



LONGVIEW
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Levy Guide

SPECIAL SECTION

Pull out and share!

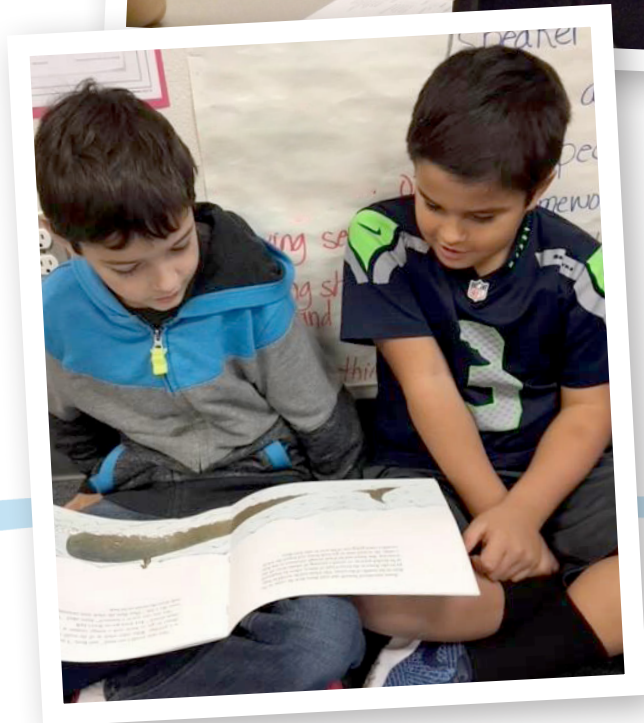
Your vote counts on Feb. 13, 2018!

The ballot asks Longview voters to replace two important levies that expire at the end of the year:


- 1 Replacement Operations & Educational Programs Levy** to help the district continue to provide essential services to our students.
- 2 Replacement Capital Projects & Technology Levy** to provide necessary funds for facilities upkeep and computers for teaching and learning.

Good news!

These replacement levies are expected to cost less than the current levies!



About Your School Levies



Salaries for general & special ed. teachers, aides and paras

CLASSROOM STAFF

Salaries for counselors, custodians and coaches



SCHOOLWIDE STAFF




Materials & supplies that help our students learn

CLASSROOM MATERIALS

Training focused on student achievement



STAFF TRAINING



Enrichment activities such as clubs, bands and athletics

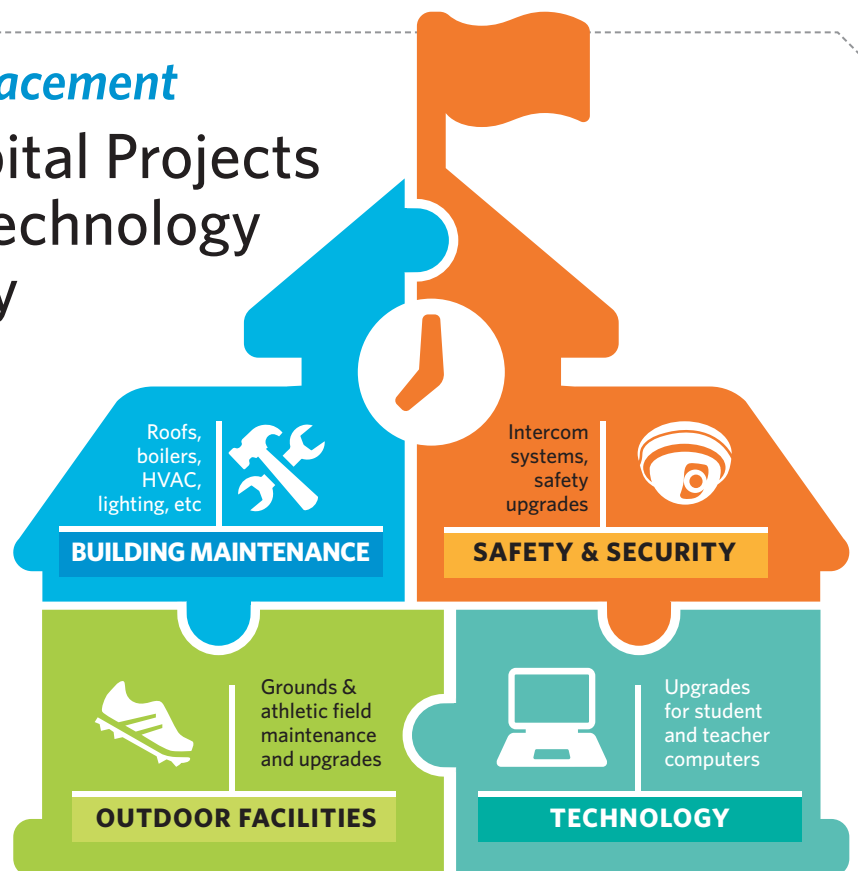
EXTRACURRICULARS

Replacement Operations & Educational Programs Levy

The state made big changes to education funding in 2017, but most school districts have needs that exceed their state funding. The two-year Replacement Operations and Educational Programs Levy would help the district maintain essential student programs and services beyond what is funded by the state.



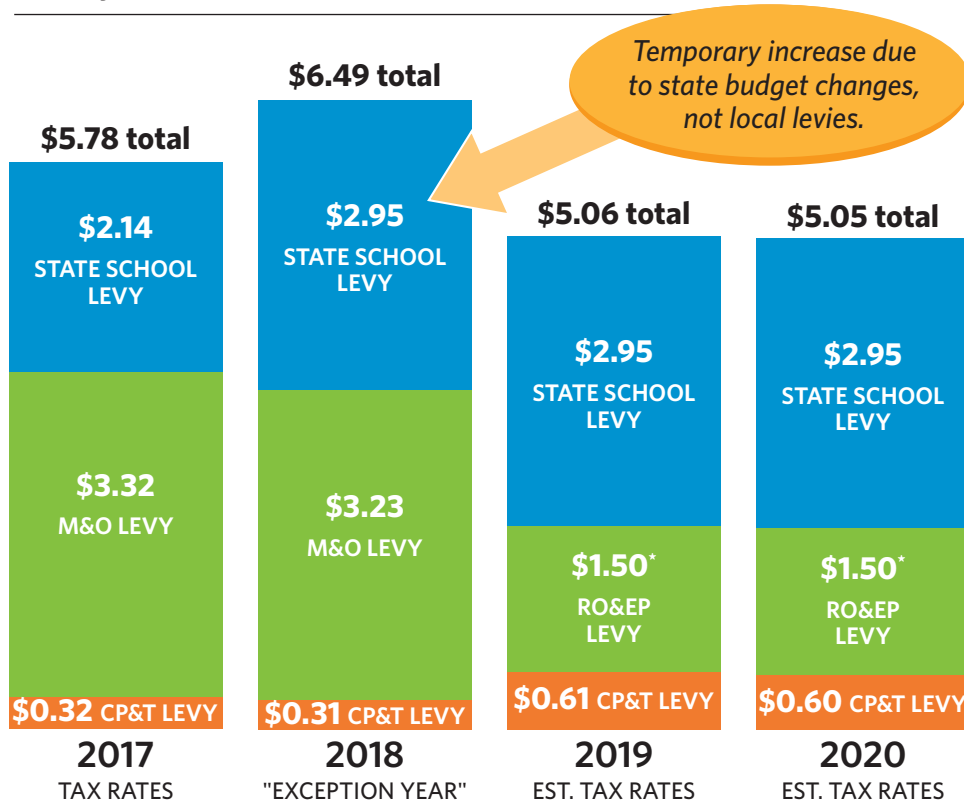
Replacement Capital Projects & Technology Levy



The four-year Replacement Capital Projects and Technology Levy would provide additional money for maintenance and improvement of district buildings, facilities and fields. It would eliminate the need to use \$500,000 out of the general fund for this purpose. Of the annual \$3 million request, \$2.25 million is expected to support facilities upkeep and improvements. It also would enable the district to keep its teaching and learning technology up-to-date.

Cost Information

Levy Rates *(estimated per \$1,000 assessed home value)*



*Estimate based on state legislation passed in 2017.



Levy Amounts

Two-Year Replacement Operations & Educational Programs Levy (RO&EP)

2019 - \$8,102,901
2020 - \$9,075,249

Four-Year Replacement Capital Projects & Technology Levy (CP&T)

2019 - \$3,047,682
2020 - \$3,094,112
2021 - \$3,141,936
2022 - \$3,191,194

FAQ

Are these proposed levies new taxes?

No, these levies replace the two that are expiring in 2018. However, together they will cost less than the expiring levies.

Why is the \$3.23 M&O Levy replaced by a \$1.50 levy?

When the state increased state-level property taxes for schools, it capped local school district levies at \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed valuation.

Why does the overall tax rate increase in 2018?

2018 will be an "exception year" when the state's school taxes increase an estimated 81 cents per \$1,000 assessed

valuation to pay more towards basic education. Local taxpayers will finish paying the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy at the rates that were approved in 2014.

However, after the old M&O Levy expires in 2018, overall school-related taxes are expected to decrease in 2019.

Are the levies related to the failed 2017 bond request?

No and yes.

No, because bond funding is only used for building.

Yes, because levy funding can be used to maintain and repair *existing* facilities where learning takes place.

Because the bond did not pass, we need to increase the Replacement Capital Projects & Technology Levy to dedicate more of our resources to maintaining and extending the life of the district's aging facilities and fields.

How will the levies affect my property tax bill?

To calculate expected annual levy taxes owed, use the following formula:

$$\text{Assessed Value} \div 1,000 \times \text{Tax Rate} = \text{Cost Per Year}$$

Using the formula and the rates above, the owner of a \$200K home will pay an estimated \$1,012 in total levy taxes in 2019 (including the state tax).

Your Levies at Work

Local levy dollars will provide support above state funding to pay for key staff members. These levy-funded teachers, specialists and others help keep our students safe and their classrooms running smoothly. Here are a couple of examples:

Megan Morris, climate and behavior specialist, Kessler Elementary School

When students get stressed at school, sometimes they overreact. When that happens at Kessler Elementary, Megan Morris invites them to the school's "opportunity room." It's a place where they can take a break, get redirected and prepare to return to learning in their classroom.



"It gives them the opportunity to reflect on how to make the day better, so we can get them back in the classroom and learning," said Morris, one of the district's five climate and behavior specialists.

This is the second year Morris and her colleagues at Mint Valley, Northlake, Olympic and St. Helens elementary schools have been in their positions, helping make schools places where students feel a sense of safety and belonging. They also collaborate on behavior plans with students, their families, teachers and, when needed, outside resources.

These efforts are working. Last year, Morris said, Kessler was able to cut the number of write-ups for major behavior problems nearly in half from the previous year.



Virginia Schlais, paraeducator, Olympic Elementary School

Paraeducator Virginia Schlais wears multiple hats at Olympic Elementary. In the classroom, she works with students, helping them learn to read. Outside the school, she keeps those same students safe.

Schlais works as a crossing guard at Olympic, where she recruits and trains students to be safety patrols. She also trains adult supervisors and crossing guards at other schools, and helps the district keep its safety equipment up to date by researching and working with Principal Mike Mendenhall to apply for grants.

"Anything we can do for the kids is important," she said.



Voter Information

Ballots will be mailed out by Jan. 26 and must be returned to ballot boxes or postmarked by Feb. 13, 2018.

Low-income senior citizens and disabled adults may qualify for tax exemptions. Get more info from the Cowlitz County Auditor at: <http://tinyurl.com/y9eho5ga>.

Registered voters in the Longview School District are eligible to vote in this election. For registration information visit: <http://tinyurl.com/cowlitzvoting>



Questions?

We're listening—and are happy to answer your questions!

Longview Public Schools has a history of open communication. For additional questions, please contact the district office at (360) 575-7016 or Superintendent Dan Zorn at supt@longview.k12.wa.us.