



Local Option Tax Levy Questions & Answers

Why a Local Option Levy replacement?

This levy would renew the five-year Local Option Levy approved by voters in 1999. It also includes a rate increase of no more than \$0.24 per thousand dollars assessed value. Proceeds from the current levy provide about \$1.4 million a year to support current educational programs and services. The additional revenue from the increase (about \$365,000 per year) would be dedicated to the purchase of textbooks and instructional materials.

Why would the increase in revenues be used for textbooks and instructional materials?

Many classrooms in the district do not have enough textbooks for every student. On the average, textbooks are 14 years old, with some more than 30 years old. If this levy were approved, the Corvallis School Board plans to return to the annual standard state textbook adoption cycle and replace all old texts.

How much will I have to pay?

Since the passage of Measure 50 in 1997, the amount each property owner would pay for local option tax levies varies. This school district levy would cost a maximum of \$1.00 per \$1,000 assessed value. For more information, check the Corvallis District website at www.csd509j.net.

How was the money used from the last local option levy in 1999?

The money from the 1999 tax levy was used to help fill holes created by several million dollars in reductions at the service level in the district over the past eight years. It provided up to \$1.4 million per year for the last five years for maintenance of buildings. This freed up other funds to use for educational programs and services.

We just passed a bond measure in 2002. Why is the district asking for more money?

According to state law, the bond measure passed in 2002 can only be used for capital (facilities) improvements—and is being used to address school needs such as seismic safety issues, new roofs, upgrades of heating and ventilation systems, Americans with Disabilities Act requirements, and water quality issues. The new Linus Pauling Middle School building, which opened this fall, and the new Corvallis High School building, tentatively ready for students in December 2005, were both built from these bond measure funds. The 2004 Local Option will be used to continue to support educational programs and buy textbooks and instructional materials.

What kind of job is the district doing with the money it has?

Over the past 13 years the district has actively worked to reduce costs. For example, in 2002, 509J closed three schools to decrease administrative and operating costs. Since 1990, the maintenance budget was cut by 48 percent, and administrative positions were reduced by 38 percent. Through careful monitoring and equipment upgrades, the district has saved approximately \$300,000 per year in energy costs over the past several years. Last spring a task force of business people reviewed the district's administrative costs and recommended several changes that are part of this year's budget. Thanks to the careful use of resources and the strong support of community members, the district can celebrate the many accomplishments of our students. Our high school dropout rates are among the lowest in the state. Our schools continue to outperform state test score averages. Our students continue to win state and national awards in areas such as robotics, orchestra, Destination ImagiNation, and the Knowledge Master Open.

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