

Why do we need a levy?

CURRENT LEVY

The current levy, which voters approved in 2013, expires in 2016.

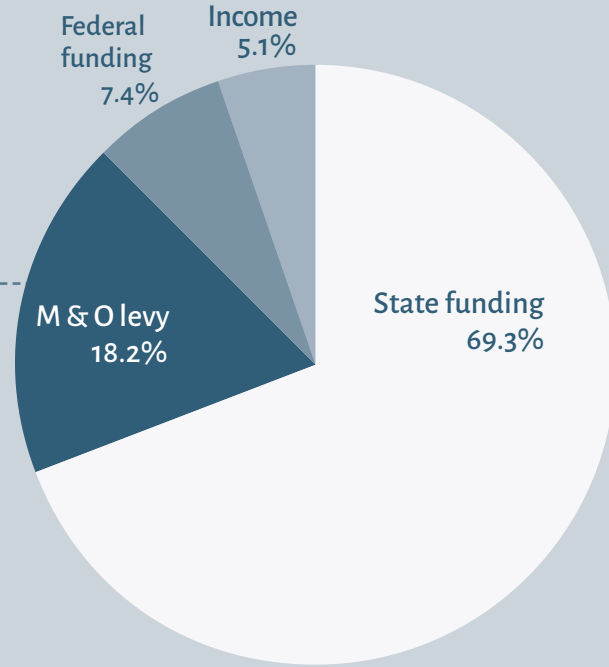
REPLACEMENT LEVY

The replacement levy will provide funding for schools in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

How does the McCleary decision affect funding?

The McCleary decision, mandating that the state fully fund basic education, has offset a fraction of budget cuts the state has made in the past several years. However, state dollars still only comprise approximately 69.3 percent of the district's general fund budget. The local levy, federal money and other sources make up the remainder. The M & O levy comprises about 18.2 percent of the district's general fund budget.

VPS general fund budget



LEVY ELECTION
Tuesday, February 9
Ballots will be mailed January 22.

Vancouver Public Schools is an equal opportunity district.

This fact sheet is published as part of Vancouver Public Schools' obligation to provide election information to the community.

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REPLACEMENT EDUCATIONAL
MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS (M & O)

LEVY FACTS

FOR VANCOUVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHAT IS A LEVY?

A local property tax collected to help finance educational programs and necessary day-to-day operations of our public schools. It includes items not funded or fully funded by the state.

LEARN MORE INSIDE.



ELECTION DATE:
FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Vancouver Public Schools
Imagine what you can learn

www.vansd.org/levy-bond

What would the replacement levy purchase?

The replacement levy would continue local funding for basic education and maintain current programs and services.

Levy dollars are essential to pay for these items.

	Teachers & staff support	Classroom supplies, textbooks, equipment
	Staff training & professional development	Extracurricular activities & intramural sports
	Instructional technology & software	
Support for programs of choice	Technology support in classrooms	Substitutes (teachers & classified staff)
		Education for students with special needs
Extended day/year learning	School safety & security	Maintenance of buildings & grounds
		Utilities, insurance & fuel
		Portable classrooms

How much will it cost?

Key points	The M & O levy needs a 50% majority of yes votes to be approved.
This levy replaces the levy expiring in 2016.	Elections are vote-by-mail. Ballots will be sent to voters around January 22. Returned ballots must be dropped off at designated locations or postmarked by February 9.
In Vancouver, voters have approved an M & O levy for every year since 1964.	

Levy collection

Voters approve levy amounts, not levy rates.

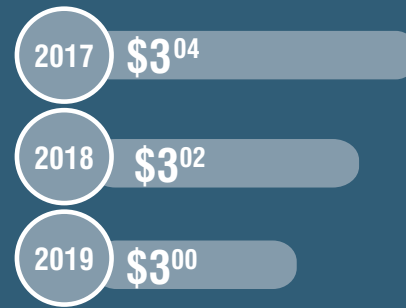
Levy amounts are limited by a state-set "levy lid." Vancouver Public Schools is below that lid.

Taxes are shared among households and businesses within the boundaries of Vancouver Public Schools.



Estimated replacement M & O levy rates

per \$1,000 of assessed property value



Proposed replacement M & O levy amounts are \$46.2 million for 2017, \$47.3 million for 2018 and \$48.4 million for 2019.

The current estimated rate for 2016 is \$3.06 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

With a levy rate of \$3.04, the owner of a \$250,000 house would pay \$760 in 2017.

Levy equalization funds

Vancouver Public Schools receives levy equalization funds from the state, but only if the local replacement M & O levy is approved by voters. For the 2015–2016 fiscal year, the district will receive approximately \$9.5 million in equalization funds from the state. The district qualifies because its assessed value of property is lower than the tax base of wealthier districts.

Voter registration

To register and vote in Clark County, you must be a U.S. citizen, be a resident of the county, have your full civil rights and be 18 years old by the day of the election. To vote in an election for Vancouver Public Schools, you must live within the school district's boundaries.



Registration forms may be submitted the following ways:



online



by mail



in person

Voter registration forms are available at all school offices and at the Clark County Elections Department at 1408 Franklin Street. Or, you may register online at www.clarkvotes.org if you have a valid Washington state driver's license or a state identification card. If you are not registered to vote anywhere in the state of Washington, you may submit your registration form in person at the Elections Department up to eight days before the election date. For more information, contact the Clark County Elections Department at 360-397-2345.

NOTE: Some disabled and senior citizens are exempt from paying all or part of school levy taxes. Refer to the Department of Revenue Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons publication (www.dor.wa.gov). You also may contact the Clark County Assessor's Office at 360-397-2092 ext. 5689 or taxreduction@clark.wa.gov.

