



# OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy



### School board approves replacement levy election

The Olympia School Board has unanimously agreed to place an Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy proposal before voters on the February 11, 2020 Special Election ballot.

Levy funds would provide classroom and districtwide support staff not funded through state basic education such as paraeducators, school nurses, social and mental health supports and security staff. Funds would also provide enhanced education to students with disabilities and support middle and high school athletic and extracurricular activities, transportation outside of the basic school day, visual and performing arts programs, staff professional development, and maintenance and operations not funded through state basic education.

"This renewal levy continues the district's efforts, as outlined in our Strategic Plan, to prepare students for success now and into the future," said School Board President Joellen Wilhelm. "It creates opportunities for our students to build knowledge and skills to meet their individual goals."

### The proposed levy is not a new tax

The measure on the February 2020 ballot would continue a four-year Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy approved by voters in 2016. The levy would raise an estimated \$133.6 million over four years (2021-2024) or an average of \$33.4 million per year. The proposed replacement levy, **combined** with the Olympia School District voter-approved school construction bonds and technology and safety levy, would keep overall tax rates below 2020 levels. The total projected tax rate over the four years would be between \$4.84 and \$5.05 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, which is less than the \$5.15 tax rate in 2020.

## How much will the levy cost?

The estimated levy rate depends on the final dollar amount of assessed value of property within the school district. The projected levy rate for the proposed measure is \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for collection in all four years, the maximum rate permitted by law.

Year	Estimated Rate (per \$1,000 Value)	Levy Amount
2021	\$2.50	\$30,900,000
2022	\$2.50	\$31,970,000
2023	\$2.50	\$34,200,000
2024	\$2.50	\$36,500,000
		\$133.6 Million

Using the projected rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation, the owner of a \$250,000 home would pay about \$52 a month, or \$625 per year, for the replacement levy.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

### How do I register to vote?

There are several ways to register to vote, including online, by mail or in person. View voter registration deadlines for the February 11, 2020 Special Election on the Thurston County Elections Division website.

### Where can I get more information about the school district's proposed Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy ballot measure?

Specifics about the ballot measure are included on the school district website at: [www.osd.wednet.edu/our\\_district/district\\_information/levy\\_2020](http://www.osd.wednet.edu/our_district/district_information/levy_2020).

You can also simply scan our accompanying QR code!



### What is an Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy?

An Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy, often referred to as a Maintenance and Operations (M & O levy), is a replacement levy to cover the gap between state funding and the cost of existing programs and operations. School levies are the only locally approved ballot measures that directly pay for classroom and educational needs of students not funded by the state. Districts may place such levy measures for up to four years on the local ballot.

### Is this a new tax?

The proposed levy is not a new tax. The measure on the February 2020 ballot would replace an expiring four-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy approved by Olympia School District voters in February 2016.

### How do we use levy funding to fill state funding gaps? Examples Include:

- **Nurses:** The state funds 1.5 for our 10,000 students. **We employ 12.**
- **Paraeducators (General Education):** The state funds 16 for our 10,000 students. **We employ 35.**
- **Custodians:** The state funds 37 custodians to care for our 506 classrooms. **We employ 57.**
- **Teacher Librarians:** The state funds 11.6 for our 10,000 students. **We employ 16.**
- **Social and Family Involvement staff:** The state funds 1.6 for our 10,000 students. **We employ 3.**
- **Counselors:** The state funds 18.9 for our 10,000 students. **We employ 30.**

## Olympia School District

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