



ANACORTES SCHOOL DISTRICT

2010 REPLACEMENT MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS LEVY

Voter's Guide

January 2010

4-YEAR RENEWAL REQUEST:

- \$6.82 million per year
- This is a *replacement* levy request; not a new tax
- Levy request is *less* than the voter approved amounts for 2009 and 2010
- This is a replacement **M&O** Levy request; it is *NOT* a *construction bond*

IMPORTANT DATES:

- **Jan 22:** Ballots mailed to registered voters
- **Feb 9:** Ballots must be returned to Skagit County or dropped by 8pm in the Ballot Drop Box located behind the Anacortes Public Library on 9th Street

Contact Information:

Phone: 293-1200
Email: cborgen@asd103.org
Website: www.asd103.org

Dear Anacortes School District Residents,

The Anacortes School District is asking voters to renew a 4-year replacement levy this upcoming February 9th. **This is not a new or higher tax.** We are asking voters to renew an expiring tax. In fact, rates are projected to go down for individual taxpayers.



This is a replacement M&O Levy request which supports the annual cost of running our schools; it is **not a construction bond** request which is used to build or replace school buildings.

- Currently 99.8% of Washington students are educated with local levy dollars
- 26% of the Anacortes School District day to day operating budget comes from local levy dollars
- Examples of what levy dollars pay for are textbooks, teaching staff, technology, science programs, transportation, smaller class sizes, and state/federal unfunded mandates

Over the past year, the Anacortes School District Budget was cut by over \$2 million dollars due to the state budget deficit and declining enrollment. This has resulted in a greater share of local levy dollars paying for staff and instructional support than in the past.

This voter's guide provides additional details on how your tax dollars are spent. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 293-1200, or by email at cborgen@asd103.org.

Sincerely,
Chris Borgen
Superintendent Anacortes Schools

Q & A

Q Is the Anacortes School District asking voters to approve a new tax?

A No. The school district is asking voters to *renew an expiring tax*. In Washington, school levies are limited to a 4-year period, after which they must be renewed. This should result in a decrease each year in the school taxes paid by the average homeowner (see table on right). Impact on individual taxpayers will vary.

Q Will school levy taxes be going up?

A No. The proposal going before the voters projects that the school portion of the property tax bills will decrease each year. The total collection amount is constant and cannot go above voter approved amounts for the four years. With new commercial and residential construction that takes place each year, existing taxpayer's share of the total approved amount will decline.

Q What is the difference between a levy and a bond?

A Bond money and levy money are for two completely different purposes. School bonds are used to build or replace school buildings and major equipment. School levies support the annual cost of running our schools. The school district cannot use bond funds for daily operations. **This request is not a bond.**

Q Why do we have school levies?

A Local school (M&O) Maintenance and Operations levies provide funding to virtually all Washington school students. Currently 99.8% of Washington state school children are educated with local levy funding. Twenty-six percent of the Anacortes School District day to day operating budget comes from local levy dollars. Examples of what levy dollars pay for are textbooks, teaching staff, technology, science programs, transportation, smaller class sizes, and state/federal unfunded mandates. Since more than 80% of the school budget is for staff, funding decreases can quickly correlate to an increase in class sizes.

Q How have the school budget cuts affected this levy renewal request?

A Over the past year, the Anacortes School District budget was cut by more than \$2 million due to the state budget deficit and declining enrollment. This has resulted in a greater share of local levy dollars paying for staff and instructional support than in the past. There were program cuts made in order to balance our budget, and activity and athletic user fees were significantly increased. Anacortes principals volunteered reductions in their compensation, and there are no cost of living increases for any district employees. Administrator positions have been reduced by 12% over the last two years. Overall, 33 positions were eliminated.

Q What are the sources of Anacortes School District's funding?

A Education funding for Washington public schools comes primarily from three main sources: the state, local levy dollars, and the federal government. However, the Anacortes School District continues to solicit funding outside of local and state taxes. Our district has been proactive for years seeking out grants and additional funding to support our students. The Gates Foundation grant for early childhood education and the Seattle Foundation grant for science are two recent examples. Parents are seeing increased student fees for activities and sports allowing us to continue offering these programs. Service clubs, local businesses, and community philanthropists have also contributed generously to both students and programs within our district.

Want More Information?

You can learn more by logging on to the Anacortes School District website:
www.asd103.org

Questions or concerns?

Please contact
Superintendent, Chris Borgen
Phone: 293-1200
Email: cborgen@asd103.org

THE BOTTOM LINE FOR ANACORTES SCHOOL DISTRICT VOTERS

- Four year *renewal* request - \$6.82 million each year
- This is a *replacement* levy request, not a new tax
- This is a replacement M&O Levy request, *not a construction bond* request

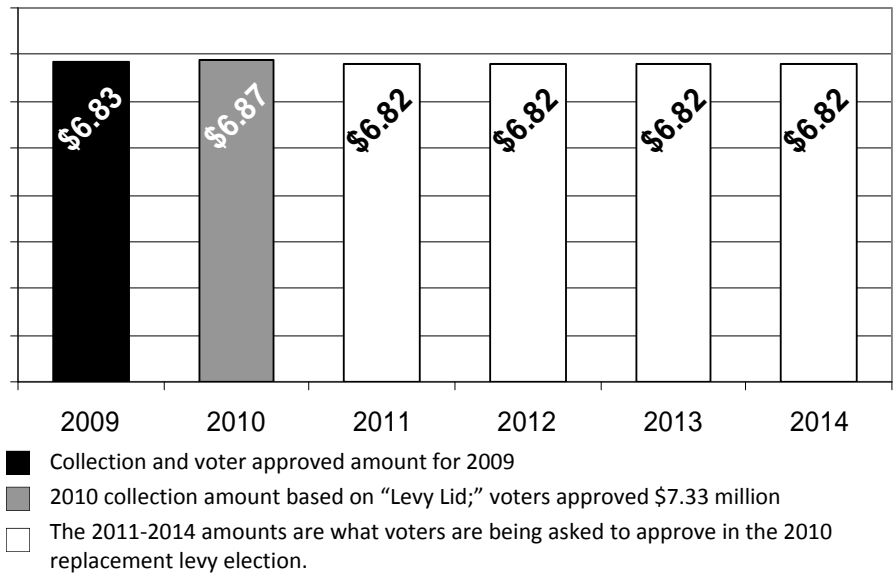
Tax Year	Projected Levy Rate	Home Assessed Value	Projected Levy Tax	Projected % Change from Prior Year
2011	\$1.39	\$300,000	\$417.81	↓ -2.3%
2012	\$1.36	\$300,000	\$409.45	↓ -2.0%
2013	\$1.33	\$300,000	\$399.45	↓ -2.4%
2014	\$1.29	\$300,000	\$388.09	↓ -2.8%

These projections are based on no changes in existing home assessed values beyond 2010. Any increases in existing home assessed values will cause the rate to decline further.

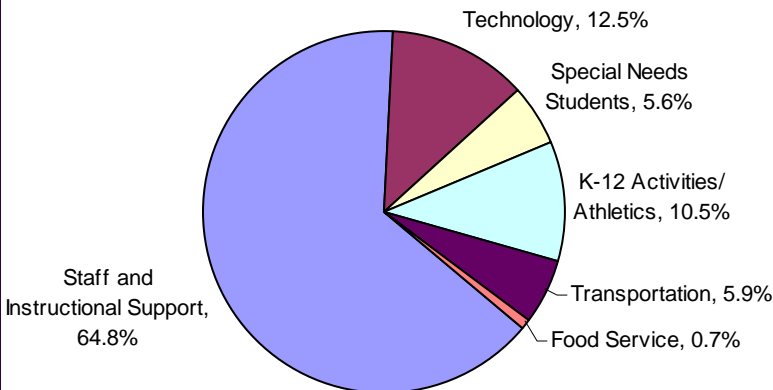
M&O SCHOOL LEVY HISTORY & CURRENT REQUEST

Why is the school district asking for less money?

Levy collections are limited under state law by a formula based on federal and state funding received in the prior two school years. This is often referred to as a "levy lid." Given recent reductions in funding sources, and future district projections, the 2011-2014 replacement levy request is anticipated to be at or near these limits.



WHAT LOCAL VOTER-APPROVED LEVY DOLLARS PAY FOR



Source: 2009-2010 ASD Budget

STAFF AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT (64.8%): Additional teachers to improve student achievement, reduce class sizes, new textbooks, teacher training, gifted student and advanced placement classes, counseling, science, art and music teachers; other staff from unfunded state/federal mandates

TECHNOLOGY (12.5%): Classroom computers, current software and support staff

SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS (5.6%): Cost to implement unfunded state and federal special education mandates; additional help for students not meeting standards

K-12 ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS (10.5%): Music, arts, drama programs, athletics, transportation to/from events

TRANSPORTATION (5.9%): Bus repairs, maintenance & operations



ANACORTES SCHOOL DISTRICT

2010 REPLACEMENT MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS LEVY

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Anacortes, WA
Permit No. 28

From

Anacortes School
District
2200 M. Avenue
Anacortes, WA 98221

ECRWSS Postal Customer
Anacortes, WA
98221

Senior Citizen or Disabled Exemption:

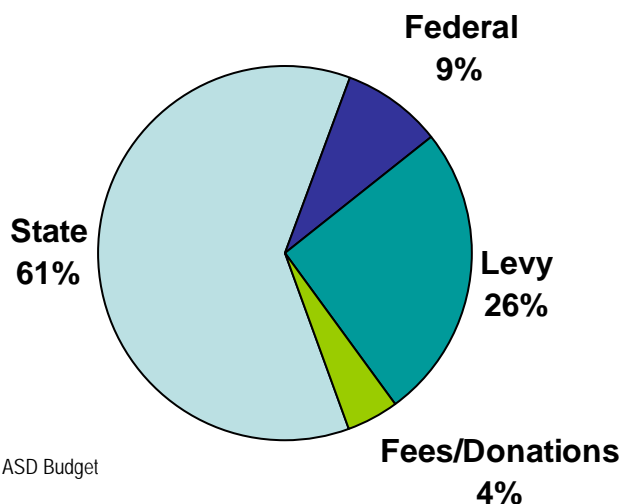
Citizens who are 61 or older or disabled may qualify for a school levy exemption. For more information, call the Skagit County Assessor's Office at 360-336-9370

Voter Registration, Change of Address, Lost Ballot?

If any of these apply to you, please contact the Skagit County Auditor's Election Office at 360-336-9305

HOW ANACORTES EDUCATION IS FUNDED

- Education funding for Washington public schools comes from three main sources: the state, local levy dollars, and the federal government
- Today 99.8% of Washington students are educated with local levy dollars
- 26% of the Anacortes School District day to day operating budget comes from local levy dollars



Source: 2009-2010 ASD Budget