

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEVY FACTS

Proposed San Juan Island School District Capital Projects and Technology Levy

On February 11, 2020 the San Juan Island School District will ask voters to re-authorize the capital projects and technology levy for four years. ***This levy provides funding for capital improvements, major facility repairs, and technology equipment, implementation and support.*** “Basic education funding” provided by the State of Washington does not provide the necessary funds for school district capital facility improvements or technology. Re-authorization of this levy ensures the continuing excellence of our school facilities and maintains the investment in our technology through funding....

- Re-route elementary school bus loading zone for enhance student safety
- Upgrade elementary school paved play area
- Upgrade the high school Science lab
- Repave the high school parking lot
- Remodel STEM Building for inclusion of Arts (STEAM)
- Install new bleachers in Turnbull Gym for increased safety
- Upgrade LED lighting district-wide
- Remodel middle school entryway for enhanced safety
- Upgrade the high school tennis courts
- Scheduled upgrades of educational and operational technology
- Provide essential staff training, support and professional development in technology

While the general fund pays for the daily operating expenses and minor repairs of our facilities, capital funds are required for major repairs, system replacements, and improvements of facilities, as well as educational delivery systems through technology.

Further, this capital levy continues to assure that a greater portion of the general fund is directed to sustaining high quality instruction and reasonable class sizes.

If approved, the capital projects and technology levy would reestablish the existing levy at the amount of \$1,353,750 each year for four years from 2021 through 2024.

Collection Years	Levy Amount	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Approximate Annual Cost for a Home Assessed at \$500,000
Levy rate- 2017	\$1,291,510	\$0.45	\$225
Levy rate- 2018	\$1,291,510	\$0.41	\$205
Levy rate- 2019	\$1,291,510	\$0.38	\$190
*Proposed Levy 2021	\$1,353,750	\$0.39	\$195
*Proposed Levy 2022	\$1,353,750	\$0.39	\$195
*Proposed Levy 2023	\$1,353,750	\$0.39	\$195
*Proposed Levy 2024	\$1,353,750	\$0.39	\$195

* **Voters approve a total fixed levy amount for each of the four years.** Estimates are based on property tax values provided by the San Juan County Assessor's Office. Some property owners may qualify for an exemption from levy property taxes if they are enrolled in the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons State Exemption Program. Criteria for enrollment are available at the County Assessor's Office.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEVY FACTS

Fact #1

On February 11, 2020 the San Juan Island School District will ask voters to reinstate the capital projects and technology levy for four years. This levy provides funding for critical capital improvements, major facility repairs, and technology equipment, implementation and support. This levy is essential to our schools. San Juan Island voters have supported our schools at the polls for decades.

Fact #2

This is not a new tax. School districts are authorized to file two levies. In 2018, voters approved an Educational Programs and Operations Levy that supports basic education and daily district operations. This Capital and Technology Levy request replaces the expiring 2016.

Fact #3

The levy rate has decreased. The Capital Committee consisted of parents, volunteers and staff. Taking care of the existing facilities is an economical long-term approach to fiscal responsibility. The proposed capital and technology projects list prioritizes district needs.

Fact #4

Local capital levy dollars make up the difference between what it costs to operate our schools and what the state funds. State basic education funding does not provide the necessary funds for school district capital facility improvements or technology. The school district applies for competitive grant funding but is still reliant on local levy support to

maintain the integrity of facilities and to fund technology systems.

Fact #5

The national Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) require a comprehensive K-12 aligned science curriculum. This levy provides funding for upgrades to the high school labs, which has previously never been upgraded, to fully align our K-12 science program and prepare students for a changing workforce.

Fact #6

Our schools require upgrades and modernization. Upcoming projects include elementary school bus loading zone safety, paving of the elementary school play area, middle school entrance safety, remodeling the STEM building for inclusion of Arts (STEAM), Turnbull Gym bleachers, and the tennis courts. **A complete list is available at www.sjisd.wednet.edu.**

Fact #7

Technology is essential. Technology improvements will include a computer replacement schedule for all the campuses, tech support and ongoing costs associated with instructional programs. Technology advances every day and education must be responsive to these advances. Our teachers must stay up-to-date with the skills and tools that will ensure our students have the knowledge necessary to compete in the workforce.

Fact #8

The capital levy is an investment in student success. The capital levy allows for a greater portion of

the general fund to be directed to instruction. San Juan Island School District students' graduation and college enrollment rates exceed the state averages, and each year our students receive state awards for academic achievement.

Fact #9

The district has been very intentional and very detailed in this capital and technology levy process and continues to work hard to ensure transparency. Our committees have included community representatives, school board directors, teachers and administrative staff. More importantly, we have a capital and technology implementation plan to ensure our students and teachers have an environment and the tools necessary for teaching and learning.

Fact #10

The entire community benefits from our school facilities. Each year over 50 user groups and thousands of children, adults, and senior citizens use our facilities for recreation, meetings and events during evenings, weekends and during school vacations. School facilities are community owned assets. This levy preserves & protects these assets for future generations.

If you have questions contact Superintendent Kari McVeigh
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