NEWS
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MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



PROPOSITIONS ON FEBRUARY BALLOT

Superintendent's Message

In early February two propositions will be placed before you. The **first proposition is a $98.8 million bond** which, if successful, will fund three targeted facilities projects to address overcrowding in Mercer Island schools. The **second proposition is a four-year renewal of the maintenance and operations levy**. The levy provides 26 percent of the district general operating budget, including funding for about 100 teachers and other staff.

Please take a few moments to read more about those propositions in this edition of the Mercer Island District News.

Mercer Island schools election:

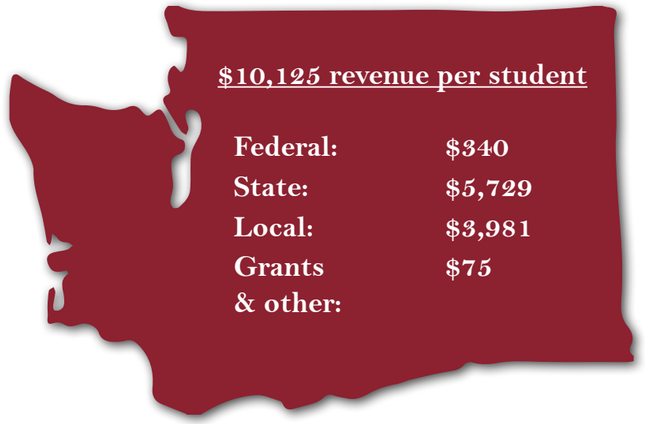
Vote by Feb. 11

Providing Mercer Island students with the schools and resources they need

How the Mercer Island School District is funded

In Washington state, funding for day-to-day operations of public schools comes from three primary sources: local, state and federal taxpayers. State and federal revenues do not fully fund educational programs, services and capital costs. As a consequence, districts must ask their local communities to help support the basic needs of schools by approving local bonds and levies.

Mercer Island School District's per pupil revenue from all sources ranks 136th out of 295 districts in Washington state.





Notice of nondiscrimination & prohibition of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB)

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, religion, age, veteran or military status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability or non-program-related physical, sensory or mental disabilities. District programs and activities shall be free from sexual harassment and unlawful discrimination. In addition, the District provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. The district is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, parents/legal guardians, volunteers, and patrons that is free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

HIB Coordinator:
Dr. Gary Plano
Superintendent
206-236-3300

Title IX Compliance Coordinator:
Dean Mack
Chief Finance/Operations Officer
206-236-4522

Affirmative Action and Civil Rights Coordinator:
Mark Roschy
Director of Human Resources
206-236-3439

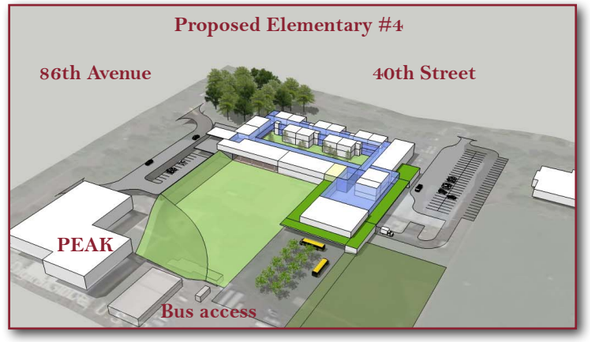
Section 504 and ADA Coordinator:
Lindsay Myatich
Assistant Director of Learning Services
206-236-3326

Proposition 1: Bond

There are currently more than 4,300 students in the Mercer Island School District's three elementary schools, middle school, high school and alternative program. The district is now over design capacity by about 750 students, resulting in reduced common spaces for students, 20-minute lunch periods and the use of 34 portable classrooms to help accommodate the current number of students.

After months of public discussions, meetings and work by the Mercer Island community, school board and district, this bond proposal was approved by the school board on Sept. 26 to be sent to Mercer Island voters to fund three new facilities projects, including:

- building a fourth elementary school on the district-owned North Mercer campus;
- expanding Islander Middle School, including 14 classrooms and lab spaces, commons and cafeteria, gymnasiums, music rooms and administrative space; and
- building 10 additional classrooms at Mercer Island High School, including four lab spaces and six general education classrooms.



Passage of Prop. 1 would result in a property tax increase of $0.25 per thousand dollars of assessed property value for the new school facilities and extending for 18 years.

	You already pay:		*Proposed amount:*	
Home value	2013 estimated tax bill		2015 estimated tax bill	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
$600,000	$342	$29	$492	$41
$1,000,000	$570	$48	$820	$68

Proposition 2: Maintenance and operations levy

Renewal of the maintenance and operations levy will allow the continuation of current high quality Mercer Island schools programs. It funds 26 percent of the Mercer Island School District general fund for educational programs and services, including nearly 100 teachers and staff.

The renewed levy would provide $14,250,000 (2015), $15,100,000 (2016), $16,000,000 (2017), and $16,975,000 (2018) to the extent authorized by law to maintain the current level of educational programs in Mercer Island schools exceeding the levels funded by the state.

Passage of Prop. 2 would result in a property tax increase of $0.06 per thousand dollars of assessed property value for maintenance and operating expenses.

	You already pay:		*Proposed amount:*	
Home value	2013 estimated tax bill		2015 estimated tax bill	
	Annual	Monthly	Annual	Monthly
$600,000	$912	$76	$948	$79
$1,000,000	$1520	$127	$1580	$132

DISTRICT NEWS
Mercer Island School District
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Ballots must be postmarked by Feb. 11 or returned to a ballot drop box by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election.

Reminder Schools propositions on Feb. 11 ballot

Prop. 1: Bond addressing school overcrowding

Prop. 2: Levy renewal for educational programs and services, including 100 teachers and staff

