to help:

- address growth
- replace an aging bus fleet
- assure student safety
- improve fuel efficiency
- lower bus maintenance costs

## STATE BASIC ED FUNDING ISN'T ENOUGH



Maintenance and operations levies help bridge the gap between state funding and what it actually costs to operate our schools. For instance, this school year, the state provides \$4,314 per pupil when the actual yearly cost to educate a student in the Camas School District is \$7,306. Thus, local levy monies fund the difference.

More than 1000 students participate in band, music and performing arts opportunities in Camas schools.