



Blaine School District



Bond & Levy INFORMATION

Blaine School District has two local funding measures on the Special Election ballot this February:

PROPOSITION 1

Levies are for Learning: Replacement EP&O Levy



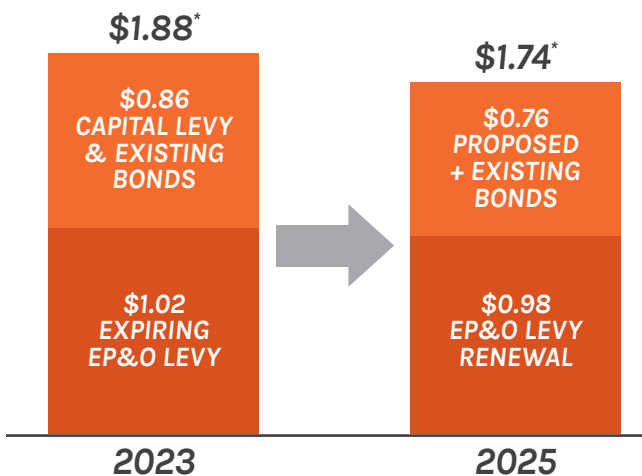
Our Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy supports learning and educational programs, services, and staff that are underfunded by the state (formerly called M&O levy).

PROPOSITION 2

Bonds are for Building: Capital Bond



The proposed \$70 million capital bond would fund updates to school and school use facilities that would support all students and the greater community. It would be paid off over 25 years.



Tax rates are projected to be lower than in 2023!

Through careful planning and strategic timing, the combined bond and the levy tax rates are estimated to be **lower than 2023 rates**, while making major updates across the district. That's because the proposed bond, if passed, would replace an expiring capital levy and other existing bonds.

*Tax rates are per \$1,000 assessed property value. 2023 rates are actual, 2025 rates are estimates.

[Learn more details inside →](#)



PROPOSITION 1:

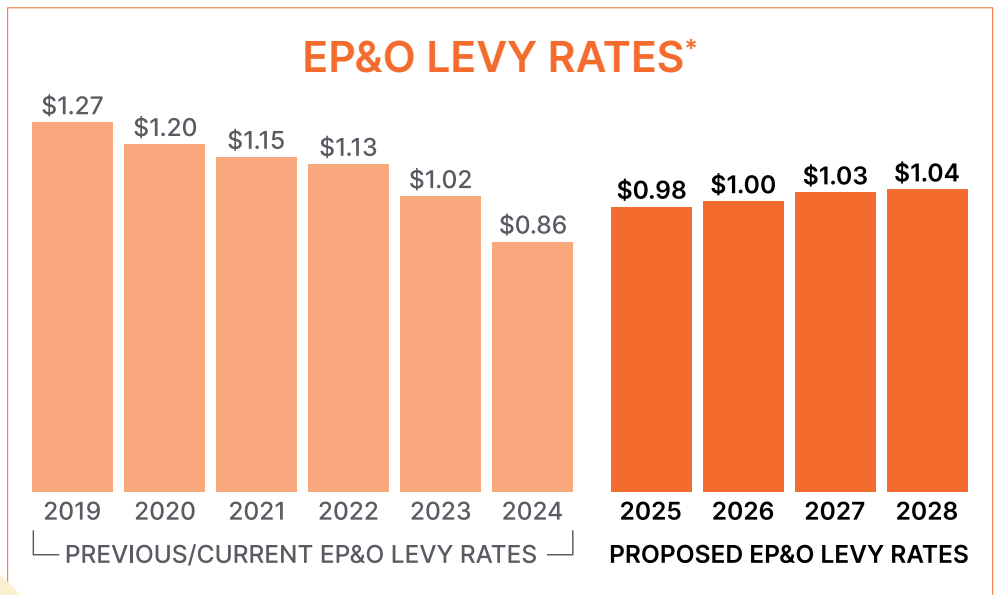
Levies are for Learning.

ABOUT THE LEVY

The Replacement Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy is used to pay for student programs, services, and staffing not fully funded by the state. In fact, **17% of our current budget comes from the existing local EP&O Levy, which equates to approximately \$7M of revenue in support of student learning.** The current levy ends in 2024. The February 13, 2024 levy replaces it, and will cover 2025 through 2028.

In Blaine schools, levy dollars help support:

- Student transportation
- Food service
- Extracurricular activities, such as athletics, band, choir, and drama
- Staff (both certificated and classified)
- Substitute teachers
- Staff costs, such as compensation and benefits (beyond what the state provides funding for)
- Expanded curriculum supplies and subscriptions
- Utilities, like water and electricity
- Updates to software
- State-required programs and services that are underfunded by the state



DID YOU KNOW?

17% of our budget comes from the local EP&O Levy.

STATE & FEDERAL FUNDING

17% EP&O LEVY

COST FOR THE AVERAGE HOMEOWNER

In 2025, at \$0.98 per \$1,000, Blaine homeowners with a home valued at \$500K would pay \$490 for the proposed EP&O levy*. The cost per year will stay around \$500 through 2028, according to projections.



*Tax rates are per \$1,000 assessed property value. Tax rate projection calculations based on 2024 property valuation inflated annually by 2%.



PROPOSITION 2: Bonds are for Building.

ABOUT THE BOND

Blaine School District is asking voters to consider a bond proposal to fund updates to school facilities that would benefit all students across the district and the community. Our Facilities Advisory Committee met monthly from February–July 2023 to evaluate the district's greatest facilities needs. Their analysis led to the recommendation of a bond to fund:*



Pipeline Fields Updates

→ Addition of turf, batting cages, running water, and restrooms, which would mean less maintenance for facilities staff



Point Roberts Primary School Updates

→ Playground improvements and the addition of lighting for safety, security, and supervision



Blaine Middle School Updates

→ Replacement of aging and outdated middle school instructional spaces, as well as updates to the Performing Arts Center (PAC).



Birch Bay School Designs

→ Engagement of surveyors and architects to develop preliminary designs for a new elementary school in Birch Bay**

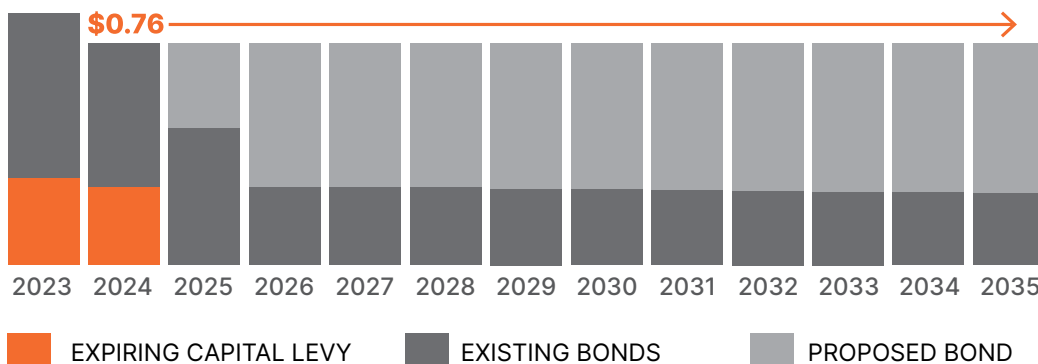


Electrical/Mechanical System Updates

→ Replacement of electrical and mechanical systems in buildings across campus, including air quality/condition improvements



CAPITAL LEVY & BOND RATES*



Learn more at:
blainesd.org

PLEASE
VOTE BY
FEB 13

*Construction costs can vary due to many factors. Our goal is to address all outlined needs with the \$70M bond. Items unable to be completed due to cost escalation will be considered for future measures.

**We have the funds set aside already for the purchase of land and are currently evaluating location/land options.

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The proposed \$70 million capital bond would fund updates to school and school use facilities that would support all students and the greater community. It would be paid off over 25 years.

If approved, tax rates would be **LOWER** than in 2023.



Learn more details about these two school funding measures inside.



PLEASE
VOTE BY
FEB 13

Ballots will arrive in the mail around January 27.

Tax exemptions may be available for senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those living with a fixed income. Contact the Whatcom County Assessor's Office for more information: 360-778-5000 • www.whatcomcounty.us/3406/Exemptions-Tax-Relief