

M & O Levy Facts



Background Information:

- The Mead School District will ask the Mead community to vote on a 3-year Maintenance and Operations Levy.
- This is a “replacement levy”. This is not a new tax.
- The proposed election date is March 10, 2009.
- This is a “vote-by-mail” election.
- Ballots will be distributed on or about February 18, 2009.
- Passage will require 50% plus one vote. This is a simple majority vote.

For more detailed M&O Levy information please go to www.mead354.org to review these articles:

- ✓ M&O Levy Facts
- ✓ Tax Rate Comparisons
- ✓ Voter Information
- ✓ Tax Exemption Information
- ✓ Voter Registration Information

ESTIMATED TAX RATE will be at or below the rate of **\$2.88 per \$1000**, which is down from the 2006 M&O Levy that passed at a rate of **\$3.54 per \$1000**.

There are three types of resource requests that Washington school districts can ask of local taxpayers. These are Maintenance and Operations Levies, Capital Levies, and Bonds.

What is a Maintenance and Operations Levy?

A levy is a local property tax, authorized by voters, to be used to **operate educational programs for students and maintain facilities**. This type of levy is a “replacement levy” because it replaces the previous levy, by voter approval, every three years. M&O Levies can pass with a simple majority approval (50% plus 1). M&O Levies pay for extended learning programs, additional staffing, facilities maintenance, and extra-curricular activities. **Voters are being asked to consider only a Maintenance & Operations Levy in this election.**

What is a Capital Levy?

This type of levy is a mix between M&O Levies and Bonds and can only be spent on “things,” not people or learning programs. School districts typically use this request to address “capital” needs that fall short of larger construction needs funded by bonds. This could be for such things as carpeting, roof replacements, up-upgrades to athletic fields, or to replacing equipment originally purchased when the building was new. When people speak of “tech levies,” they are speaking of a capital levy for computers, technology infrastructure, digital projectors, software products, etc.

What is a Bond?

Voter approved Bonds provide funding to pay for the construction or modernization of buildings and facilities. The district sells bonds and pays interest for them. Bonds **can** pay for things like facility improvement or construction. Bonds **cannot** be used to operate schools or pay for student programs. A Bond election must be passed by a supermajority vote (a 60% approval). They act like a home mortgage and are generally carried for 10 to 20 years. Prairie View Elementary and Mountainside Middle School were constructed using bond funding.

If you have questions regarding tax rates or school funding, please contact Wayne Leonard, Executive Director, Business Services, 465-6017.

Please Exercise Your Right To Vote!

Preliminary, Estimated Levy Amounts being Requested:

Year	Net Levy Amount (Local Monies Collected)	Levy Equalization (From State LEA Fund)	Total
2010	\$14,800,000	\$2,295,583	\$17,095,583
2011	\$15,400,000	\$2,805,731	\$18,205,731
2012	\$16,300,000	\$2,890,370	\$19,190,370

Levy Amount Explanation:

The "Net Levy Amount" refers to the amount of tax dollars the district collects from the Mead community. To this the State of Washington adds "Levy Equalization" dollars, historically between 15% and 25% of the levy amount, for a total amount available to the school district. **Estimated tax rate for this levy will be at or below the rate of \$2.88 per \$1000. This is down from the tax rate of \$3.54 per \$1000 for the levy passed in 2006. Tax rates and amounts listed in the table above are estimates based on current state funding formulas that are subject to change pending the passage of the Washington State Budget.** For more detailed tax information, see Mead School District website.

Basic Messages:

Renewal of an existing levy

This is not a new tax but strictly a renewal of the existing levy.

Levy Equalization Incentive

Mead School District qualifies for a state contribution toward the local levy. This is called Local Effort Assistance (LEA). If the levy is passed by the voters, the state will contribute between 15% and 25% of the total levy.

Community Expectations

- Highly Skilled Staff
- Comprehensive Programs
- Extended Programs for Students
- Well-Maintained Facilities and Fields

District Commitment

Mead School District has a long history of strong commitment to academic excellence, quality programs, and hard work to improve learning for all students.

The M&O Levy Supports the Following:

First, this M&O Levy will help fund student programs, offering significant improvement in materials, coursework and extra-curricular student activities.

With M&O Levy funding we can:

- Keep class sizes smaller through increased staffing
- Expand Advanced Placement coursework
- Provide materials for reading, math and social studies
- Offer premier extra-curricular activities: athletics, debate, drama, music, and student clubs
- Provide staff specialists in PE, music and social work
- Maintain above state average WASL scores
- Expand student transportation services.
- Provide college readiness programs: AVID, Advisory, Student-Led Conferences and elective courses offering college credits

Secondly, this M&O Levy will provide **on-going maintenance for all Mead facilities** and expand the community use of our facilities.

With M&O Levy funding we can:

- Provide on-going maintenance of all Mead schools and facilities
- Provide facility access to community youth and adult programs, meetings, athletics, and adult educational classes
- Maintenance of fields and playgrounds

Please Exercise Your Right To Vote!

