



Southside School District
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Southside School Board has approved the April 24, 2018 Replacement of Expiring Educational Programs and Operations Levy

An all-mail-in election will be held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, for the Southside School District for the purpose of **replacing** the current maintenance and operations levy, set to expire on December 31, 2018.

Following the legislative session in 2017, the state changed how schools will be funded and levy amounts that can be collected. Maintenance and Operation Levies will now be called School Education Enrichment Levies.

This replacement levy would allow these key programs and necessary facility maintenance and operations to continue for the next four years.

Your levy dollars support educational programs; day-to-day operations; **maintains basic health, safety, and security**; and **on-going facility maintenance of Southside School District**.

Levy funds are also used for preventative maintenance and efficiencies in district operations. For example, buses were purchased to replace older fully depreciated buses. These new buses have 30 percent greater efficiency and they generate additional state depreciation revenue which prevented the need for a transportation levy. **We make investments to preserve our assets and maximize our available resources.**

Southside is a community facility and is a selected site for emergency housing purposes. It also has the fields available for emergency air lifts for our community members.

Changes to the State School Levy Funding.

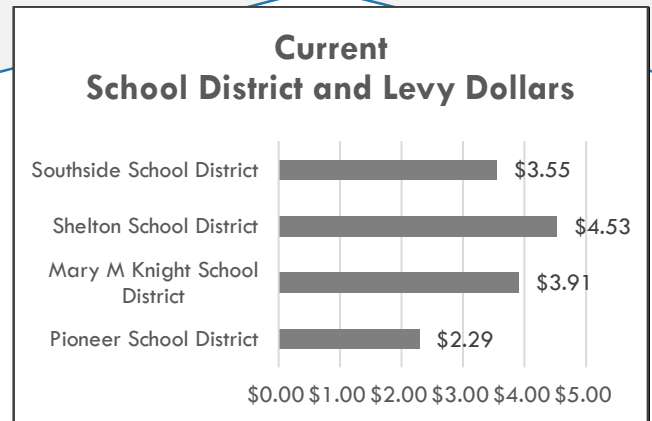
In July 2017 the state legislature made a decision to increase the amount of funding the state provides to schools and to reduce the amount of local taxes school districts can request and collect. This does change how school district receive funding, but does not change the need for local levies. The levy allows the District to continue essential programs which are not fully funded by the state. Money collected by the state goes into the state education fund, not directly distributed to Southside.

Tax amounts differ for each property.

Property owners may each pay a different amount of taxes because this is based off of the assessed value of the property. Southside can only collect the levy amount that has been approved by the voters.

How do neighboring school levies compare with Southside?

The chart below shows how the neighboring school levies compare with Southside. The operating rate is per 1000 for the districts listed.

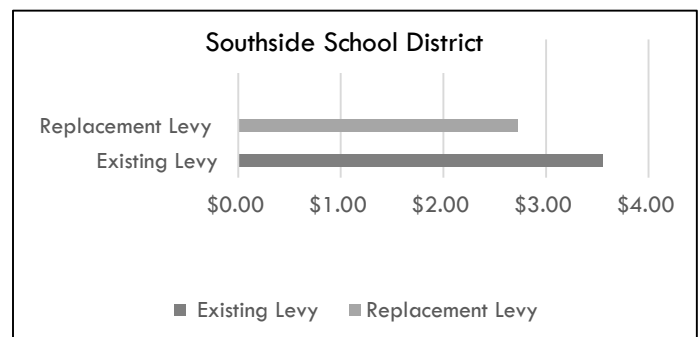


The Facts

If passed, this levy will not impose a new tax in addition to what is currently in place, but will replace the expired tax at a reduced rate.

The district is seeking a four-year School Education Enrichment Levy. The estimated annual tax rate to homeowners would be **\$2.73** per \$1,000 of assessed valuation for each of the four years. This levy will **replace** the current levy of **\$3.55** per \$1,000.

The levy that this proposed levy would replace is currently 26% of the district's operating budget for the 2017-18 school year. Should the levy fail, Southside will not only miss the 26% but will also not receive equalization funds from the state that the school district currently receives.



Questions and Answers:

What is a school education enrichment levy and what does it provide?

Enrichment levies are a funding source for basic education services and day-to-day operating expenses that are not fully paid for by the state such as:

- People including teachers, assistants, nurses, family/community liaison, etc.;
- Arts, Music, and Afterschool Opportunities;
- K-12 educational program support including professional development;
- Instructional materials and technology;
- Reasonable class sizes for all grades;
- Basic operations of buildings and grounds;
- Transportation;
- On-going maintenance of heating, ventilation, plumbing, lighting and electrical systems, playgrounds and playfields, alarm and sprinkler systems; and
- Emergency preparedness needs

Is this an additional levy or a replacement levy?

This is a **replacement** levy and will replace the current levy which expires Dec. 31, 2018.

When would the tax be collected?

Levy dollars would be collected during 2019-2022 tax years.

Do I qualify for levy exemptions?

Senior and disabled citizens may be eligible for an exemption from all or part of special levies. Call the Mason County Assessor's Office at 360-427-9670 ext. 567 for additional information

How can I register to vote?

There are several ways to register to vote including registration by mail, in person, and motor vehicle registration. Registration forms are available at the Mason County Elections Department, public library, schools, and other government offices. Forms are also on-line at:

www.secstate.wa.gov.voting/register.htm

You must register at least 30 days prior to an election. If registering by mail, your application must be postmarked by the 30th day cut off. If you miss the 30 day deadline, you may still sign up in person at the elections department, but no later than 15 days prior to the election.

Mail-in Ballots Only-Please vote by mail. Official ballots should be mailed to voters at least two weeks in advance. The deadline to postmark, or drop off your ballots at the county auditor's office is April 24, 2018.

Our District

The small Southside District has 215 students attend school each day knowing their community provides the kind of support necessary to educate their children in the best way possible within district means. As a result, Southside has been awarded both Academic Achievement Awards and School of Distinction Awards for the past 4 consecutive years. These awards are presented to the top 5% of schools in Washington State. We are one of only eleven schools to ever maintain this status for 4 years and even fewer have held it for 4 consecutive years. Southside is an amazing district because of the amount of support provided by our community, parents, staff, and students.

Southside School District recently completed a comprehensive Program Review which involves the state scrutinizing our funds provided by the state and federal government as well as ensuring legal compliance with current legislation and civil rights. Southside demonstrated a 100% compliance level in all parts of the review. Once again this is an exceptional accomplishment which demonstrates responsibility+ accountability on the part of Southside School District.

Southside levy supports the extra staff required to offer the afterschool program that most of our students and families utilize and enjoy, reduced class sizes, increased nurse time, a part-time family/community liaison, technology replacements, etc. Without the support from the levy we are facing a serious impact on the personnel, class sizes, and programs such as afterschool program. In addition, two areas that we would like to address with the proposed levy funds include examining the parking, lighting, and traffic flow for the school and student safety and updating our math curriculum. Both of these are very important.

Beside the levy, Southside community members have come together to build an amazing playground for students and our community, volunteer in classrooms, and provide a wide variety of learning field trips and assemblies for the Southside students. A strong community supports strong schools and strong schools make a strong community.

Contact information

If you have any questions regarding the Replacement levy feel free to contact:

Doris Bolender, Principal/Superintendent.
360.426.8437

