

**Mossyrock School District**  
**Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy**  
**February 12, 2019**  
**Levy Q & A**

**REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LEVY**

- The Ed Programs & Operations levy is a replacement levy. The current levy is approximately \$2.16 per \$1000 assessed value. The proposed levy will be \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value.
- While the state changed the funding system, local levies are still an important part of the district's funding and enable us to provide needed programs for our students.
- The proposed levy is a three year levy, to be collected 2020, 2021, and 2022.

**Important Messages**

- ❖ Levies are a wise investment: a strong school system builds and maintains a strong economy in our community.
- ❖ We are thankful for our community's long history of support of our school district and our students.

**BASIC LEVY FACTS AND INFORMATION**

**Why is the district asking for a multi-year levy?**

The district is seeking a three year levy. Multi-year levies enable us to plan and maintain programs. They also save money on levy election costs.

**Isn't the state fully funding schools?**

No. The McCleary decision provides additional state funding to schools, but the new funding system did not eliminate the need for local levies. Local levies are needed to pay for essential programs and services and community priorities, such as safety and security, maintenance of grounds and facilities, athletics and activities, technology, instructional materials, and more.

**How does the McCleary decision affect funding to school districts?**

The state provides funds for school districts, but the new funding structure did not eliminate (nor did it intend to eliminate) the need for local levies. Local levies are still an important part of the district's ability to offer high quality programs to our students. Local levies make up for gaps in funding essential services for our students such as athletics and co-curricular programs, technology, curriculum materials, and more.

The McCleary decision did limit the amount of local funds a district can collect. A district is limited to \$2500 per student or \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value, whichever is LESS. For Mossyrock, this means we cannot and will not ask for more than \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value.

**How will levy funds be spent?**

The local levy funds will support (and more):

- ❖ Athletics and co-curricular activities: includes equipment, transportation, officials, coaches' stipends, and other costs
- ❖ Maintenance of our safe and clean schools and maintenance of our historic facilities and grounds
- ❖ Safety and security measures to ensure student safety
- ❖ Technology to support student learning
- ❖ Field trip transportation
- ❖ Curriculum materials and other needed resources for student learning
- ❖ Special Education required services
- ❖ K-12 nursing and mental health counseling services
- ❖ After school and summer Jump Start program for elementary students

**Is this a new levy?**

No. This is a replacement levy approved by voters in 2017. This levy will replace the current Maintenance and Operation (M&O) levy. The levy continues funding for programs that benefit our students. The current levy is approximately \$2.16 per \$1000 assessed value. The replacement levy will be \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value. The replacement levy is less than the current levy.

**Why is Mossyrock School District submitting a levy proposal?**

The local levy is necessary to make up for gaps in state funding and to maintain essential programs and services for our students. The current levy expires after 2019.

**What is the difference between a levy and a bond?**

A bond pays for buildings. Levies support learning and daily district programs and services.

The replacement levy would maintain basic programs and services from 2020 through 2022. The levy dollars fund student activities and athletics, maintenance of our historic buildings and facilities, safety and security measures, student technology, instructional materials, and more.

**HOW WILL THE LEVY IMPACT PROPERTY TAX PAYERS: LEVY AMOUNTS****How much will an individual pay?**

An individual property tax owner will pay \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value. The total will depend upon the assessed value of the property.

**What are the anticipated tax rates?**

The rate will be \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value. According to the current legislation, it cannot be higher than \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value or \$2500 per student, whichever is less. For Mossyrock, the \$1.50 per \$1000 assessed value is less.

**What are the total collection amounts?**

The total collected cannot exceed \$687,299 in 2020, \$721,664 in 2021 and \$757,747 in 2022.

**What is a senior exemption?**

Senior citizens or disabled individuals with a primary residence in Washington State may qualify for property tax exemption. The individual's household income and age determine eligibility. To qualify, on December 31 of the year before the tax is due, an individual must meet one of the criteria:

- ❖ At least 61 years of age
- ❖ Unable to work because of a disability OR a veteran entitled to and receiving compensation from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

For more information:

[https://dor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Docs/Pubs/Prop\\_Tax/SeniorExempt.pdf](https://dor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/SeniorExempt.pdf)

**Why are the property taxes increasing for 2019?**

In 2018, the state will increase the state's school tax rate (amounts vary) and redistribute the funds all over Washington. Local school levy rates are not affected.

In 2019, the state will maintain its increased school tax rate. Local school levy rates will be scaled back to \$1.50 per \$1000 of assessed property value. This is commonly called "the levy swap". The changes do not have any impact upon voter-approved school bonds.

## LEVY ELECTION INFORMATION

### What is the deadline to register to vote?

The deadline to register to vote on line is January 14, 2019. (The last day for in-person voter registrations is February 4, 2019).

### When will I receive my ballot?

Ballots are scheduled to be mailed on approximately January 25, 2019. They are sent from the Lewis County Elections office and must be mailed at least 18 days prior to the election. You may receive your ballot prior to January 25, 2019.

### What is the deadline to vote?

The deadline to return your ballot is February 12, 2019, 8 p.m. You can mail your ballot or return it to a ballot drop box. There is a ballot drop box located at the Mossyrock Community Center. The ballot boxes close promptly at 8 p.m. on February 12, 2019.

### Who is eligible to vote on a levy?

Registered voters that live within the Mossyrock School District area are eligible to vote.

### What percentage of "yes" vote is required to approve the levy?

50% plus one vote is required to approve the levy.

## HOW DO I GET MORE INFORMATION?

More information is available at our website: [www.mossyrockschools.org](http://www.mossyrockschools.org)

Email or call Lisa Grant, Superintendent at [lgrant@mossyrockschools.org](mailto:lgrant@mossyrockschools.org), 360.983.3181 (office) or 360.219.8624 (cell).

### Additional Resources:

- ❖ Lewis County Elections  
<https://elections.lewiscountywa.gov/>
- ❖ Online Voter Registration  
<https://weiapplets.sos.wa.gov/MyVote/#/login>
- ❖ Lewis County Assessor:  
<https://lewiscountywa.gov/assessor>
- ❖ Exemption information:  
[https://dor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Docs/Pubs/Prop\\_Tax/SeniorExempt.pdf](https://dor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Docs/Pubs/Prop_Tax/SeniorExempt.pdf)
- ❖ Washington Department of Revenue information about education funding  
<https://dor.wa.gov/get-form-or-publication/publications-subject/tax-topics/funding-education>
- ❖ Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
[www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us)

## Education Funding Fact Sheet

### Washington State Education Funding Information

- ❖ The Washington State Constitution states, “It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex.” (*Article IX, Section 1, Washington State Constitution*).
- ❖ The state was sued (The McCleary case) alleging that the state was not meeting its paramount duty to fully fund education. The court agreed.
- ❖ The legislature made changes to education funding through HB 2242 (“the McCleary Solution”) and SB 6362 to fully fund education.
  - The state revised and increased the state salary allocations and requirements for education staff.
  - The state revised state and local education funding contributions: the state property tax increased and the local authority for levies decreased. This is commonly known as “the levy swap”.
    - Local levy funds cannot be used for “basic education” costs that are the duty of the state to provide.
  - Processes were put in place to increase transparency and accountability of education funding.
  - The state spending on education increased by shifting property taxes for local levies to an increased state property tax.
    - And putting limits on local levy collection and expenditures (enrichment purposes only).
  - The legislative changes were not intended to eliminate local levies.
- ❖ Funding changes
  - The legislation increased and revised the state allocations and salary requirements for K-12, most significantly, for instructional staff
    - Established minimum salary requirements for instructional staff and added a requirement to increase the salary by at least 10% in the first five years.
    - Established a maximum salary of approximately \$92,000 (plus regionalization factors).
    - Established regionalization factors: identified districts receive 6, 12, or 18% additional funding per allocated staff member.
      - No district in Lewis County receives regionalization funds
      - Some districts receive a 4% experience factor (temporary)