

LEVY PRIMER: Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a school levy?

A school levy is a local property tax collected to help finance the educational programs and operations of the public schools in the Lake Chelan School District. The Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy, formerly known as the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy, is a replacement levy that pays for items necessary for the day to day operations of our schools. It includes items that are not fully funded by the state.

What is the difference between school levies and bonds?

The major difference between a levy and a bond is that levies are for **“learning”** and bonds are for **“building”**. Levies support resources and operations that are underfunded by the state. Bonds are for designing and constructing new schools, performing major renovations for existing schools, and acquiring land for building schools. Levies require a 50% +1 voter approval rating while bonds require a 60% +1 approval to pass. The following graphic provides further explanation:

<p>LEVIES: Enhancement</p> <p>50% Approval up to 4 years</p> <p>Enhancements beyond state-funded basic education: - learning resources - maintenance & operations</p> 	 <p>Capital Projects</p> <p>50% Approval up to 6 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Major renovations- School replacement- Major equipment- Energy audit- Energy capital improvements	<p>Technology</p> <p>50% Approval up to 6 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Technology systems- Facilities training- Software purchases 	 <p>Transportation</p> <p>50% Approval up to 2 years</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Student transportation- Major repairs- Vehicle acquisition	<p>BONDS:</p> <p>60% Approval</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- New Schools- Major renovations- Land Acquisition 
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Why does the district have to request a levy?

The fact is that the state does not fully fund education (state and other funding provides approximately 82% of the funds required to operate a school district). The funds from the Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) replacement levy allow our district to continue programs and services that are not fully paid by the state.

What do these levies pay for?

The EP&O Levy funds ensure that our District’s quality educational programs continue in safe, well maintained and clean schools. These funds provide support for the following essential programs and operations:

Student Support:

Nurses / Resource Officer / Liaisons / Counselors

Maintenance & Operations:

Additional staff / Food Service

Academic Programs & Classroom Support:

Early Learning Programs College in the HS Courses
Curriculum Materials STEM Learning
Highly Capable Program Chelan School of Innovation
Career & Technology Education Courses and Programs

Enrichment Activities & Programs:

Athletic Offerings
After’s Program (MOE & CMS)
Club Programs (FFA / FCCLA / FBLA / Chelan Project, etc.)
Arts Programs (Music, Art, Drama)
Experiential Field Trips (San Juans / Holden Village)

Opportunities:

A High School schedule that creates opportunities for acceleration, exploration and remediation.

The Technology Levy provides for the replacement of aging computers, printers, servers and document cameras along with staff training. Additionally, the levy dollars will assist in offering on-line courses and opportunities, school technician specialists to maintain our network, upgrades of wireless internet capabilities, continued upgrades to district websites and social media platforms, emergency alert systems and other e-communication.

How much will the levies cost me?

Approval of the Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy would result in an estimated tax rate of \$1.28 per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation over the life of the levy. The Technology Levy would result in an estimated tax of 9.3 cents per \$1,000. Combined levies would result in an estimated tax rate of approximately \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

How much will the proposed levies cost compared to the levies that are being replaced?

Currently the Educational Programs and Operations Levy is at \$1.31 per \$1,000 and the Technology Levy is approximately 10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The combined total for both levies is \$1.41 per \$1,000. In 2020, the combined tax rate for both levies is estimated at \$1.38 per \$1,000 of assessed value; and in 2021 the rate will drop to approximately \$1.34 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

What are the time frames for each of the proposed replacement levies?

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy is for two years, 2021 and 2022; while the Technology Levy is a four-year levy from 2021 through 2024.

Is there an exemption for senior citizens?

Yes, if senior citizens meet certain eligibility requirements. For additional information about eligibility contact the Chelan County Assessor's office at www.co.chelan.wa.us/assessor or call (509) 667-6355.

Where can I get further information regarding the proposed levies?

The Lake Chelan School District is hosting a levy forum on Wednesday, November 20th at 6:30 pm in the District Learning Center (309 E. Johnson Avenue). Information will be provided on the new levy parameters imposed by the state and there will be an opportunity for the staff and community to provide input on areas they would like to see included in the levy.