Local levies make the difference for Hockinson students’ success.

Hockinson School District is asking residents to vote on two important levy measures—a partial replacement School Programs & Operations Levy and a Capital Levy for Technology and School Improvements for 2020-2022.

Please vote by April 23, 2019!

For detailed information on these two measures, please turn the page.
SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

Dear Hockinson Community,

It is no easy thing to ask our community to tax itself, and it isn’t any easier to ask a second time.

Hockinson is an education community. We are known for our dedicated staff, enthusiastic volunteers and high-quality educational programs, as well as our commitment to providing enriching extracurricular and co-curricular experiences and up-to-date equipment for our students to learn on.

Why is this important? Because when students get a strong, well-balanced start, they build the skills and develop the interests needed to open doors, whether they go from high school to the workforce or onto higher education.

Levy funding helps bridge the gap between what the state contributes and what it actually costs to educate our students. Without it, our district will need to make deep cuts—especially to staff and programming. Those cuts will mean our students’ education will not be as well-rounded, and they will not be as well-prepared for their next steps.

I am committed to doing everything I can to make our community aware of what a levy means to our students.

Thank you for taking the time to be informed. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sandra Yager

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We’re listening—and are happy to answer your questions!

For more information on these levy measures and how state funding changes have affected Hockinson, please visit www.esd112.org/schoolfunding.

If you have additional questions, please contact the district office at 360-448-6400 or email Superintendent Sandra Yager at Sandra.Yager@hocksd.org and Director of Business Services Michelle Scott at Michelle.Scott@hocksd.org.

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Levy Funding Q&A

What are levies used for?

Levies provide local funding that bridges the gap between what the state and federal governments pay and the actual costs of operating our schools. In Hockinson, levies and attached Local Effort Assistance (LEA) make up 12 percent of the district’s total operating revenue.

What is LEA/Local Effort Assistance?

It’s extra money from the state—available only if voters approve a levy. Because Hockinson has few commercial or industrial properties, the state adds LEA funds.

For Hockinson, LEA funding would bring approximately $550,000 in state dollars over the next three school years, in addition to levy collections.

How much do Hockinson patrons pay for all local school taxes?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Bond</th>
<th>SP&amp;O Levy</th>
<th>Capital Levy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$5.63</td>
<td>$3.43</td>
<td>$2.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$3.48</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$1.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$3.73</td>
<td>$0.45</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$3.54</td>
<td>$0.40</td>
<td>$1.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$3.36</td>
<td>$0.36</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*If local levies are approved. Future tax rates are estimates.

Are the current proposals different from those in the Feb. 12 election?

These requests are identical, and each needs 50 percent plus one vote to pass.

How do home values affect school taxes?

The School Board is limited to the state mandated tax rate cap of $1.50 per $1,000 assessed value for the SP&O levy. The Replacement SP&O resolution already takes into account new growth and increasing home values. The total collected cannot exceed the request amount, even if home values rise more than expected.
Replacement School Programs & Operations Levy

Our existing levy—for School Programs, Maintenance and Operations—will expire in 2019. The proposed Replacement School Programs & Operations Levy would help continue funding current staffing levels, programs and services. This is not a new tax, but a partial replacement of the expiring levy.

This levy pays for certificated, support and special education staff that are necessary but not covered by the state. It also funds areas that are not included in the state’s definition of “basic education,” such as important educational programming, athletics, fine arts and extracurricular activities.

The levy request is $2.7–$3.3 million each year from 2020 to 2022. This is significantly less than the levy request that voters approved in 2016 ($4.1–$5 million each year for 2017-2019).

Did you know ... ?

- HSD graduation rate is 96%! Being part of school activities promotes greater academic achievement for everyone—read more at tinyurl.com/HSD-activities

The Replacement SP&O Levy maintains the lower local tax rate seen in 2019.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Request Amount</th>
<th>Tax Rate</th>
<th>Home Value</th>
<th>Annual Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$2,685,000</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>$3,005,000</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$515,000</td>
<td>$773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>$3,335,000</td>
<td>$1.50</td>
<td>$530,450</td>
<td>$796</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Per $1,000 assessed value. Future tax rates are estimates
** Assumes a 3% annual increase in assessed value

Did you know ... ?

- 98% of Washington school districts have operations levies
- 35% of Washington school districts have capital levies
What happens if Prop. 6 doesn’t pass?

Levies are collected over calendar years (January-December) but used over school years. Hockinson has an approved levy through 2019. If voters do not approve the 2020-22 levy, the district will need to implement **PHASE 1 budget cuts of approximately $1.8 million for the 2019-20 school year**. This is due to the loss of levy funding and attached Local Effort Assistance (LEA) from the state.

Then, if no levy were to be passed in 2020, it would lead to additional budget cuts—**PHASE 2—equaling approximately $1.2 million**. This amounts to a **$3 million total budget cut, beginning in the 2020-21 school year**, including the loss of Local Effort Assistance funds (LEA) from the state.

**What budget cuts would mean for Hockinson:**

**HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY**
- No school resource officer or security staff
- Fewer recess aides
- Reduction in nurses and counselors
- Less facilities and field management—fewer custodians and grounds staff will mean a decline in cleanliness and maintenance

**TEACHING & LEARNING**
- Larger class sizes—fewer staff members
- Loss of specialists and their expertise
- Reduction in professional development and staff training
- Some outdated textbooks and instructional materials—students not as well-prepared for work and higher education
- Fewer support staff—less assistance available for technology, school offices and more
- Cuts from general education to reallocate funds for state-mandated programs:
  - Special education
  - Transportation

**EXTRACURRICULARS**
- Loss of music, theater and academic extracurricular funding—fewer opportunities for skill development and community-building for the nearly 600 students who participate each year
- Loss of athletics funding—fewer opportunities for the 638 athletes who participate over the fall, winter and spring seasons

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**PHASE 1 BUDGET CUTS***
Beginning 2019-20 school year

A sample list of positions and budgets to be cut (approx. $1.8 million):

- 1 school resource officer
- 3 security staff
- 2 recess aides
- 1 custodian
- 1 maintenance staff
- 1 nurse
- 1 grounds staff
- 1 special education teacher
- 1 special education para-educator
- 2 librarians
- 1 career counselor
- 3 office support staff
- 3 instructional coaches
- Paper supplies
- Professional development
- Curriculum purchases
- 37 academic & arts coaching contracts
- 76 athletics coaching contracts

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**PHASE 2 BUDGET CUTS***
Beginning 2020-21 school year

A sample list of positions and budgets to be cut (approx. $1.2 million) in addition to Phase 1, if the levy does not pass in April 2019 or in 2020:

- 3 classroom teachers
- 1 special education teacher
- 2 special education paraeducators
- 1 counselor
- 3 school office staff
- 1 grounds staff
- 2 custodians
- 3 districtwide support staff
- Additional supplies
- Additional professional development

*These lists have not been approved by the School Board but represent potential cuts—they are sample lists that represent the dollar amount that would need to be cut.
What happens if Prop. 7 doesn’t pass?

- Increasingly outdated instructional technology—many computers and tablet computers are already nearly a decade old
- Increasingly outdated classroom equipment—projectors, document cameras and printers are exhibiting a growing number of breakdowns
- Inability to complete safety and security improvements and essential building and site improvements
- Overdue technology and facilities replacements/upgrades will be postponed. These include:
  - computers
  - projectors
  - document cameras
  - printers
  - tablet computers
  - security systems, including entrance controls and cameras
  - major HVAC (heating/ventilation/air conditioning) improvements
  - playground accessibility improvements for students with physical challenges
  - parking lot surfaces resealing

Did you know ... ?

In every classroom across the district, students of all ages use technology to learn reading, writing, math, social studies, science and more!
Election Day is April 23, 2019!
Ballots are mailed to voters April 5, 2019, and must be postmarked by April 23, 2019. Postage is not required. Ballots may also be dropped off on April 23 at Fire District 3, 17718 NE 159th St., from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m.

Are you eligible for a tax exemption?
Some senior and disabled homeowners may be eligible for a tax exemption, based on income. Please contact the Clark County Assessor’s Office at 564-397-2391, option 4, or email deferral@clark.wa.gov. Information is also online at www.clark.wa.gov/assessor/tax-relief