



On February 9, 2010 the San Juan Island School District will have the renewal of its 4 year maintenance and operations levy on the ballot. **These levy funds comprise nearly 20% of the District's \$8.97 million annual general fund operating budget.** "Basic Education Funding" provided by the State of Washington is not sufficient to fully fund our District's programs. Renewal of this levy sustains the continuing excellence of our instructional and co-curricular programs through funding....

- teaching positions to ensure reasonable class sizes and comprehensive student schedules
- staffing for music, visual arts, and libraries
- program options such as Advanced Placement, Vocational and community-based courses, online classes and alternative options
- current transportation levels

SJISD's levy authorization comprises nearly 20% of our annual budget. Proposed below are the levy amounts required to sustain existing programs and services in our district during the next four school years.

Collection Years	Levy Amount	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1000 Assessed Value	Approximate Annual Cost for a Home Assessed at \$400,000
Current 2010	\$2,140,000	\$0.58	\$232
2011	\$2,350,000	\$0.66	\$264
2012	\$2,590,000	\$0.71	\$284
2013	\$2,850,000	\$0.77	\$308
2014	\$3,140,000	\$0.84	\$336

Some property owners may qualify for an exemption from levy property taxes if they are enrolled in the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Exemption Program. Criteria for enrollment are available from the County Assessor's Office.

Voters approve a fixed dollar amount for each year of the levy. The District receives no additional money when assessed property values increase.

The purpose of the renewal of our maintenance and operations levy is to sustain our instructional programs.

Maintenance and Operations Levy Renewal Facts....

Fact #1

On February 9, San Juan voters will be asked to renew our operations levy which expires in 2010. Nearly 20% of the District's budget is provided by our local community. If we did not renew the levy the district would lose almost 1/5th of its funding. The good news is that San Juan voters have supported their schools at the polls for decades.

Fact #2

This is not a new tax! In February of 2006 voters replaced an expiring M&O levy with a four-year levy that is in effect through 2010. Now it is time to renew the M&O levy for the next four years.

Fact #3

When the total assessed value for San Juan Island goes up, the actual tax rate for the school levy is reduced. Voters approve a fixed dollar amount for each year of the levy. The District receives no additional money when assessed property values increase.

Fact #4

Local levy dollars make up the difference between what it costs to operate the schools and what the state pays. SJISD, similar to most school districts in the state, levies local support to sustain excellence in our programs.

Fact #5

Maintenance and operations levy dollars support teaching and learning. These M&O levy dollars flow directly to our classrooms providing additional teachers and instructional staff. M&O levy funds support reasonable class sizes, additional learning opportunities, and non-athletic co-curricular programs for our students.

Fact #6

The maintenance and operations levy has been a important investment in student success. Students in our district score academically in the top 25% in the state and gain entrance to top colleges and universities across the county. Our band programs receive superior ratings. This year, Friday Harbor High School was nominated to apply as one of seven high schools in Washington State for the *1020 Blue Ribbon School Award* from the US Dept of Education in the category of outstanding academic performance.

Fact #8

Over the past year, in response to reduced funding, the School District has cut non-instructional costs. We have reduced office and custodial staff, eliminated the Middle School Principal position, cut programs such as elementary school art and ceased funding athletics. The renewal of the M&O levy for the next four years is essential to sustaining the remaining programs and services in our School District.

Fact #7

The entire community benefits from our school facilities. Each year over 50 user groups and thousands of children, adults, and senior citizens use our facilities for recreation, meetings and events during evenings, weekends and school vacations.

Fact #9

Ballots must be mailed or hand-delivered to the Elections Office by Tuesday, February 9th, 2010.

*Paid for by the Committee for San Juan School District Levies and Bonds
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