



Making Connections

TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

January/February 2012

Special Edition

HOQUIAM SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 28

Upcoming M & O Levy Information

The February 14, 2012 Maintenance and Operations Levy provides support for education not fully funded by the State. The levy produces revenue to support the funding of teaching and instruction, maintenance, technology, athletics, food service, transportation, and much more.

This replacement levy will provide \$2,721,703 in 2013 and \$2,721,703 in 2014 (This is the same collection amount as it has been in 2010 and 2011). These funds help Hoquiam bridge the gap between state funding and current programs being provided to students. Activities supported by the M & O Levy include, but are not limited to the following:

Teaching and Learning

- Additional classroom and special program teachers not funded through the state's basic allocation. These include: Highly Capable and electives
- Professional development to support school improvement efforts
- Textbooks and teaching materials

- Technology: personnel, software and hardware
- Counselors

Extra Curricular and Co-Curricular Programs

- After school activities such as music and clubs
- Sports
- Transportation for athletics

Facilities and Operations Support

- Custodial
- Maintenance and Grounds
- Food Services
- Data Processing Services

Transportation

- Transportation needs not met by the state

Cost to Taxpayers

The Maintenance and Operations Levy is a *replacement* of the current levy. 15% of the Hoquiam School District's revenue is provided by this tax. The State provides an additional 8%, or approximately \$1,429,429 per year in Levy Equalization upon voter approval of the M & O. This equals 23% of Hoquiam School District's budget, or approximately \$4.15 million per year.

Year	Proposed Amount to be Collected	Approximate Rate Per \$1000 of Assessed Value
2013	\$2,721,703	\$4.09
2014	\$2,721,703	\$4.08



The State Will Help!

Local Effort Assistance (LEA) is a program provided by Washington State that helps school districts located in areas that are economically disadvantaged. LEA equalizes opportunities for students in Hoquiam to those students in more property rich areas. Hoquiam qualifies for this program because the total assessed property value for Hoquiam falls below the state average. For Hoquiam, LEA amounts to approximately \$1,429,429 each year a levy is authorized by the voters. We only receive this LEA when an M & O Levy is approved.

Examples Follow:

Assessed Value of Property	Current M & O Tax	Approximate Future Tax	
		2013	2014
\$70,000	287.70	286.30	285.60
\$80,000	328.80	327.20	326.40
\$125,000	513.75	511.25	510.00
\$150,000	616.50	613.50	612.00

This is a replacement tax and not a new tax!!!!

**CAR-RT. SORT
POSTAL CUSTOMER**

What is a Maintenance and Operations Levy?

A tax paid by property owners for maintenance and operations of local school districts, through a levy which is approved by voters and based upon local property values. Property owners pay a set amount for each \$1,000 of their property values. Once approved by voters, levy collection amounts cannot be increased.

Why is the local school levy on the ballot for replacement?

The local levy provides the portion of Hoquiam’s educational programs and support for those programs not paid for or fully funded by the state. The district must go back to the voters periodically for approval of the local levy. State law limits the school district in the amount of local funding it can ask for.

Isn’t basic education funded by the State?

The Hoquiam School District has made a commitment to helping every student succeed, building on the goals established by the Board of Directors and the Strategic Plan. Unfortunately, the definition of “basic education” established by the state legislature is extremely limited, and many of the programs students need and deserve are not included in this definition. As a result, the operating levy is needed to support many crucial programs like hiring and training teachers; providing textbooks and other instructional materials; and support after school activities including music, drama, sports and transportation for athletics.

Is this a new tax?

Although this isn’t a new tax, the rate is estimated to change. (See page 1 for new estimated tax rates). This tax will replace the current levy tax approved by voters in 2010. The current two-year levy for Hoquiam School District will run out at the end of 2012.

If the assessed value of my house increases, does the district get more money?

No, the district doesn’t get any additional money if your house value increases. The total collection amount remains the same. The tax rate for individuals may change, depending upon the reevaluation timeline.

Why is a school levy needed?

The maintenance and operations levy is a replacement of the current levy. 15% of the Hoquiam School District’s revenue is provided by these funds, with an additional 8% provided by the state upon taxpayer approval of the M & O. This is only a replacement levy and not a new tax.

What is the cost of the local levy for taxpayers?

The current tax rate for Hoquiam is \$4.11 per \$1,000

Collection Year	Estimated Amount
2013	\$4.09
2014	\$4.08

How are schools funded?

15%.....Local Taxes: Revenues from a Maintenance and Operation Levy.

10%.....Local Non Tax & Other: Includes summer school tuition, lunch money, interest income, rental income and donations.

52%.....State – General Purpose: Funds basic education and is received from the state on a per student basis.

10%..... State – Special Purpose: Funds categorical programs including transportation, highly capable, bilingual and Learning Assistance Program (LAP).

13%.....Federal Funds: Includes Title I (Remediation – math and reading, Title II, food service (free and reduced lunch), special education, stimulus and other grants.

For More Information

If you would like more information regarding the M & O Levy please contact: Superintendent Mike Parker, at 538-8205 or Assistant Superintendent, Shannon Webster at 538-8206 or go to the district web site – Hoquiam.net

Tax Exemption Information

If you are a senior citizen or a disabled person, you may qualify for a tax exemption if you meet the following:

- Your total household gross income cannot exceed \$40,000 and the home for which you are filing for a tax exemption is your principal place of residence; and
1. You are at least 60 years of age on December 31; or
 2. You are retired because of a physical disability; or
 3. You are a widow/widower at least 57 years of age whose spouse had an approved exemption on file with the Assessor at the time of death.

Please call the County Assessor’s office for additional information 360-249-4121.



Hoquiam Public Schools

Making Connections, The Hoquiam School District newsletter, is published on a regular basis to keep the community informed about our children’s education.

Newsletter comments and suggestions should be directed to Mike Parker, Superintendent, 538-8200.

Hoquiam Board of Directors: Todd Gwinn, President; Chris Eide, Vice President; Hoki Moir, Mike Cummings, Dave Westby

Superintendent: Mike Parker

Assistant Superintendent: Shannon Webster

Editor: Robyn Sweet-Smith