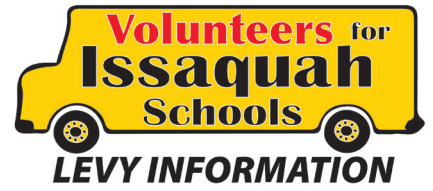


What are School District Levies?

Levies are funding packages that provide a percentage of Issaquah School District's operating budget. The state pays for "basic education" but does not cover all expenditures. Local voters are asked to renew ballot measures every 4 years to ensure funding for all programs with a portion of their property taxes.



Levy dollars flow directly into the classroom, providing funding for program enhancements and supplementing the state's minimum basic education allocation. The current Issaquah School District levies expire on December 31, 2022. To continue to fund the programs we now have in our schools, the renewal levy will need to be approved by voters sometime in 2022. Levies require a 50% + 1 majority vote to pass.

There are three separate levies in the package:

- The EP&O Levy pays for educational programs and supports such as mental health counselors, nurses, security staff, SEL supports, academic programs and classroom supports, activities, athletics, clubs, substitute teachers, coaches, career & technical education, early childhood learning, modified high school schedules and more.
- The Transportation Levy replaces old buses with new, more efficient models that align with the state's safety standards and replacement cycle. Fuel savings and lower maintenance costs mean more dollars go into the classroom.
- The Technology & Critical Repairs Capital Levy provides funding for educational technology and critical repairs for infrastructure, including hardware and software and services not fully funded by the State. Levy dollars fund replacement of older computers, printers, and servers, and upgrades to district websites, emergency alert systems and other e-communications. For critical repairs, the capital levy includes maintenance of heating and cooling systems, safety and security upgrades, and additional portable classroom space when needed.

What is the "Levy Rate"?

A levy rate is the amount of property tax that voters approve to be assessed for every \$1,000 of property value. A levy rate of \$1.00 means that for every \$1,000 of property value, the owner of the property will pay \$1.00 in taxes. For example, if a homeowner's house is valued at \$800,000 and the voters pass a levy at a \$1.00 levy rate, the homeowner will pay \$800.00 annually in property taxes. Since levies are a fixed dollar amount, if a homeowner's assessed valuation increases more than the average, his levy rate will decrease.

Why is it important to approve district school levies?

Since the state does not provide funding to pay for all programs, local districts must run levies to ensure that all programs will be funded for the next 4 years. If the levy does not pass, then programs paid for by levies will need to be cut. Since a portion of staff salaries is funded by the EP&O levy, staffing will have to be reduced if the levy fails.

How can you help?

If you are able to register to vote, please do so. Every vote counts! Please share levy facts and information with your families, friends and others who have questions. If you would like to be involved with campaigns to help pass levy measures, please contact Volunteers for Issaquah Schools (VIS). VIS is a non-profit 501(c)4 citizens committee that organizes the campaign to reach voters, educate the community about what levies fund in our district, and share why it is so important to our school district to pass these ballot measures.



Questions or need more information? Contact Dawn at **Volunteers for Issaquah Schools** at www.visvote.org