

Siuslaw School District

Local Option Tax Levy Renewal Information

Election Date: November 7, 2017

What is the district's request?

The Siuslaw School District Board of Directors voted to send a proposal for a local option levy renewal of 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to the local voters. The levy would be for five consecutive years beginning in 2019-2020 and would raise approximately \$1,108,363 the first year, increasing by about 2% per year, for a total of approximately \$5,387,099.

Why has the Siuslaw School District Board of Directors made this proposal?

- Adequate stable funding would serve to maintain existing levels of service in the Siuslaw School District.
- Siuslaw School District has reduced \$2.8 million in positions and programs for students prior to the passage of the local option levy in 2009. The local option levy has since helped to close that funding gap and restore positions and programs that were previously cut.
- Siuslaw School District is fiscally responsible and takes every opportunity to increase revenues or decrease interest payments.
- Due to past state ballot measures 5, 50, and 47, school funding has shifted to the state level (Salem) and has not kept up with increased costs due to inflation. State school funds are equalized. As local property tax revenues increase, other state funds for schools decrease, leaving the per student revenue unchanged.
- Over the last 5 years textbooks and other critical resources have been reduced or postponed.

What are some of the future challenges the District is facing in regards to funding?

- PERS costs are increasing by over \$400,000 per year in the 2017-2019 biennium and are scheduled to increase through 2025.
- Uncertainty of Federal Budget and current Federal programs at Siuslaw (Afterschool program, Title II, Food Service, etc)
- Implementation of HB 3141, increasing required PE minutes for K-8 (2 additional teachers needed by 2020 at the elementary school to meet requirement)
- Insufficient revenue to fully implement Measure 98. Funds will not recover all Career Technology Education programs or allow for expansion into new career threads (design, computer technology, construction engineering, etc)

How have the funds been used so far and how will they be used in the future?

Funds have and will continue to be used for direct classroom support in the following manner;

- Maintain the stability of the current programs.
- Provide additional teachers for smaller class sizes. The median class size K-12 in 2014-2015 was 22.
- Reduced need for split or multi-age classroom assignments in the elementary.
- Provide safety and security enhancements.
- Provide students with learning resources such as textbooks, supplies and technology in the classroom.
- Enhance the fine arts and music programs with additional offerings and materials.

- Continue to offer vocational programs and extra-curricular activities, Woodshop offerings at the High School and Art at the Middle School.
- Restore 2nd counselor at Siuslaw Elementary. Currently one counselor is servicing 650 students K-5.
- Expand career and college readiness by adding a 2nd counselor at the High School dedicated to these areas.
- HS graduation rate increased from 68.1% in 13-14 to 72.3% in 15-16 and is projected to be 84.8% for 16-17.
- HS state test scores increased in Language Arts from 63.9% in 13-14 to 68.9% in 15-16 and increased in Math from 34.1% in 13-14 to 42.5% in 15-16.

ALL LEVY FUNDS STAY LOCAL IN THE SIUSLAW SCHOOL DISTRICT

If this levy passes, how would my property taxes change?

This Local Option Levy Renewal would cost 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in taxes on each individual property. This renewal would be a continuation of the tax that you are currently paying through 2018-2019. Since Ballot Measure 50, the amount that each property owner pays for tax levies varies depending on the year their property was assessed and the amount of that assessment. In some cases property owners may pay less than the 75 cents per \$1,000, but in no case would any taxpayer pay more.

Example:

75 cents x \$200,000 (home assessed value) = \$150.00 per year or \$12.50 per month

How is assessed value determined?

On the annual property tax statement there will be two values for a home. The largest is the market value; the smaller is the property's assessed value. The assessed value is used to determine the tax.

Does this levy request require a 50% voter turnout?

No.

How long would the levy last?

This renewal request is for five years starting in 2019-2020. The levy can only be renewed by voters in a new election.

How can a person learn more about this levy or get questions answered?

For more information please call the Siuslaw School District office at 997-2651 or visit the website at www.siuslaw.k12.or.us, click on Departments and then Financial Services.

Prepared by the Siuslaw School District as an impartial statement about the Local Option Tax Levy.