



2026 RENEWAL LEVIES



ISSAQUAH
SCHOOL DISTRICT 411

Board of Directors Update
January 15, 2026

Martin Turney, CFO/COO

Mark Sherwood, Exec. Dir. Of Comms

What's the Focus in 2026?



4-year Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Renewal Levy

- Continues operations of student services, enrichment and safety beyond what is provided by state and federal funding
- Allows for expanding student well-being supports and broadening academic opportunities
- Represents 16.6% of the annual general fund operating budget – over \$70 million



4-year Capital Renewal Levy (Technology and Critical Repairs)

- Delivers up-to-date classroom technology, applications, device support and network infrastructure
- Addresses urgent safety needs, prioritizing the highest-impact repairs to buildings and systems
- State and federal funding provides 0% for technology and critical repairs
- Will not fund new school construction



1-year Transportation (School Bus) Levy

- When combined with existing district and state funds, provides safe, sustainable, and reliable transportation while managing maintenance costs through fleet modernization, including adding electric buses and expanding charging infrastructure.

Important Facts



Renewal Levies Cover the Funding Gaps

State and federal dollars don't fully fund what students need. Levies fill the gap by supporting mental health, safety, transportation, technology, and critical repairs.



Stable Tax Rate

These are not new taxes and keep the combined local school rate about \$3.09 per \$1,000 of assessed value, maintaining tax stability for families and the community (10/6/25).



Three Levies Working Together

EP&O, Capital (Technology & Critical Repairs), and School Bus levies provide funding to sustain important programs, safe schools, and reliable transportation.



Levy 2026: No New Construction

Focused on maintaining and modernizing existing schools and systems. No funding is proposed for new building projects.



Community-Driven

Developed through a five-meeting process with more than 60 students, staff, and community members reaching consensus on the final recommendations.

Common Themes

The following questions are often shared by community members during presentations and conversations:

- Is this a new tax or an increase?
- What does a stable tax rate mean?
- Where can the community see previous levy projects and financial reports?
- What happens if the levy doesn't pass?
 - 400+ funded positions: teachers, counselors, nurses, security and others
 - Clubs, sports and other programs
- Is there a "Plan B" to raise funds if the levy fails?
- How would a Capital Renewal Levy failure impact technology and critical repairs?
- Will levy funds be used to build the new high school?
- Is there programming continuity and/or innovation if these levy renewals pass?
 - Mental health counselors and resources
 - 7th high school period
 - Gibson Ek High School
 - Dual language program such as Chinese Mandarin
 - Student and classroom technology, AI for Education Tools and cybersecurity improvements
 - High school vestibules and prioritized repairs to roofs, HVAC, athletic fields



Election Calendar



Levy Committee:

- September 9 – October 7, 2025

Recommendation & Board Resolution:

- October 9, 2025

Facts/Information Coordination & Sharing

- October 10, 2025 – February 10, 2026

Ballots mailed:

- January 21, 2026

Last day to register to vote online:

- February 2, 2026

Election Date & Ballots due:

- February 10, 2026

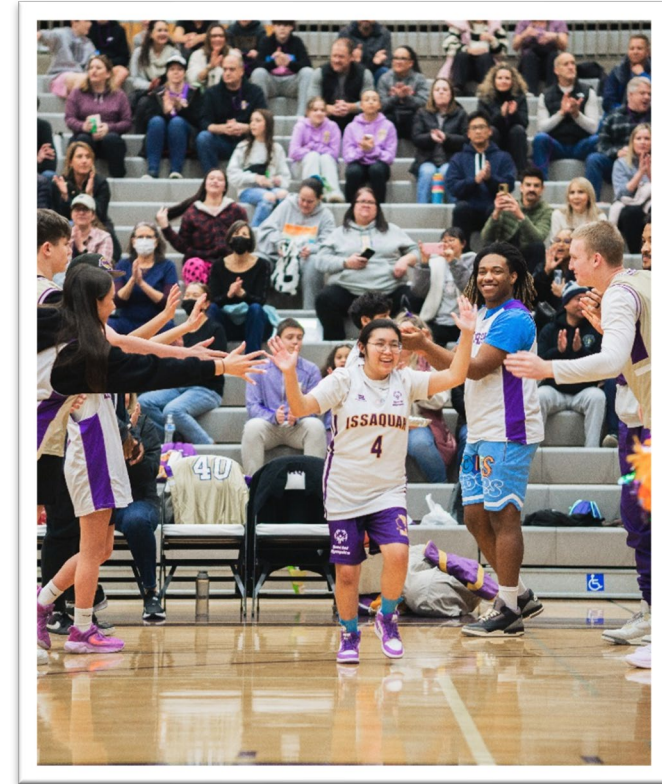
Communication Timeline

Oct./Nov. 2025 – Complete & On Going

- Promote Committee/Superintendent Recommendations & Board Resolutions
- Develop presentation materials and train school leaders
- Develop engagement calendar for district-led and community meetings
- Present to PTSA leadership
- Develop Renewal Levies landing page on district website
- Analyze November general election and update materials
- Develop Finance Information Session Presentation (Nov. 18, Dec. 3 & 10)
- Post social media fact sharing info about levy propositions & school funding
- Kick-off digital ad campaign: Google Search, NextDoor, Social Media (Facebook/Instagram)
- Develop assets for social media, presentations, mailer, lawn signs and videos
- Leverage all bulletins to provide updates and reminders

Dec. 2025/Jan. & Feb. 2026

- Connect with local associations/nonprofits for information distribution – ONGOING
- District/School Leadership attend school PTA meetings to provide updates – ONGOING
- Media outreach – ONGOING
- Share internal Renewal Levies Toolkit with staff – COMPLETE
- Finalize, print and place lawn signs in community – COMPLETE
- Finalize, print and distribute community mailer for ballot drop alignment – COMPLETE
- Finalize video(s) and podcast assets – ONGOING



January/February 2026

- District Led - All Staff, Multiple Departments
- PTSA – Cascade Ridge, Clark, Cougar Ridge, Endeavour, Gibson Ek, Grand Ridge, IHS, IMS, IVE, LHS, Maple Hills, Sunny Hills, Sunset
- Community - Issaquah Kiwanis, Issaquah Snr. Ctr, Issaquah Bahai's, Issaquah Rotary, LHS Boosters, Sammamish Chamber, Sammamish Rotary, Timber Ridge Retirement, WeChat

Over 60+ presentations delivered by district and school leaders by Election Day



Learn more about the February 10, 2026 Renewal Levies

www.isd411.org/levies-2026



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