

Kittitas School District #403

Two Year General Fund

Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy

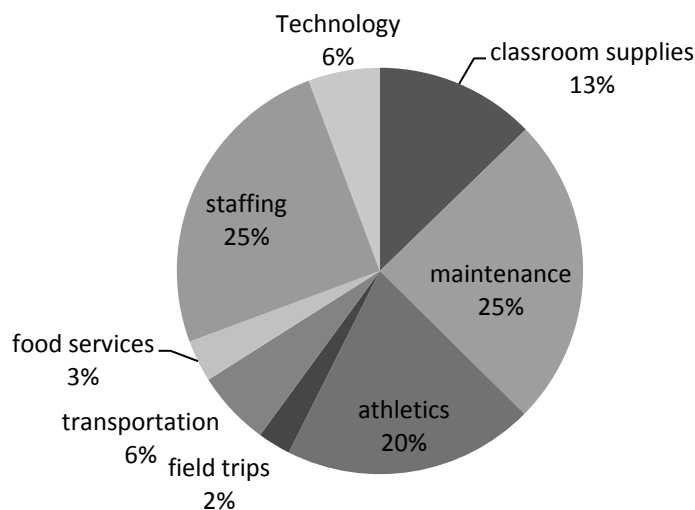
Election Date – Tuesday, February 14, 2012

All active registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail.

What school proposition will be on the ballot Tuesday, February 14, 2012? The proposition is a two-year replacement maintenance and operation levy, \$2.09 per thousand of assessed valuation to raise an amount of \$1,365,000 in 2013 and \$2.00 per thousand of assessed valuation to raise an amount of \$1,399,000 in 2014. **These rates are the lowest the Kittitas School District has experienced and we are \$151,435 below our levy authority.** This replacement levy will begin when the last levy expires at the end of 2012.

What will the levy provide? The purpose of this maintenance and operation levy is to help fund full-day kindergarten, classroom supplies and materials, library books, certificated and support personnel expenses, the technology program, food services, pupil transportation, athletics, maintenance and facilities costs, and utilities. The levy will allow the district to fund school activities at the present level.

How Each Levy Dollar Is Used



Doesn't the state fully fund education? No, the present state apportionment formula provides for only about 78% of the cost of operating the Kittitas School District. This special levy will fund about 22% of the district's operating budget. The pie chart above provides the breakdown of how the levy dollars are spent.

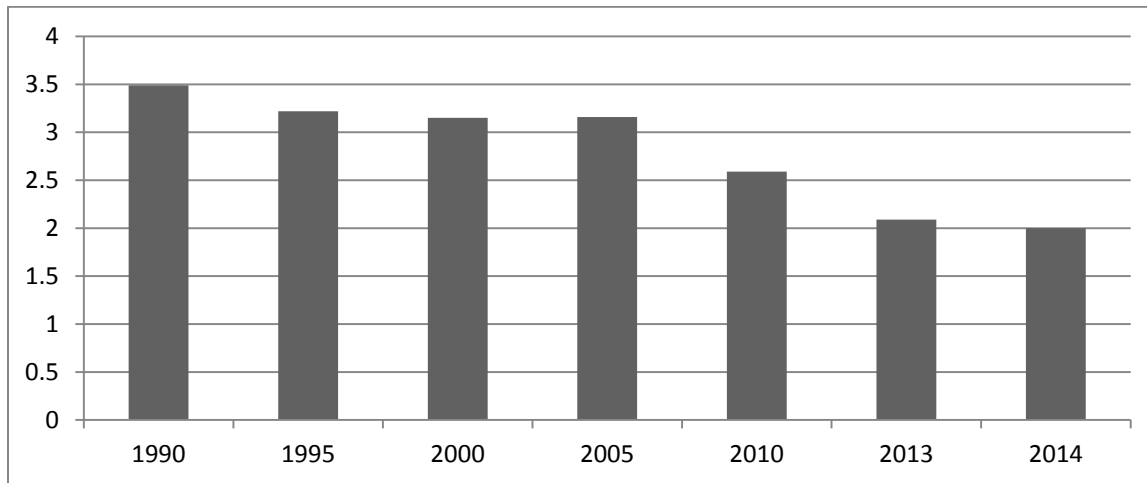
Is this levy "in addition to" the levy passed in 2010? No, that levy was for 2011 and 2012. This replacement levy continues when the last levy expires.

How much will this levy cost property owners?

The levy will be approximately \$2.09 per thousand of assessed valuation the first year, and \$2.00 the second year. For example, a home assessed at \$100,000 would be taxed \$209 in 2013 and \$200 in 2014.

Kittitas School District Levy History and Current Request

Rates/\$1,000



Historically, what have been our local school M&O levy rates? Levy rates have traditionally averaged over \$3 per thousand over the past twenty years. For example, the rate in 1990 was \$3.49, in 1995 it was \$3.22, in 2000 it was \$3.15, in 2005 it was \$3.16, and in 2010 it lowered to \$2.59. **The rates for 2013 and 2014 are the lowest rates the District has experienced.**

How has the Wild Horse Wind Farm affected the tax rates? The Wild Horse Wind Farm, owned by Puget Sound Energy, dramatically increased the overall assessed valuation of property within our district boundaries. The wind farm constitutes 25% of our total 2011 assessed valuation of \$610,968,901. This significant contribution to our valuation decreases the tax burden for local home owners and businesses.

What happens if the assessed valuation of property goes up? The special levy you will be voting on is for an amount of \$1,365,000 to be collected in 2013 and \$1,399,000 in 2014. Should the assessed valuation within the school district increase, the tax rate will decrease. The school district cannot collect more than the amount of the levy, \$1,365,000 the first year, and \$1,399,000 the second year.

Is there levy relief available for senior citizens with limited income? Yes, some retired or disabled citizens are eligible for full or partial exemptions. Information and applications are available from the county assessor's office.

Questions? Please contact Jessica Gleason at 968-4900, Board Chairman Patty Clerf at 968-4231, or District Superintendent Monty Sabin at 968-3115 or monty_sabin@ksd403.org.

Please Vote!

The County Auditor will mail out ballots on January 27, 2012.

Returned ballots must be postmarked by February 14, 2012.