



Mary Walker School District

***Levy Continuation
For
Maintenance & Operations***

***All mail-in election, to be held
Tues., February 12, 2013***

Mary Walker School District No. 207

SPRINGDALE PRESCHOOL
SPRINGDALE ELEMENTARY
SPRINGDALE MIDDLE SCHOOL
MARY WALKER HIGH SCHOOL
MARY WALKER ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL
MARY WALKER PARENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
DEC-MARY WALKER PARENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
SPRINGDALE ACADEMY

DISTRICT OFFICE:

P.O. BOX 159 ~ 500 N. 4TH STREET
SPRINGDALE, WA 99173-0159
KEVIN JACKA, SUPERINTENDENT
(509) 258-4534

JUST THE FAQs*, PLEASE * *FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

Why does the district need a levy?

As state and federal support for school operations continues to shrink, and as costs for providing essential services and programs continue to rise, the importance of local support becomes even greater. Currently, state funding meets only 66% of our district's budget, federal funding meets 15% of the budget levy and levy equalization meets 12% of the budget, and local/other meets 7%. Without levy funding, our district would fall far short of the funding needed to maintain our current programs.

Where does the levy money go?

Levy funds help pay for some of the fundamental tools of our strong educational program. These items include staffing, teaching supplies, textbooks, technology and extra-curricular programs. They can also help cover the costs of increased utilities, fuel, food services and maintenance.

Is there a tax break for senior citizens or disabled citizens?

Yes, senior citizens may qualify for tax exemptions from levies and bond taxes based on household income. Exemptions may also be granted for disabled individuals. For more information, contact the Stevens County Assessor's Office (509-684-6161).

How can citizens register to vote?

Contact the Stevens County Assessors Office for more information. They can be reached via the internet (www.co.stevens.wa.us/assessor), by e-mail (elections@co.stevens.wa.us), by phone (509-684-6161), or in person (215 S. Oak Street, Colville).

What happens if a levy doesn't pass?

Because the district cannot function at acceptable levels only on funding provided by the state, a second levy would have to be offered later in that year. In the meantime, we could run the risk of losing additional levy equalization money from the state. Even more importantly would be the need to discontinue some of our district's most successful programs and activities.

Why is passing the levy important if I don't have kids in school?

A community's school benefits more than just the students who attend them and the parents who send them here. Strong schools create

environments for young people to learn and grow, and to become valuable contributing members of their community throughout their lives. Investing in the future of children through support of our school creates lasting rewards for the entire community. Whether you have children in classes or not, you and the entire community benefit from a strong school system. An investment in the children of today molds the workers, citizens and leaders of tomorrow and is an investment that is important to everyone.

What is Levy Equalization?

Levy equalization is a method used by our state to provide equity between school districts located in property rich areas and districts located in property low areas. The state's budget office interpretation is "Since some school districts have lower property values than other local school district levy rates vary. The lower the property values, the higher the levy rates tend to be. The state 'equalizes' local funds by providing matching state funds for school districts with higher than average levy rates." Mary Walker School District receives about \$417,814 in levy equalization, about 7% of the annual operating budget. Local taxpayers fund the remaining 4% (about \$225,000), for a total levy contribution of \$642,814 to the district's operating budget.



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS LEVY USES

Current M&O Levy dollars are used to fully fund or supplement state funds for the following programs, materials and services:

Extra-Curricular

Coaches, athletic program transportation, referees, tournaments, advisors, state, national and local competitions, uniforms and gear.

Drama Productions

Drama and music productions such as plays and concerts, K12 music program, including instructor.

Textbooks

Textbooks and instructional materials at all grade levels, AP program and curriculum, Biomed program and curriculum, library books, magazines and newspapers used by students.

School Safety

K12 security system, the automated parent notification system, and drug and alcohol intervention program.

Student Support Programs

English Language Learning program, the student information system, Information Technology personnel, and additional costs for breakfast and lunch programs.

Additional Special Education

Paraprofessional help for special needs children, adaptive equipment needed for children with special needs, textbooks and materials for special education programs. The state only covers 65-70% of our Special Education program.

Professional Development

Workshops, in-service days, and related training for classified, teachers, principals and board members.

Non-State Funded Transportation

Costs associated with transporting students to and from school, including staff, bus maintenance and fuel costs.

Facility & Grounds Maintenance

Costs associated with custodial services and maintenance of all facilities, fields and grounds, and energy improvements.