



EPHRATA School District

Preparing students for living, learning and working in a continuously changing world



Ephrata voters will decide on a replacement levy funding measure on February 9, 2021.

The proposed four-year replacement levy would fund extracurricular activities like athletics and clubs, technology, staff for elective classes like band and choir, and College in the High School.

***Your vote counts on February 9, 2021!
Read more details on the replacement levy inside.***

Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy to fund critical student programs and services.

The Ephrata School District is running a four-year Educational Programs & Operations (EPO) replacement levy. **This is not a new tax**; it replaces the 2019 voter-approved levy which expires in 2021. Levy funds help bridge the gap between what the state pays for education and what it *actually* costs to run a school district.

The levy is critical for fully or partially funding:



ELECTIVE CLASSES



ATHLETICS & EXTRACURRICULARS



STUDENT CLUBS



COLLEGE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL



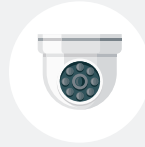
SALARIES FOR 27 STAFF



STAFF TRAINING



INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY



SECURITY UPDATES



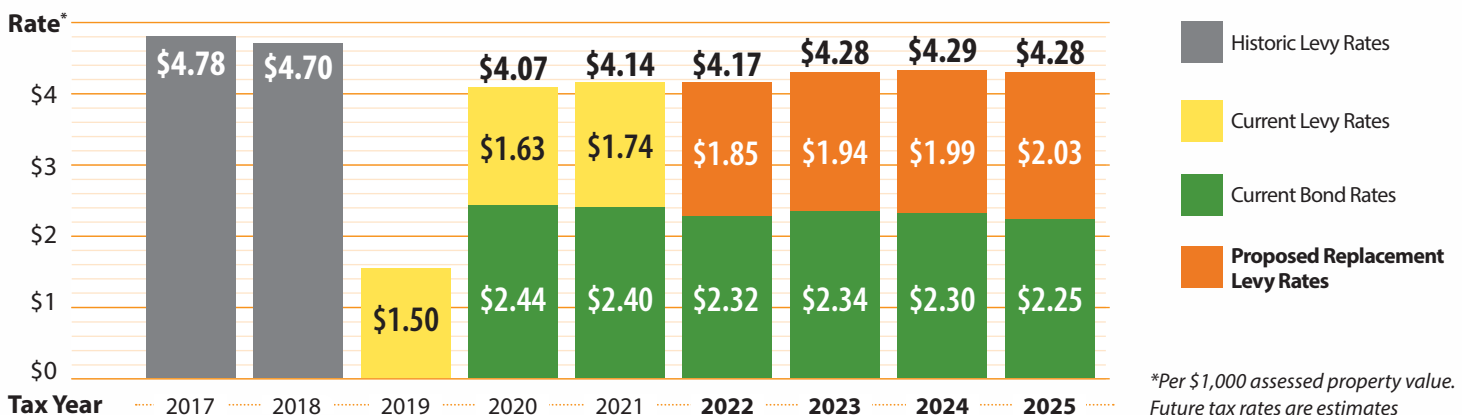
Because Ephrata School District is a property-poor district, **we are eligible to receive an additional \$2.6–\$2.8 million in levy equalization from the state** each year, but only if the local levy passes.

REPLACEMENT LEVY PROPOSED COSTS

Year	Tax Rate*	Average Cost for a \$200K Homeowner	Taxed Amount Collected	Levy Equalization Funds from State
2021 (current)	\$1.74	\$29 per month	\$1,694,000	\$2,636,819
2022	\$1.85	\$31 per month	\$1,855,000	\$2,641,607
2023	\$1.94	\$32 per month	\$2,004,000	\$2,721,061
2024	\$1.99	\$33 per month	\$2,113,500	\$2,791,025
2025	\$2.03	\$34 per month	\$2,230,000	\$2,797,010

Ephrata collects more from state levy equalization than it does from the local levy dollars, but only if the levy passes.

Total Ephrata School Property Tax Rates





Education in Ephrata Continues During COVID

When the COVID pandemic caused schools across the nation to shift to remote learning, Ephrata School District continued to safely serve students.

- » **FOOD SERVICES:** Ephrata has continued to provide food services to all students last spring, throughout the summer and into the fall and winter.
- » **STAFF ON-SITE:** All staff members work on-site providing excellent education to students both in-person and remotely.
- » **BUSES OPERATING:** All buses continue to run, providing critical and reliable transportation for students.
- » **IN-PERSON EDUCATION SAFELY CONTINUES:** At the start of the 20-21 school year, Ephrata prioritized in-person learning by implementing a phase-in reopening plan. Identified students most in need of services were transported and served on school campus via outdoor education, while other students engaged remotely. Tiger Cub preschool also opened for face-to-face instruction at the end of September. In mid October, students in grades K-5 returned to schools in a hybrid model, with 50% of students attending either morning or afternoon. By December 7, this hybrid model was fully expanded to include grades 6-12. Currently, all students in Ephrata School District have an opportunity to attend robust, in-person instruction on school campuses.



BOND WORK PROGRESS

- » Design West has been secured as the architect firm to design all facilities listed in the bond scope.
- » Design of Columbia Ridge Elementary and Middle School has been completed.
- » Fowler Construction has been secured as the general contractor for Columbia Ridge Elementary and the Middle School portions of the bond.
- » Physical construction work has begun on the “new” classrooms at Columbia Ridge Elementary.
- » Physical construction work has begun on the “remodel” of Columbia Ridge Elementary.
- » Physical construction work has begun on the “new gym” at Columbia Ridge Elementary.
- » Physical construction work has begun on the “new south parking lot” at the Middle School.
- » Physical construction work has begun on the “new gym and library” at the Middle School.
- » Design work on Grant Elementary has started.
- » Design work for Parkway’s “office remodel and secure vestibule” has been completed. Physical construction work is slated to begin on Parkway this summer.

Thank you, voters!





Ephrata School District
111 4th Ave NW
Ephrata, WA 98823

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Ephrata, WA 98823

Message from Superintendent Payne

Dear Ephrata Community,

On February 9, community members will have the opportunity to vote on a four-year replacement levy for the Ephrata School District.

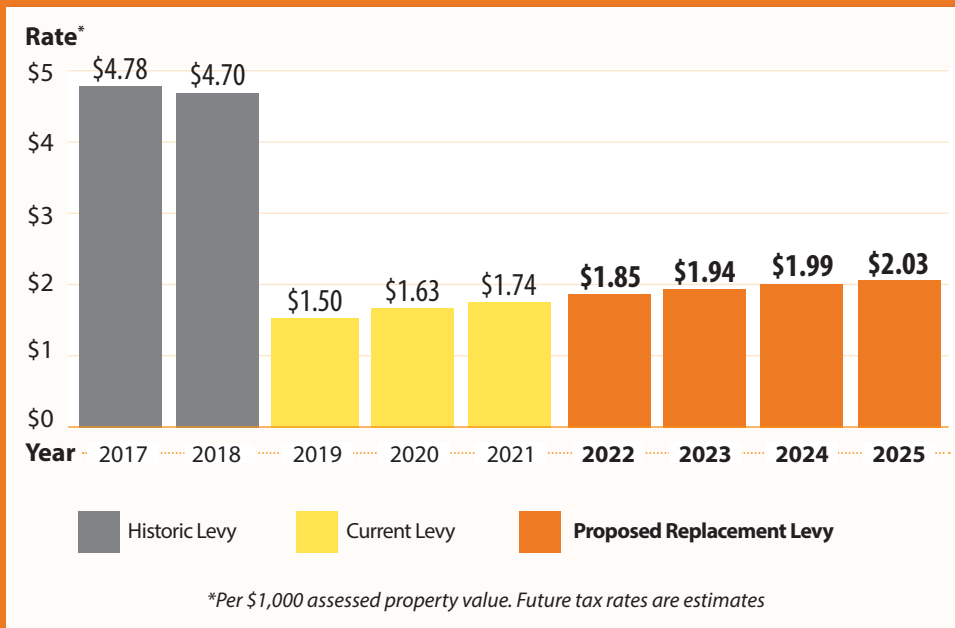
The replacement levy is not a new tax, but simply the extension of an existing funding measure. The replacement levy pays for extracurricular activities like athletics and associated transportation costs, school technology, staff positions not funded by the state, elective classes like band, choir and driver's education, and school security.

Voters approved a capital bond two years ago, which has funded important updates to school facilities. We are making great progress on these projects (more information inside) and if the replacement levy passes, the combined bond and levy rate will be lower than historical levy rates.

Inside this publication you can read the details of the proposed replacement levy. I hope you'll take the time to consider the information and let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Tim Payne, Superintendent

Historic, Current & Proposed Levy Rates



*Good news for
Ephrata homeowners:*

By passing a local school levy, tax payers are estimated to more than double their investment in schools through state equalization funds, but only if the levy passes.

For More Information

Contact the superintendent's office

tpayne@ephrataschools.org

Phone: 509-754-2474

ephrataschools.org

VOTE



Please Vote by February 9!

Ballots will arrive in the mail by January 25th and must be postmarked by **8 p.m.**

Low-income senior citizens and disabled adults may qualify for tax exemptions.

Please call the Grant County Assessor's Office at **(509) 754-2011** for further information.