

**Vote YES!**  
**FOR OUR SCHOOLS**

**FEBRUARY 13<sup>TH</sup>**

✓ **MORE CLASSROOMS**   ✓ **NEEDED RESOURCES**  
✓ **REDUCED TAX RATE**

**LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT**



## **Lake Washington School District Bond and Levies**

### **February 13, 2018 Special Election**

### *Frequently Asked Questions*

#### **Why do we need the 2018 Bond and Levies?**

Lake Washington School District is one of the fastest-growing districts in the state. This growth is at all levels from kindergarten through high school. Our schools are overcrowded and many students are being educated in portables.

The bond provides more classroom space to help relieve overcrowding. The levies provide the funding needed to maintain the district's excellent educational programs and technology, improve facilities and fields, and keep students safe. Vote YES on the bond and levies to address overcrowding and provide needed resources while reducing the local tax rate.

#### **What do the 2018 bond and levies do?**

On February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, LWSD voters will decide on 3 ballot measures that directly impact our district. Specifically, we will vote on 2 replacement levies (levies fund learning), and 1 bond (bonds fund building).

Here are some details to familiarize you with the LWSD measures on the Feb 2018 ballot:

- ***Prop 1: Replacement of Existing Education Programs and Operations Levy***  
This levy funds needed programs and operations that are not funded by the state. This EP&O levy is a replacement to an expiring levy, and it will decrease the tax rate for taxpayers. Examples of things this important levy funds include:
  - Educational staff for Special Education, Highly Capable, English Learner programs
  - Substitutes
  - Nurses, health room staff
  - Security and transportation staff
  - Teacher training (e.g., 5 professional work days in August) and new teacher support programs
  - Athletics and activities (Athletic Directors, Coaches, Trainers, Advisors)
  - 7-period high school day to support our HS students 24 credit graduation requirement and prepare them for college
  - Early learning programs, including Head Start, Ready Start, Special Ed preschool.

**Join us and Vote YES for Lake Washington Schools.**  
**Paid for by the Lake Washington Citizens Levy Committee**

[www.vote4lwskids.org](http://www.vote4lwskids.org)

[www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids](https://www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids)

➤ ***Prop 2: Replacement of Existing Capital Projects Levy***

This funds facility, safety and technology needs that are not funded by the state. The Capital Projects Levy is a replacement to an expiring levy that will maintain the same tax rate. Examples of things this important levy funds include:

- Facilities: Provides for building systems and Improvements such as upgrades to heating, ventilation, water, roofing, and door locks; site Improvements, including athletic and playfield upgrades; school and program improvements such as portables and learning spaces; code compliance and health and safety improvements, such as upgrading fire alarm systems, expanding lockdown hardware and window treatments, and upgrading security systems; and improving ADA access.
- Technology: Funds student and staff computers. Also funds our district network, cloud storage, voice/phone systems, classroom technology, security cameras, printers, instructional software, staff training, and software/systems that run the district (e.g., student info systems, communication systems, HR/personnel systems).

➤ ***Prop 3: Bond to Reduce Overcrowding and Enhance Educational Environments***

We are growing big time, and chances are you feel this in your school. From 2010-2017, LWSD enrollment has grown an average of 700 students per year - that is more than an elementary school in size each year. The district has a long-term plan to respond to this growth, but requires a voter-approved bond to be able to build more space. This 2018 bond will maintain the same tax rate as 2016, and deliver more space for children through the following projects:

- Addition at Lake Washington High School
- Remodel (or replace) and enlarge Kamiakin Middle School
- New choice high school in the Eastlake/Redmond region
- New elementary school in Kirkland region/Lake Washington Learning Community
- Remodel (or replace) and enlarge Alcott Elementary
- Land (for future schools/needs)
- Special education program spaces

**What are the Top 3 Reasons to vote YES on the bond and levies?**

1) ***Addresses overcrowding and provides needed resources while reducing the tax rate.***

The bond provides more classroom space to relieve overcrowding in our district, which is now the third largest in the state. The levies ensure teachers have the resources they need

to help students succeed. And, due to good fiscal planning, the LWSD tax rate will be reduced.

- 2) ***Maintains and prioritizes most urgent needs for kids.*** These proposals prioritize our schools' most urgent overcrowding, education, safety, technology, and maintenance needs while reducing our tax rate.
- 3) ***Everyone benefits.*** Good schools and facilities positively affect our neighborhoods. Better schools help build a stronger community, which improves our quality of life, and keeps our neighborhoods desirable.

### **How much does this all cost?**

Our current LWSD total tax rate is \$3.16 per \$1,000/AV (Assessed Value). If these 3 measures pass, the LWSD total tax rate will drop to \$2.93 per \$1,000/AV, and we can continue our mission to build more classrooms, provided needed resources to prepare our students for the future, while reducing the local tax rate.

### **How was the bond proposition created?**

To address the growth and overcrowding challenges and maintain a high-quality education, the Lake Washington School District created a volunteer citizen based task force of 63 participants to provide input on projects needed to address the district's long-term facilities needs. A Bond Advisory Committee provided input to help develop a long-term funding approach for the comprehensive 15-year plan that is both responsible and fiscally disciplined. This plan, finalized in 2015, prioritizes severe overcrowding and addresses the most immediate issues with existing facilities while incorporating growth projections into the plan. The April 2016 bond was the first step. The 2018 bond is the next, critical step in realizing this important long-term plan.

### **How does the Legislature's McCleary Plan affect the Lake Washington School District?**

Historically, school districts in Washington State have heavily relied on local levies to fund Basic Education. The Supreme Court ruled that the state was not meeting its constitutional obligation to fully fund Basic Education. This ruling, known as the McCleary decision, resulted in the state legislature's "McCleary Plan," which is intended to provide additional funding for Basic Education for all 295 districts in Washington State.

The McCleary Plan involves increasing state property taxes for education funding and placing limits on the amount of Education Programs & Operations levy funding that local school districts can collect. (Information copied from LWSD website. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies>.)

## **How do McCleary Plan Limits Impact Lake Washington School District's Education Programs & Operations Levy?**

Under the McCleary Plan, the state legislature limits what local school district can collect through their Education Programs & Operations levy. Districts can collect either \$1.50 per thousand of assessed valuation (AV) or \$2500 per student, whichever is less. For Lake Washington, the \$2500 per student amount is less.

Therefore, the legislature has authorized Lake Washington to collect \$73.9 million each year through its Education Programs & Operations levy:  $\$2500 \times 29,572$  students = \$73.9 million. However, LWSD is not seeking the full amount. (Information copied from LWSD website. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies>.)

## **How much of the amount authorized by the Legislature is LWSD seeking?**

Lake Washington School District is not seeking the full amount authorized by the legislature. Rather, Lake Washington is seeking \$63.5 million average per year in the February 2018 EP&O Levy. This is \$41.6 million less than the legislature has authorized for the four-year levy

The levy amount Lake Washington is seeking equates to \$2149 per pupil, which is less than the \$2500 per pupil authorized by the legislature. (Information copied from LWSD website. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies>.)

## **Why is Lake Washington Seeking Less than Authorized by the Legislature?**

Lake Washington is expecting additional state funding for Basic Education as part of the McCleary Plan. This additional funding is for Basic Education. As part of the McCleary Plan, the legislature has adopted a two-year biennial budget for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. The McCleary Plan is anticipated to provide an average of \$40.5 million per year to Lake Washington in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. The table below shows the new state funding expected in 2018-19 and 2019-20:

	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
New State Funding Expected in LWSD	\$52.8 million	\$28.2 million

Lake Washington expects to receive an average of \$40.5 million (which is \$1,370 per pupil) in new state funding in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. Lake Washington School District is seeking \$41.6 million fewer levy dollars than authorized by the legislature. (Information copied from LWSD website. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies>.)

## What will the Lake Washington School District Education Programs & Operations Levy Fund and What is the Local Tax Impact?

The legislature authorizes districts to use local Education Programs & Operation levy funds for certain categories. The table below shows the categories and items that will be funded through the Lake Washington School District Education Programs & Operations levy:

<b>Category</b>	<b>Items Funded</b>
Staffing for Programs, Safety & Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certificated and classified staff for Special Education, Highly Capable and English Learner programs</li> <li>• Substitutes</li> <li>• Nurses</li> <li>• Health room staff, campus security staff</li> <li>• Transportation staff</li> </ul>
Professional Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Teacher Support Program</li> <li>• Five (5) professional learning days in August</li> <li>• Training, workshops, in-service, professional fund, professional learning</li> </ul>
Athletics & Extracurricular Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athletic Directors</li> <li>• Coaches</li> <li>• Athletic trainers</li> <li>• Activity Advisors</li> </ul>
Additional Course Offerings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7-period high school day to support 24-credit graduation requirement</li> <li>• Summer learning programs</li> </ul>
Early Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head Start, Ready Start, and Special Education preschool</li> </ul>
<i>Average Annual Amount Per Year</i>	\$63.5 million

The local tax impact of the Education Programs & Operation Levy is \$1.03 per thousand of AV. This represents a \$0.23 tax rate *decrease* from the current \$1.26 per thousand of AV. (Information copied from LWS D website. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies>.)

## **Does the decrease in the local LWSD rate fully offset the increase in the state property tax rate?**

Currently, property owners in Washington State pay a state property tax to fund education for all 295 districts in Washington State. As noted above, the legislature’s McCleary Plan involves increasing the state property tax rate to more fully fund Basic Education for all students in Washington State. While the exact impact to individual property owners is not entirely clear, the legislature has indicated that the state rate will increase by approximately \$0.82 per thousand of AV.

The Lake Washington School District, being mindful of this increase that will be invested in schools across the state, is not seeking the fully EP&O levy amount authorized by the legislature and is therefore reducing the local LWSD tax rate for its citizens by \$0.23.

As explained above, the legislature has authorized Lake Washington to collect more, but Lake Washington is seeking less due to the anticipated increase in state funding and to do its part in reducing the tax burden of its local citizens. (Information copied from LWSD website. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies>.)

## **How will the State McCleary Plan Funding for Basic Education be used in Lake Washington?**

As noted above, under the legislature’s McCleary Plan, Lake Washington expects to receive an average of \$40.5 million per year in additional state funding for Basic Education in the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years. The legislature has earmarked these dollars to increase funding for Basic Education, primarily for Basic Education staff salaries.

**Staff Salaries:** Historically, school districts have had to heavily rely on local levy dollars to fund staff salaries. Under the McCleary Plan, the legislature is increasing state funding for staff salaries and providing some districts with additional salary money in “regionalization factor.” “Regionalization Factor” is intended to provide higher salaries to staff in regions with a higher cost of living. Lake Washington will receive an 18% regionalization factor beginning in 2018-19.

For example, currently, in 2017-18, local levy dollars fund 28% of an average teacher’s salary in Lake Washington. In 2018-19, due to the increase in state funding, only 8% of an average teacher’s salary will be funded by local levy. The table below shows the detail:

<b>Certificated Instructional Staff</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
LWSD Salary	\$73,537	\$75,743	\$78,773
State Funding	\$52,636	\$70,014	\$78,109

Local Funding	\$20,901	\$5,729	\$664
%	28%	8%	1%

The majority of the \$40.5 million Lake Washington expects to receive in 2018-19 and 2019-20 under the legislature’s McCleary Plan is earmarked for Basic Education staff salaries, thereby reducing the overreliance on the local levy to fund staff salaries as part of Basic Education. (Information copied from LWSO website. To learn more, please visit: <http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies>.)

### **Is the McCleary Plan Now Fully Funding Basic Education?**

There are many areas of Basic Education that remain underfunded through the McCleary Plan. On October 24, the Washington State Supreme Court heard oral arguments regarding the State’s compliance with the Court’s order in the *McCleary* case. The outcome is to be determined by the Court.

There are many areas of Basic Education in Lake Washington that are underfunded by the state including: Special Education, Highly Capable, English Language Learners, Transportation, and Substitutes.

The table below shows the total Lake Washington School District budget for each of these areas, and shows the amount of federal, state, and local funding spent. The table also shows the current percent of local levy funding for each area. The data shows that even with additional state funding anticipated in 2018-19, a significant percentage of Basic Education needs are still funded through local levy. These areas are underfunded by the state and the district must rely on local EP&O to fund its true Basic Education needs.

	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>
<b>Special Education</b>			
Total Budget	\$45,300,000	\$46,659,000	\$48,058,770
Federal Funding	\$5,400,000	\$5,400,000	\$5,400,000
State Funding	\$23,700,000	\$29,700,000	\$32,900,000
Local Funding	\$16,200,000	\$11,559,000	\$9,758,770
% of Local Funding	36%	25%	20%
<b>Highly Capable</b>			
Total Budget	\$1,200,000	\$1,236,000	\$1,273,080
State Funding	\$700,000	\$883,000	\$968,000
Local Funding	\$500,000	\$353,000	\$305,080

% of Local Funding	42%	29%	24%
<b>ELL</b>			
Total Budget	\$5,700,000	\$5,871,000	\$6,047,130
State Funding	\$3,700,000	\$4,800,000	\$5,300,000
Local Funding	\$2,000,000	\$1,071,000	\$747,130
% of Local Funding	35%	18%	12%
<b>Transportation</b>			
Total Budget	\$10,100,000	\$10,403,000	\$10,715,090
State Funding	\$9,300,000	\$9,300,000	\$9,300,000
Local Funding	\$800,000	\$1,103,000	\$1,415,090
% of Local Funding	8%	11%	13%
<b>Substitutes</b>			
Total Budget	\$4,300,000	\$4,429,000	\$4,561,870
State Funding	\$900,000	\$900,000	\$900,000
Local Funding	\$3,400,000	\$3,529,000	\$3,661,870
% of Local Funding	79%	80%	80%

(Information copied from LWS D website. To learn more, please visit:  
[http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies.](http://www.lwsd.org/about-us/2018-bond-and-levies))

### **How can I register to vote?**

It's simple and only takes a few minutes online. Go to [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov) and register to vote no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **How can I help?**

- Volunteer on the campaign. Learn more at [www.vote4lwsdkids.org](http://www.vote4lwsdkids.org)
- Like the campaign Facebook page and invite your friends to like it:  
[www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids](https://www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids)
- Follow us on Twitter and retweet our tweets: <https://twitter.com/YesForLWKids>

- Use your social media to show support your support of the bond and levies



#Yes4LWKids

- Please use these links in your posts to direct people to more info:
  - Campaign website: [www.vote4lwsdkids.org](http://www.vote4lwsdkids.org)
  - Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids](http://www.facebook.com/VoteForLakeWashingtonKids)
  - Twitter: <https://twitter.com/YesForLWKids>
  - LWSD district website: [www.lwsd.org](http://www.lwsd.org)
- Put a sign-up on your car, home or office window: <http://vote4lwsdkids.org/resources/>
- Register to vote no later than January 15<sup>th</sup>! Encourage your friends to register to vote! It only takes five minutes and you can do it online: [www.vote.wa.gov](http://www.vote.wa.gov)
- Spread the word to your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues!

### **What kind of property tax exemptions are available?**

Senior citizens and those with disabilities can qualify for property tax exemptions. Learn more by calling the King County Assessor: (206) 296-7300.

### **How should I vote again?**

Votes YES three times so we can address overcrowding and provide needed resources by voting YES on the following measures by February 13<sup>th</sup>!

- ✓ YES on Prop 1: Replacement of Existing Educational Programs and Operations Levy
- ✓ YES on Prop 2: Replacement of Existing Capital Projects Levy
- ✓ YES on Prop 3: Bond to Reduce Overcrowding and Enhance Student Learning Environments

**Vote YES for our kids and schools by February 13<sup>th</sup>!**