

Replacement EPO/Capital Levy Fact Sheet anFAQs



February 11, 2025 Replacement Capital Levy

On February 11, 2025 the Garfield School District will ask voters to replace the expiring three-year Capital and three-year EPO levies approved in 2022. This document provides basic information and answers frequently asked questions about the Capital Projects Levy.

Why is it called a capital replacement levy?

The Garfield School District has requested local assistance from voters every three years. The last Capital levy, approved in 2022, expires in 2025. The new levy requests assistance for the next three year period running from 2026-2028. The Capital replacement levy will allow the Garfield School District to continue to improve facility needs that are outside of the district's regular budget capacity.

What will the levy support?

The levy will support the completion of several projects that are not fully funded by the state.

Examples: *Fields & Grounds* Building maintenance and modernization

*Technology and other capital equipment.

How much money will the levy raise?

The proposed Capital levy amounts will raise \$100,000 per year for a total of \$300,000.

How much will it cost - per \$1,000 of assessed valuation?

2026 (estimate): \$0.93

2027 (estimate): \$0.90

2028 (estimate): \$0.85

For the owner of a \$100,000 home, annual tax payment would be \$93.00-\$85.00 dollars per year.

Will taxes go up (increase) with this Capital levy?

No, there will **not** be a tax increase with this replacement levy. The amounts are the same as the current levy. Compared to the current expiring levy, which has an estimated value of \$1.06 in 2023; \$1.03 in 2024; \$1.00 in 2025, the replacement levy rates are estimated to be \$0.93 in 2026; \$0.90 in 2027 and \$0.85 in 2028.

What if my property value goes up?

The school district receives the same amount of money regardless of valuation. If valuation increases, the cost per thousand of assessed valuation decreases. As in the example above.

For further information:

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February 11, 2025 Replacement of the Educational Programs and Operations (EPO) Levy.

The Garfield School District will ask voters to replace an expiring three-year EPO (Educational Programs and Operations) levy approved in 2022. This document provides basic information regarding the Garfield Schools EPO Levy.

Why is it called a replacement levy? The school district typically requests levy assistance from voters every two to three year. The last EPO levy, approved in 2022, expires in 2025. The new levy requests assistance for the next three-year period running through 2028.

What will the levy support? The Educational Programs and Operations (EPO) levy supports programs offered by the Garfield School District (K-12) that are not educational programs in the day-to-day operations of our school.

Comprehensive programs supported with this levy: Special Education and student needs costs associated with technology Pre-K and early learning program, extra-curricular activities including Fine Arts, Athletics, FFA, etc.

How much money will the levy raise? The proposed levy amounts will raise up to \$176,040 per year for the next three years.

Will taxes go up (increase) with this EPO levy? No, there will not be a tax increase with this replacement levy. The amount from the current levy will remain the same.

What if my property value goes up? The school district receives the same amount of money regardless of valuation. If valuation increases, the cost per thousand decreases.

How much will it cost - per \$1000 of assessed valuation? 2026 (estimate): \$1.64; 2027 (estimate): \$1.58; 2028 (estimate): \$1.50 For the owner of a \$100,000 home, your annual tax payment would be \$167 -150 per year.

When does my ballot need to be mailed? Ballots must be postmarked by February 11, 2025. For further information contact: Whitman County Courthouse, 400 N Main St, Colfax WA 99111, (509) 387-6270, www.whitmancounty.org