

RENEWAL: Educational Program & Operations (EP&O) Levy

VOTE FEBRUARY 9, 2021



The Replacement EP&O Levy is our community's investment in our children

On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, Wenatchee School District residents will be asked to renew our current four-year Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy that was approved by voters in 2017 and due to expire in 2021.

The proposed EP&O levy is not a new tax.

Why is a levy needed?

Levies are for learning and make up the difference between funding from the state and federal government and the actual cost of operating a school district to provide students with a well-rounded education. The renewal levy supports about 12% of the District's budget.

Bonds are for building. Wenatchee School District **is not running a bond** for the modernization of Wenatchee High School at this time.






What does a levy fund?

Levies allow a school district to provide essential services and support for students such as: **counselors, nurses, support staff, technology and supplies that the state only partially funds**. Levies also fund arts, enrichment, athletics, and extracurricular programs.

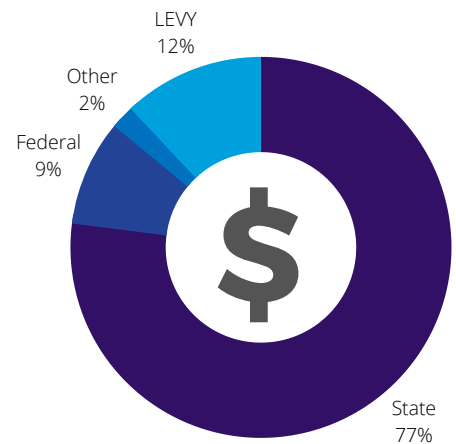


Want more info on the levy?

wenatcheeschools.org/epolevy

✉ levy@wenatcheeschools.org    
 (509) 663-8161

WSD 20-21 Budget



What will the proposed levy cost?

If approved, the four-year \$12-\$13.05 million levy will **continue the current \$2.10 rate** per \$1,000 assessed property value that was previously approved by taxpayers.

\$2.10 PER \$1,000
OF ASSESSED VALUATION

The levy amount increases 3% each year to account for property value increases but the rate is **projected to stay the same** at \$2.10.

Levy Collection



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Renewal Levy FAQ

Q: What happened to levy dollars during the pandemic?

A: During the COVID-19 pandemic we've had to reimagine education and shift from traditional in-person learning to remote and hybrid instruction. Levy funded **nurses have led health and safety** efforts in buildings helping to prevent the spread of the virus. **Technology staff funded with levy dollars have been critical in keeping families online** with laptops and distance learning software and have answered thousands of support requests. **Counselors and intervention staff funded by the levy have connected with students and families** to support wellness through home visits and support sessions and curriculum and learning materials are being adapted to be taught remotely.



Although we did not have all of our students on campus, our expenditures, utilities, operations and programs did not stop. Staff have continued to work around the clock to support remote learning, maintain our buildings, provide meals and essential support services that students and families depend on.

Q: Is there a tax break for seniors and the disabled?

A: Yes! If you are at least 61 years old on December 31 of the application year with an annual household disposable income of \$43,588 or less, or unable to work because of a disability, or a veteran with an 80% disability rating for a service-connected disability, you may be eligible for the Washington State property tax-exemption program (dor.wa.gov). For information about your status, contact the office of the ChelanCounty Assessor at (509) 667-6364.

Q: How does the proposed levy rate compare to prior levy rates?

A: See the following table for a history of levy rates per \$1,000 of assessed value. The LIGHT BLUE below are projected amounts.

Year	Rate per \$1,000	Yearly Tax Impact *
2017	\$2.94	\$1,176
2018	\$2.93	\$1,172
2019	\$1.50	\$600
2020	\$1.73	\$692
2021	\$2.10	\$840 Current Yr.
2022	\$2.10	\$840 (projected)
2023	\$2.10	\$840 (projected)
2024	\$2.10	\$840 (projected)
2025	\$2.10	\$840 (projected)

* For a property valued at \$400,000

Q: What happens if the proposed levy doesn't pass?

A: If Wenatchee voters don't approve to renew the 4-year EP&O levy the District is faced with needing to reduce spending by \$15 million. This is the total of the local levy and the state match funds. The District will then need to run another ballot measure a few months later.



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