

GRANITE FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 11: School Levy Election

**V
O
T
E**

*...on or
before...*

FEB. 11

TWO LEVIES ON BALLOT:

(1) Replacement School Programs and Operation Levy

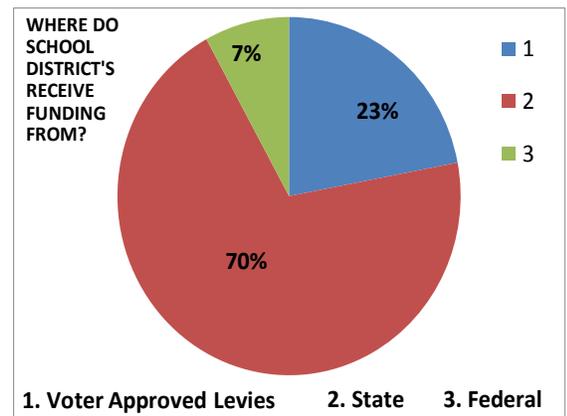
- Textbooks and library books
- School bus transportation
- Staff support such as class advisors, academic team advisors, and coaches salaries
- Large music instruments and athletic equipment
- Utilities (heat, lights) and insurance
- Upkeep and maintenance of all facilities and grounds

(2) Replacement Technology & School Improvements Levy

- Technology for student learning including computer hardware, software, applications and licensing
- Large maintenance repairs such as painting a school or a new roof

HOW MUCH FUNDING COMES FROM THE LEVIES?

The levies represent 23% of the daily operating budget for the school district. State and federal funds supply the rest.



--QUICK-- FACTS

Ballots can be mailed as soon as you receive them, but must be mailed on or before February 11.

Senior citizens and disabled people qualify for school tax exemptions. If you are 62 or older, or disabled, and your household income is limited, call the Snohomish County Auditor at 425.388.3433 to see if you qualify.

Remember, levies represent 23% of the district's daily operating budget for day-to-day school operations.

For more information:
call 360.691.7717

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1 How much will the levies cost? The district is not asking for more money. This is not a new tax. The School Board kept the levy amount the same, so the out-of-pocket expense for tax payers, will be approximately the same amount they currently pay. If passed, the levies will replace the levies that expire this December 31, 2014.

2 Are the levies a new tax? No. Levies are like magazine subscriptions that expire and need to be "renewed" every few years. The current levies expire December 2014. The levies will collect funds in 2015-2018 This is not a new tax, it is a replacement of the existing levies. Unless the voters approve these levies, these funds will no longer be available for schools.

3 Why do we need levies? The state does not fully fund basic education, so school districts ask local voters to help pay for such things as textbooks, transportation costs, technology for student learning, and basic utilities (such as heat and lights).

4 Do my taxes decrease if more people move into the district? Yes. As the population of Granite Falls increases, the cost of school taxes to each homeowner decreases. The amount collected by the district cannot change, so as more people move into our area, individual cost decreases (e.g. if you need \$10 and have 10 people you would need \$1 from each person. 20 people would make it 50 cents per person).

5 If my property/assessed value goes up, do schools get more money? No. Voters are asked to fund a fixed dollar amount. That amount is spread evenly across all taxpayers in the district, based on the total assessed valuation of the district. The total amount the district receives does not change when property values change.

6 Why have separate levies? By separating the levies (instead of having one levy), the state will allow the District to keep approximately \$50,000, which is state funding from the sale of timber within our District. If we combined the levies into one, we would lose that extra money.

**BALLOTS MUST BE POSTMARKED
ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 11**