

LEVY 2025 fact sheet

Bellingham Public Schools has two levies on the ballot in the Nov. 4 election: supplemental operations and facilities maintenance levies.

Did you know that for our district, and many others across the state, levies make up at least **25 percent** of our annual budget? These levies pay for educational services not adequately funded by Washington state.

Supplemental Operations Levy

This three-year measure is in response to the state legislature slightly increasing what is known as the "levy lid." The levy lid is the maximum funding our state allows school districts to raise through local levies.

This levy would allow us to collect additional funding to support ongoing classroom and staffing needs and help stabilize our budget moving forward.

- **Pays for teachers, counselors, nurses and other staff**
- **Lowers class size**
- **Provides arts, music, athletics and other programs for the whole child**
- **Funds other basic operations and programs such as safety, Special Education, Multilingual Learners and Highly Capable**
- **Supports food services & wellness**

Facilities Maintenance Levy

This six-year capital levy focuses on maintaining and preserving our school buildings, which are community resources outside of school hours.

This levy would fund projects that keep schools safe and energy-efficient, like:

- **Roofs and windows**
- **Preventive maintenance in schools**
- **Furniture**
- **Projects that make schools welcoming and accessible to all**

Caring for our facilities today saves money tomorrow, which helps us be good stewards of our community's assets. Staying on top of repairs allows educators to focus on what matters most – students.

Financial Impact

See reverse side

REMEMBER TO VOTE NOV. 4, 2025

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REMEMBER TO VOTE!

Ballots due Tuesday, Nov. 4!

Projected Financial Impact

Between 2016 and 2025, the 10-year average tax rate on our bonds and levies was $3.71 per $1,000 of assessed value. If these two levies are passed, the average tax rate moving forward 2026 to 2031 would be $3.29, a 42 cent decrease from the previous 10 years.

If approved, in 2026 property owners would pay $3.27 per $1,000 dollars of assessed value. That means an average property owner, whose home has an assessed value of approximately $650,000, will see an increase of approximately $16.15 per month in 2026. After that, the tax rate will remain stable at an average of $3.29 for the duration of the levies.

This table shows the current and estimated bond and levy property tax rates per $1,000 dollars of assessed value.

		$3.29 AVERAGE TAX RATE					
2016-2025 AVERAGE (3.71)	2025 ACTUAL	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
	$3.07	$3.27	$3.27	$3.32	$3.28	$3.30	$3.29

CURRENT TAX RATE ESTIMATED TAX RATE*

*** Estimated total school district combined bond and levy tax rate per $1,000 assessed value.**

Voting

We encourage members of the public to vote. In October 2025, voters will receive the ballot including the two school levies in the mail. Return and postmark the envelope by Nov. 4, 2025; no stamp needed.

Senior Citizens Exemption Information

Qualifying senior citizens and persons with disabilities may be exempt from paying school levies. For more information, please call the County Assessor's office at (360) 778-5050 or visit: co.whatcom.wa.us/assessor

Questions?

Call 360-676-6520 or visit bellinghamschools.org/levy2025 for more information.

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Scan for levy-related videos and more information.