

# Answers to Questions

ABOUT THE FEBRUARY 11, 2014  
WOODLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT REPLACEMENT LEVY

## Why is local funding necessary? Isn't the state required to pay for basic education?

Continuation of local funding is crucial because the state only pays for about 74.95% of the total education costs in Woodland. Local levy dollars bridge the nearly 25% gap between what the state pays and the actual costs of operating our schools.

## Didn't the district just receive additional state funding as a result of the State Supreme Court's mandate to "fully fund education?" If so, why do we still need another levy?

Yes. The district did receive state funding. However, due to major cuts to student programs that have been occurring since 2008, this year's increase in state funding does not begin to backfill the cuts that were made, nor does it yet fully fund our education programs that are critical to overall student success.

## Where can I find more information?

There is more information on our district website at:  
[www.woodlandschools.org](http://www.woodlandschools.org)

You can also direct questions about the levy to Superintendent Michael Green  
[greenm@woodlandschools.org](mailto:greenm@woodlandschools.org)  
360.841.2700.

## Tax Exemptions:

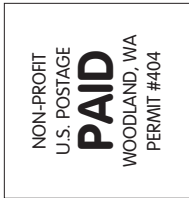
Disabled persons or those 61 years of age and older may be eligible for a tax exemption. Applications are available at the Cowlitz County Assessor's office at (360) 577-3010 or the Clark County Assessor's office at (360) 397-2391.

## Aren't we already paying a levy tax for schools?

Yes. But the current levy expires at the end of 2014. This is not a new tax, but will replace the expiring levy.

## Where does the levy money go?

Levy funds help pay for some of the fundamental tools that build Woodland's strong educational program. These items including enhanced career and technical programs that prepare students for the workforce, staffing to keep class sizes low, teaching supplies and materials, technology equipment and support, library and text books, transportation costs, athletics and extracurricular programs. Additionally, levies help cover the unfunded costs of increases in utilities, services, and transportation costs that are UNIQUE to our large, rural geographic area.



800 Third Street  
Woodland, WA 98674  
360.841.2700  
[www.woodlandschools.org](http://www.woodlandschools.org)

WOODLAND  
Public Schools  
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WOODLAND POSTAL PATRON

# LEVY FACTS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE  
UPCOMING LEVY



Ballots must be postmarked by  
**February 11, 2014**

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# WOODLAND'S TOP 10 LEVY FACTS

**1** This is a replacement levy for the next three years: 2015, 2016, and 2017. The levy is not a new tax but replaces the current levy that expires at the end of 2014.

**2** Levy dollars are used to pay for the following materials, programs, and services:

- » Classroom supplies, textbooks, and technology equipment
- » Staff training and professional development
- » Extracurricular activities such as clubs, band and athletics
- » Teachers, custodians, aids and other staff the state does not fully fund
- » Facilities repairs, maintenance of grounds and utilities
- » Student transportation, including new buses and fuel

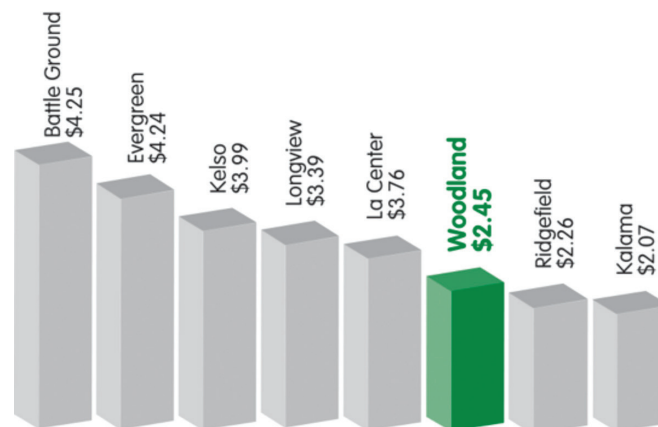
**3** Ballots will be mailed on or around January 18, 2014. They must be returned to a ballot drop-box or postmarked by February 11, 2014.

**4** The School Board approved a levy amount that helps retain learning programs critical to overall student success. The levy amount being requested is 21% of the prior year's state and federal revenue (district levy base), well below the 28% maximum that the district could collect upon voter approval.

**5** Maintenance and operations levies differ from bond measures, which are used for building improvements or to construct new schools. The funds being used to build the new Woodland High School cannot be used for essential student learning programs, classroom support and day-to-day district operations. These are paid with local levy dollars. Levies provide funding needed to cover the student services that are not funded by state and federal dollars.

**6** Over 50 percent of voters must vote "yes" in order to approve this levy.

**7** Woodland Public Schools current levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed property value, is among the lowest in the region. (See chart below). Projected levy rates for 2015 (\$2.96), 2016 (\$2.88) and 2017 (\$2.79) remain among the lowest in the region.



**8** The Board authorized a three-year levy to replace the expiring two-year levy. While some districts are seeking four-year levies in February, the Woodland School Board believes a three-year measure is a more conservative approach for taxpayers, yet still provides the district some financial stability.

**9** Passage of the Levy provides an additional \$700,000 in state-funded Local Effort Assistance to Woodland Public Schools. This money from the state is used to partially equalize tax rates between property rich and poor districts.

**10** Local levies are important in order to maintain the overall pride and quality of the Woodland community. Homes and property investments are enhanced when schools are adequately funded and outstanding student learning opportunities are occurring.