

La Center School District

2017 - 2019 Maintenance & Operations Levy Fact Sheet.

What is a Maintenance & Operations Levy?

These are locally approved funds that pay the difference between what state and federal governments provide and what voters of the La Center School District expect. The current levy approved back in 2013 will expire at the end of 2016 and this is a replacement request.

When is the vote and how much is being requested?

On February 9th, 2016 (via mail in ballots) the La Center School District will ask the voters for approval of a three-year replacement Maintenance & Operations (M & O) Levy for the following amounts:

- 2017 for \$2,679,600 at an approximate rate of \$2.87 per thousand of assessed value of property in the district.
- 2018 for \$2,813,580 at an approximate rate of \$2.93 per thousand of assessed value of property in the district.
- 2019 for \$2,954,259 at an approximate rate of \$2.99 per thousand of assessed value of property in the district.

How does this levy request compare to the one that is about to expire?

The current levy that ends in 2016 asked for a flat levy amount of \$2,552,000 each year. La Center is the only district in Clark County that currently has a flat levy amount with no annual increases. If approved, the new levy is estimated to cost property owners approximately 16¢ additional for every \$1,000 of assessed value each of the next three years (or \$40 additional per year for a \$250,000 home).

Why is the current levy the same each year, but this request is seeking an annual increase?

The Board decided in 2013 to keep the requested amount for the current M & O levy level for all three years because the Supreme Court had ordered the state of Washington to fully pay for basic education. Since that time, the state has increased some funding for schools, but has continually fallen short of the Supreme Court's order. Therefore the school Board approved requesting from the voters an annual increase of 5% each year for this replacement M & O levy request to help maintain programs.

Is the requested amount the maximum allowed by law?

No. Unlike many other school districts in Clark County, the La Center School District does not ask for the maximum allowed by state law. During the first year of this request, the amount is estimated to be \$350,000 a year below the maximum authorized by state law.

How does La Center's M & O Levy compare to other Clark County school districts?

District	2015 Net AV (used for M&O levies)	2014/15 ave. FTE	AV/ Student FTE	2015 M&O Tax	Levy \$/FTE	NOTES
Green Mountain	\$125,574,166	135.80	\$924,699	\$368,992	\$2,717	
Vancouver	\$13,745,563,541	22,372.51	\$614,395	\$44,747,213	\$2,000	(1)
Ridgefield	\$2,099,325,383	2,174.47	\$965,442	\$4,321,918	\$1,988	
Hockinson	\$991,028,837	1,719.11	\$576,478	\$3,301,630	\$1,921	(2)
Camas	\$4,124,497,005	6,238.47	\$661,139	\$11,822,039	\$1,895	(3)
Battle Ground	\$6,524,804,626	12,414.80	\$525,567	\$22,999,081	\$1,853	
Washougal	\$1,786,104,824	2,958.59	\$603,701	\$5,375,500	\$1,817	(4)
Evergreen	\$12,418,499,463	25,985.67	\$477,898	\$45,646,903	\$1,757	
La Center	\$882,058,395	1,475.58	\$597,771	\$2,546,769	\$1,726	

NOTES - Additional tax collections in addition to M & O levy funds in 2015 (not included in these numbers).

- (1) Vancouver also collected \$4 million through a technology levy.
- (2) Hockinson also collected \$494 thousand through a technology levy.
- (3) Camas also collected \$1.29 million through a technology levy.
- (4) Washougal also collected \$594 thousand through a technology levy.

FTE - Full Time Equivalent students
AV - Assessed Value

How much of the district's overall budget comes from the M & O levy?

Between this replacement M & O levy (18%) and state levy equalization funds (5%) that the district receives only if there is an approved M & O levy, 23% of our overall budget is directly connected to the replacement M & O levy. In other words, without these funds we will need to cut \$0.23 of every dollar in the budget.

What are M & O Levy funds used for?

The M & O levy fills the gap between what state and federal governments provide and what local patrons expect. Examples of what M & O levy funds pay for include technology, class size reductions, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities, counseling services, music and art programs, additional staffing, instructional materials, utilities and some maintenance costs are all paid for in part or in whole through the M & O levy.

Levy funds pay for many other enhancements to the overall school program such as:

- Security and facility safety improvements;
- Extra support for struggling students;
- Extra support for advanced students;
- Additional specialists for K-8 students (i.e. art or technology);
- Upgrade Choir/Band equipment;
- Costs of a growing student population;
- Purchasing additional school buses/bus options that the state doesn't pay for;
- Field trips and special learning experiences for students;
- Provides additional elective and Advanced Placement courses at the high school; and
- Technology replacement and upgrades.

If approved, when will this replacement M & O Levy begin?

Collection would begin in the spring of 2017 and run through the fall of 2019.

Can senior citizens on limited budgets get exemptions?

Yes. Contact the Clark County Assessor's office at 397-2391 to see if you qualify.

Where can I get more information on the M & O Levy?

You can call the district office at 263-2131 any time during regular business hours, or you may contact any one of your local school board members.

Cris Yaw - 281-8130
Wendy Chord - 263-1968
Bob Taylor - 263-2640
Todd Jones - 263-3011
Eric Lindberg - 263-6116

For additional information please
visit the district website at:

www.LaCenterSchools.org

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