



2019 Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy Frequently Asked Questions

Is the levy a new tax?

This levy is not a new tax. It replaces a levy that expires at the end of 2019. It will continue to provide funding for educational programs and student support services for three years; 2020, 2021, and 2022.

What is the duration of this levy?

The levy is for three years; the same duration of time as the levy it replaces.

What does the levy fund?

This replacement levy provides funding to help support educational and student support programs, including;

- *Teachers and staff*
- *Special education*
- *Classroom technology, including hardware, software, service, and support*
- *School supplies*
- *Extracurricular activities, including athletics, performing arts, Cispus, and more*
- *Facilities maintenance and operations*
- *Professional development for staff*
- *Student transportation*
- *Community Education*
- *Family Resource Center*

I thought McCleary solved the need for levies. Why does the District need a levy?

McCleary funding provides more money to schools, but it does not eliminate the need for local levies. Local levies remain necessary to make up gaps in funding for essential services and community priorities, such as more special education, technology, athletics, extra-curricular programs, and social/emotional supports for students.

Why is local funding necessary? Isn't the State required to pay for basic education?

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy accounts for approximately 14% of Ridgefield School District's operating budget. Local funding through levies, bridge the gap between what the state pays and the actual costs of operating our schools.

What will my estimated levy tax rate be?

The levy resolution calls for revenue collections and approximate tax rates to be:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate / \$1000 Assessed Valuation	Levy Amount
2020	\$1.50	\$6,144,310
2021	\$1.50	\$7,065,951
2022	\$1.50	\$7,984,531

How does Ridgefield’s total school tax rate compare with other school districts in the county?

The average total school tax rate for the K-12 school districts in Clark County is \$3.53 per \$1000/assessed valuation. Please see the chart below for the tax rates of each of the nine K-12 school districts in Clark County.

2019 School District Tax Rate Comparison (per \$1000/Assessed Value)

Battleground	\$2.10
Woodland	\$3.13
Vancouver	\$3.19
Evergreen	\$3.24
Ridgefield	\$3.45
Hockinson	\$3.47
Washougal	\$3.67
La Center	\$4.45
Camas	\$5.03

Can the school district use the money it collects in impact fees from new homes to offset the levy?

No. Impact fees are restricted to the Capital Project Fund. This revenue may only be spent on capital projects that serve new growth.

When is the election?

Ballots will be mailed on or around April 5, 2019. Ballots must be returned or postmarked by April 23, 2019.

**For more information call the district office at 360.619.1302
or email nathan.mccann@ridgefieldsd.org.**