

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



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Register to vote through Washington state's online voter registration system: <http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/en/voterinformation/Pages/RegisterToVote.aspx>



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Message from the Superintendent

As you know, the Washougal School District Board of Directors will place a Maintenance and Operations Levy and a Technology Levy before voters on the February 9 ballot. This local funding is critical to the daily operation of our schools.

Levies necessarily fill the gap between state funds and what it actually costs to provide a quality education program established by the Board of Directors. In fact, nearly 17% of Washougal School District's overall operating budget comes from levies.

It is important to note that these levies are NOT new taxes. They simply replace the current levies which expire in 2010.

Over the past year, district staff faced difficult decisions as we were forced to make significant cuts to staff and programs based on deep reductions in state funding for education. Governor Chris Gregoire recently unveiled her proposed budget which shows additional cuts in educational funding for the 2010-2011 school year. As the legislature develops the state budget, more cuts to education seem imminent. The proposed levies will not entirely protect against further budget reductions in 2010-2011. However, approval of levy measures will help retain student services that are critical to a successful education. Imagine what our schools would be like without local levy dollars that support:

- sports and arts programs, including coaches, transportation to sporting events, referees, tournaments, drama and music.
- textbooks and instructional materials at all grade levels, library books, magazines and newspapers.
- health and safety services, including security personnel and systems, parent notification systems and drug and alcohol intervention, as well as nurses, health screenings, and maintenance of student health records.
- highly capable programs, English Language Learning programs, the student information system, and additional costs for breakfast and lunch programs.
- special education programs including paraprofessional help, adaptive equipment, textbooks and materials for special needs students.
- professional development for teachers through workshops, inservice days, and related training for principals and board members.

- transportation including staff, bus maintenance and fuel costs.

- electricity, phone services, waste disposal, and costs related to heating and cooling of facilities including natural gas and oil, as well as facility and grounds maintenance.

- community education, including classes, sports activities, preschool and childcare programs.

Quite simply, levies are the backbone of school programs and services.

Washougal School District has a long history of providing outstanding opportunities to students and our district has been fortunate to enjoy remarkable community support.

Strong schools make strong communities. Please remember to vote on February 9.

Teresa Baldwin, Superintendent

LEVY ELECTION—FEBRUARY 9, 2010

Important things to know:

1. The Washougal School District Board of Directors will place two measures before voters on February 9, 2010. Both measures represent a continuation of current levies which expire in 2010—a replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy, as well as a replacement Technology Levy.

2. Given the current economy, there will be no increase in the amount levied. The board will ask voters for \$5,092,212, which is the same amount voters approved in 2006 for collection in 2010. The proposed replacement M and O Levy would remain the same during 2011-2014, rather than increasing incrementally by year as most levies do. A replacement Technology Levy would also remain the same over 2011-2014 at \$250,000 per year.

3. M and O Levies fill the gap between state funding and the actual costs of operating our schools, making up nearly 17% of the school district's budget.

School Board members give gift of time, energy for Washougal students

January is School Board Recognition month and Governor Chris Gregoire issued a proclamation thanking school board members across the state for the important role of elected school board members in public education and student achievement.

There are 1,477 school board members in Washington state's 295 public school districts, each elected by the citizens of their respective communities. The districts they lead serve more than one million students.

School board members exemplify local control and decision making in our educational system. They volunteer hundreds of hours and an immeasurable amount of energy to assure that our schools are providing the best education possible for the children of this community.

As "governors" of their districts, school directors contribute hundreds of volunteer hours each year making decisions aimed at promoting student achievement. School directors have a multitude of responsibilities, including vision- and goal-setting, establishing standards for what students should learn, adopting policies and budgets, and working as a team with administrators, teachers, parents, students and the community to foster a safe and productive learning environment.

School directors also serve as champions for public education, advocating on behalf of

students and districts in their communities and with policymakers and legislators at the state and federal levels.

Gregoire notes that "school directors play a crucial role in promoting student learning and achievement by creating a vision, establishing policies and budgets, and setting clear standards of accountability for all involved."

Washougal School Board members were recognized at the January 12 meeting for their efforts on behalf of Washougal School District students.

Dr. Orlan Gessford (District 1) has served on Washougal School District's Board since 1984. Dr. Gessford is a local dentist.

Elaine Pfeifer (District 2) was appointed to the Board in 2004. She has a background in operations management and has volunteered on numerous Washougal School District committees.

Blaine Peterson (District 3) is the newest member of the Board and was appointed in 2007. Blaine works for Riverview Community Bank.

Tom Huffman (District 4) joined the Board in 1991. He is a retired Bonneville Power Administration employee.

Ron Dinius (District 5) joined the Board in 2005. Ron is a retired business owner with many years of experience in the construction field.



WSD Board Members at the January 12 Board meeting. Pictured from left: Ron Dinius, Orlan Gessford, Blaine Peterson, Elaine Pfeifer, and Tom Huffman.



Hathaway Elementary receives \$1,000 Wells Fargo donation

Hathaway Elementary is one of nine schools in Clark County to benefit from a donation from Wells Fargo. The bank donated \$1,000 to Hathaway December 14 as part of its support of public education in Clark County.

Lacamas branch manager Serina Ratliff presented the check to Hathaway Elementary Principal Laura Bolt.

"We chose to give to schools that have a large percentage of students receiving subsidized or free lunches, as this is a strong indication of need," said Kellie Grant, Wells Fargo's Community Bank president for Clark County.

"Quality education is, undoubtedly, the most important investment we can make for our future and that of coming generations," said Grant. "Strong schools produce tomorrow's workforce, voters, business owners, heads of government, educators, artists, parents - the people on whom our communities depend for leadership and support."

The money will be used to fill a Hathaway need in the future.



Pictured from left: Hathaway Principal Laura Bolt, Wells Fargo District Manager Amanda Dolley, Wells Fargo Vice President Bernie Kronberger, and Lacamas Branch Manager Serina Ratliff.

Levies fund essential school programs...

Current **Maintenance and Operations Levy** dollars are used to fully fund or supplement state funds for the following programs, materials and services:

- **SPORTS PROGRAMS**—Coaches, athletic program transportation, referees and tournaments
- **DRAMA PRODUCTIONS**—Drama and music productions such as plays and concerts, before school music programs such as jazz band and the band program for fifth graders
- **TEXTBOOKS**—Textbooks and instructional materials at all grade levels, library books, magazines and newspapers used by students
- **SCHOOL SAFETY**—Washougal High School Resource Officer, security personnel/supervision at Washougal High School during school hours and during after school sports events, district security system, the automated parent notification system and drug and alcohol intervention program
- **STUDENT HEALTH**—Nurses, health screenings, and maintenance of student health records
- **STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS**—Highly capable program, English Language Learning program, the student information system, and additional costs for breakfast and lunch programs
- **SPECIAL EDUCATION**—Paraprofessional help for special needs children, adaptive equipment needed for children with special needs,

textbooks and materials for special education programs

- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**—Workshops, inservice days, and related training for teachers, principals and board members
- **TRANSPORTATION**—Costs associated with transporting students to and from school including staff, bus maintenance and fuel costs
- **UTILITIES**—Electricity, phone services, waste disposal, and costs related to heating and cooling of facilities including natural gas and oil
- **COMMUNITY EDUCATION**—Coordination, publications and supervision of community-based programs including classes, sports activities, preschool and SPACE childcare program
- **FACILITY AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE**—Costs associated with custodial services and maintenance of all facilities, fields and grounds

Current **Technology Levy** dollars are used to fund computers for student use, classroom instructional technology and the District's technology network and infrastructure. Funds are used specifically for these purposes:

- **INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY**—Computers in classrooms and computer labs, teacher instructional technology including document cameras, projectors and audio equipment in elementary classrooms

NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE—Switches and cabling that connect school computers to the District's network, the purchase and installation of servers, and matching funds for a fiber optic cable grant that will connect all schools to internet services

BRIEFS

Facilities Task Force to review needs

When Federal stimulus dollars were made available to school districts by application, Washougal School District applied and was given an award to issue Federal bonds for immediate facility repair and renovation needs. Most districts approved for these funds have since decided to decline the offer because the regulations, which were developed after the initial offering, were financially risky. The silver lining in the process, however, resulted in a heightened awareness of facility repair and renovation needs. The Facility Task Force will be reviewing and prioritizing these needs. Facilities Task Force meetings will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the district office which is located at 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal. The schedule of meetings is as follows: February 18, March 18, April 22, May 20, and June 10, 2010. These meetings are open to the public.

ESTIMATED TAX BILLS FOR 2011-12 ON THE BALLOT			
PROPERTY VALUE	ESTIMATED TAX BILL FOR M & O LEVY (\$2.58/1,000)	ESTIMATED TAX BILL FOR TECH LEVY (\$.13/1,000)	ESTIMATED TAX BILL FOR BOTH LEVIES
\$150,000	\$387	\$19.50	\$406.50
\$200,000	\$516	\$26.00	\$542.00
\$250,000	\$645	\$32.50	\$677.50
\$300,000	\$774	\$39.00	\$813.00
\$350,000	\$903	\$45.50	\$948.50
\$400,000	\$1,032	\$52.00	\$1,084.00
\$450,000	\$1,161	\$58.50	\$1,219.50

PROPOSED LEVY AMOUNTS AND RATES				
YEAR	M AND O LEVY		TECHNOLOGY LEVY	
	AMOUNT	ESTIMATED RATE/\$1,000 ASSESSED VALUE	AMOUNT	ESTIMATED RATE/\$1,000 ASSESSED VALUE
2011	\$5,092,212	\$2.58	\$250,000	\$.13
2012	\$5,092,212	\$2.58	\$250,000	\$.13
2013	\$5,092,212	\$2.58	\$250,000	\$.13
2014	\$5,092,212	\$2.58	\$250,000	\$.13

Community Budget Task Force will review budget for 2010-2011 school year

School district budget development begins in January and extends through August each year. Community members have signed on to review and analyze issues this spring related to developing a balanced budget for the next school year. Community Budget Task Force meetings will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the district office which is located at 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal. The schedule of meetings is as follows: January 28, February 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, and June 17, 2010. These meetings are open to the public.

Schools and other work sites develop energy-savings plans

Clark Public Utilities and Bonneville Power Administration conducted an energy audit last spring of Washougal High, Cape Horn-Skye Elementary and Canyon Creek Middle schools. This month, the audit continues for the remaining schools, Gause and Hathaway elementary schools and Jemtegaard Middle School. The audit reports specify energy saving measures to be implemented at each site, and in some cases, Bonneville Power will reimburse 30% of the costs. In addition, the Washougal City Planning Commissioner, Pamela Tuite, initiated a partnership with the District and the Washington Green Schools Program, a state-wide program that supports energy efficiencies in schools. The District extends appreciation to Cheryl Baumgardner and Cathy Green, Washougal citizens serving as energy liaisons to the schools' green teams. Implementing energy efficiencies in heating and cooling controls has been the first step in the District-wide effort, and each site is developing its own unique commitment to an energy plan. It is anticipated that when fully implemented, the District will realize over a hundred thousand dollars in savings each year. As data is collected and analyzed, cost savings will be reported to the community. The City of Washougal is partnering with WSD in this effort.

East County Community Education goes green

East County Community Education will no longer mail its course catalog. The catalog will be sent home with students, posted online at washougal.k12.wa.us/districtinfo/communityed.htm or camas.wednet.edu/district/teaching_learning/community_ed.htm and available at your local library, as well as Community Education and Washougal and Camas District Offices. Call (360) 954-3838 for more information.

Washougal students write winning patriotism essays



The Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary recently presented awards to winners of the annual patriotism essay contest. Twenty-one students from Clark County received these distinguished awards. Washougal award winners shown in the photo with superintendent Teresa Baldwin are Karalynn Schmid, a senior at Washougal High School, Paige Moore, a sixth grader at Canyon Creek Middle School and Jacob Haas, a fourth grader at Hathaway Elementary School. The essays written by Jacob Haas and Paige Moore won first place and will move to the state level competition. Congratulations to these students, and many thanks to Bob and Gail Hitchcock of VFW Post 4278.

The Washougal School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender identity, age, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. This holds true for all district employment and educational programs. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer, Doug Bright, Director of Human Resources, and/or Section 504/ADA coordinator, Allan Fleck, Director of Special Education.

You're invited to the Washougal School Board meetings!

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the district board room, 4855 Evergreen Way.
January 26 • February 9 & 23 • March 9 & 23 • April 13 & 27

SUPERINTENDENT
Teresa Baldwin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Blaine Peterson, Chair
Ron Dinuis
Orlan Gessford
Thomas Huffman
Elaine Pfeifer

WASHOUGAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Washougal, WA 98671

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