



School board approves replacement levy election

The Olympia School Board has unanimously agreed to place a Technology and Safety Replacement Levy proposal before voters on the February 8, 2022 Special Election ballot. The proposed replacement levy is not a new tax. It would replace an expiring four-year technology and safety levy approved by voters in February 2018. The levy would raise an estimated \$52.4 million over four years (2023-2026).

"This replacement levy proposal reflects a continuation of our strategic planning efforts to make technology accessible to all students and prepare them for success now and into the future," said School Board Director Scott Clifthorne. "It also proposes investments to enhance safety and security at every school site."

Proposed Technology and Safety Initiatives:

Among other things, the replacement levy would fund new and continued technology and safety initiatives including:

- *Touchscreen mobile computer* devices.
- Continuation of *Internet access at home* for students/families in need.
- *Assistive technology devices* for students with special needs, and associated staff training.
- Up-to-date *classroom interactive display systems*, including an interactive projector or flat panel screen.
- *Safety vestibules* in 13 school entries where they do not currently exist.
- *Improved safe routes to school*, including school zone crossings and notifications, and enhanced walking and biking routes.
- *Updated school and support building security cameras* as needed.
- *Exterior safety notifications* at the main entry/exit doors for all schools.
- *Emergency power initiatives, including solar panels and back-up power generation* to support critical operations.

How much will the levy cost?

The estimated rates in this table represent between a 1 and 18 cent increase per \$1,000 of assessed valuation compared to the technology and safety levy approved by voters for 2019-2022. While the tax rate associated with the new Technology and Safety Replacement Levy would be slightly higher, the combined estimated district tax rate from all voter-approved levies and bonds would be lower than historical rates.

Year	Estimated Rate (per \$1,000 Value)	Levy Amount
2023	\$.92	\$11,887,000
2024	\$.98	\$13,314,000
2025	\$.90	\$12,875,000
2026	\$.94	\$14,351,000
		\$52.4 Million

The combined OSD voter-approved tax rate would decrease in each of the four years of the proposed replacement levy when compared with the current tax rate. For example, the 2021 combined tax rate is \$4.94 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation; the rate in 2023 is estimated at \$4.47 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I register to vote?

There are several ways to register to vote, including online, by mail or in person. View voter registration deadlines for the February 8, 2022 Special Election on the Thurston County Elections Division website at: www.thurstoncountywa.gov/auditor/Pages/elections-home.aspx.

Is this a new tax?

No, the proposed replacement levy is not a new tax. The measure on the February 8, 2022 ballot would replace an expiring four-year Technology and Safety Levy approved by Olympia School District voters in February 2018.



Didn't school districts receive emergency pandemic funding and, if so, why do we still need a levy?

School districts are receiving federal COVID-19 relief dollars through the Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund) to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic. These are not ongoing funds. They are one-time funds to cover expenses associated with the pandemic; funds expire on August 31, 2023. Further, there are restrictions on how ESSER funds can be spent.

Where can I get more information about the school district's proposed Technology and Safety Replacement Levy?

Specifics about the ballot measure are included on the school district website at: bit.ly/OSDLevy2022.

You can also simply scan our accompanying QR code! →



Olympia School District

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