

South Whidbey School District Levy Questions and Answers

Why a levy election?

- The proposed **Replacement for Educational Programs and Operations Levy** replaces one approved by voters in February 2016 and expires on December 31, 2019.
 - On February 12, 2019, the school district will ask voters to approve a renewal levy that will continue those levy funds for another **three** years beginning on January 1, 2020.
- The proposed **Replacement Capital Projects/Technology Levy** replaces one approved by voters in February 2013 and expires on December 31, 2019.
 - On February 12, 2019, the school district will ask voters to approve a renewal levy that will continue those levy funds for another **six** years beginning January 1, 2020.

What ballot measures are being proposed?

- The district has proposed only two ballot measures:
 - A replacement to our current maintenance and operation levy
 - A replacement for capital and technological project improvements.

What part of the school budget is maintenance and operations levy funded?

- Approximately *twenty percent* of our school district budget is funded through a maintenance and operations levy.

How is maintenance and operations levy money currently used?

- Levy dollars pay for:
 - Librarians, counselors, music and physical education teachers
 - Classified instructional support staff
 - Coaches and advisors for co-curricular activities
 - Staff professional development and classroom substitutes
 - Textbooks and library resources
 - Student transportation, food service, and special education classes
 - Highly capable student programs
 - Elementary foreign language classes

Why does the school district need a capital projects levy?

- The six-year Capital Projects/Technology levy will provide for much needed repairs and improvements to school buildings and grounds and also for technology upgrades for classroom, students, and faculty.

How was the last capital projects levy used?

- In 2013 a six-year \$2,428,000 capital projects levy approved by our voters authorized:
 - Funding for needed repairs and renovations of school buildings and grounds.
 - Funding to maintain the district's technology infrastructure.
 - Funding for essential, standards based technology upgrades for classrooms, students and staff.
 - Training and technical support for the new technology.

When did the school district last go to the voters for technology funds?

- The last technology funding came from the capital bond passed in 2016, in the amount of \$400,000.

How do the South Whidbey levy rates compare to other school districts?

- South Whidbey Schools have consistently had the lowest levy rates in Island and Snohomish Counties.

How do the levies compare to the current levies?

- The replacement levies are not an increase. The voter approved Maintenance and Operations Levy was \$4,300,000 and the Capital Levy was \$2,000,000 for a total levy of \$6,300,000 in 2019.
- On the ballot, the proposed replacement levies of \$4,017,000 and \$2,250,000 combined are \$6,267,000 for 2020.
- The total amount requested and being put before the South Whidbey voters is a decrease.

How can I get more information on the school levy?

- For more information on the South Whidbey School District levy, contact Dan Poolman at dpoolman@sw.wednet.edu or Kristina Macarro at (360) 221-6808 ext.2245 or by email kmacarro@sw.wednet.edu

How can I get more information about Election Day?

- Election Day is February 12, 2019. On or about January 25, 2019, Island County

will mail Special Election ballots to South Whidbey residents. Voting questions should be directed to Island County Auditors at 360-679-7366 or elections@co.island.wa.us more information can be found online at <https://www.islandcountywa.gov/auditor/elections/pages/home.aspx>