

# Bainbridge Island School District 2017 School Renewal Levies FAQs

## RENEWAL OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM & OPERATIONS (EP&O) LEVY

### **Q: Why is BISD proposing a renewal of the EP&O Levy?**

**A:** The state of Washington does not fully fund K-12 public schools. In its McCleary decision, the Washington State Supreme Court ordered the state to fully fund K-12 public schools as required by Article IX of the Washington Constitution:

*"It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders, without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex." - Article IX of Washington Constitution*

The state legislature has yet to comply with the Supreme Court Order. Instead, school districts continue to rely on local support (levies) to fill the gap between state funding and the true cost of educating students. In recent history, BISD has never operated without local levy support.

- The renewal EP&O levy replaces the expiring current levy (which voters approved in 2014).
- BISD ranks 211 out of 295 school districts in total per pupil revenue (state, local and federal revenue). More than 70% of Washington state school districts receive better funding than BISD. *Source: OSPI's School Apportionment & Financial Services - Publications - Financial Summary - Section 3*
- If the legislature fails to fully fund education, the EP&O levy acts as an insurance policy and will continue providing local funding for BISD.

### **Q: What does the EP&O levy pay for?**

**A:** Money generated from the EP&O levy touches all areas of BISD programming. Examples are:

- Staffing
- Utilities such as power and water
- Programs to meet student instructional needs such as Special Education, Remedial Reading and Math, English Language Learners
- Professional development
- Student transportation
- Student activities such as student athletics and clubs

**Q: How much does the district rely on the renewal EP&O levy?**

A: The EP&O levy provides 22% of BISD's operating budget. In 2016-17, together the EP&O and Technology levies provided \$10.28 million towards BISD's \$44.8 million operating budget, or 23%.

**Q: How is the EP&O levy amount determined?**

A: The state allows districts to run levies and imposes limits to the amount districts can collect. This is referred to as the levy lid. BISD's EP&O levy lid is currently 28.98% of the base allocation. The base allocation is set by the prior year's state and federal dollars. BISD cannot collect more than what the lid allows.

**Q: Do all school districts in the state have the same EP&O levy lid?**

A: No. Some districts collect at a much higher rate and some have slightly lower rates. When school funding laws changed in the 1970s, levy lids were "grandfathered" in and some school districts collect more funds through higher levy lids.

- Mercer Island School District's levy = 37.67%
- Seattle School District's levy = 36.9%
- Bellevue School District's levy = 34.66%
- Shoreline School District's levy = 31.9%
- Bainbridge Island School District's levy = 28.98%

**Q: What is the renewal EP&O levy amount?**

A: The proposed renewal levy would replace the existing levy approved by voters in 2014. Resolution No. 1-16-17 authorizes a four-year levy in the following amounts:

- \$10.4M in 2018
- \$10.6M in 2019
- \$10.8M in 2020
- \$11.0M in 2021

**Q: What are the proposed tax rates for the EP&O levy?**

A: The estimated tax rate for the next four years of the EP&O levy is:

- 2018 = \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value
- 2019 = \$1.51 per \$1,000 assessed value
- 2020 = \$1.52 per \$1,000 assessed value

- 2021 = \$1.54 per \$1,000 assessed value

## **RENEWAL OF TECHNOLOGY LEVY**

### **Q: Why does BISD need a technology levy?**

**A:** The state does not provide designated funding for technology.

- Without a tech levy, the general fund would be impacted as money would be diverted from it to pay for technology.

### **Q: How does technology impact student learning?**

**A:** Technology has become an integral part of the educational landscape and it's embedded into our curriculum. Twenty-first century learning standards call for students to use technology to collaborate, think critically, create and communicate. Examples are:

- Write and submit an online team assignment, allowing students to work anytime, anywhere. (Collaborate)
- Use science probeware to replicate and seek solutions for real-world conditions. (Think critically)
- Write and develop code to solve engineering challenges. (Create)
- Communicate electronically with peers and teachers to receive real-time feedback both when in and out of the classroom. (Communicate)

### **Q: How have previous technology levy funds been used?**

**A:** The School Board receives reports monthly on technology. These reports explain the projects and expenditures of the 2014 technology levy that expires in 2017. To read the reports in the meeting minutes, click [here](#).

### **Q: How will the technology levy funds be allocated?**

**A:** Technology funds impact student learning through three focus areas: 1. Learning & Teaching  
2. Infrastructure & Network  
3. Communications & Productivity.

### **Q: What is the renewal technology levy amount?**

**A:** BISD is asking voters to approve the same amount that was approved in 2014, \$2.2 million per year. Resolution No. 2-16-17 authorizes a four year levy in the following amounts:

- \$2.2M in 2018
- \$2.2M in 2019
- \$2.2M in 2020
- \$2.2M in 2021

**Q: What are the proposed tax rates for the Technology levy?**

**A:** The estimated tax rate for the next four years of the tech levy is:

- 2018 = \$0.32 per \$1,000 assessed value
- 2019 = \$0.31 per \$1,000 assessed value
- 2020 = \$0.31 per \$1,000 assessed value
- 2021 = \$0.31 per \$1,000 assessed value

**Q: What would happen if the tech levy isn't approved?**

**A:** Technology is an integral part of the educational experience at BISD. Without a renewal, BISD will have to take money from the general operating fund to pay for technology expenses such as internet, equipment and software.

**DETAILS OF SCHOOL FUNDING:**

**Q: What is BISD's budget breakdown?**

**A:** For the 2016-17 school year, BISD has a budget of \$44.8 million and is divided as follows:

- Salaries and Benefits = 86%
- Purchased services, such as utilities, insurance = 9%
- Materials and supplies = 4%
- Other, such as equipment purchases, work-related travel = 1%

**Q: Why doesn't BISD take some funds received for the Blakely re-build and use the money for other expenses, such as teacher salaries?**

**A:** There are two funds crucial to school finance: the General Fund and Capital Projects Fund. The General Fund pays for the day-to-day operations of schools. The Capital Projects Fund pays for construction and capital outlays, such as buildings and technology. There are strict guidelines governing the use of these funds.

**Q: What are the projected school tax rates for 2018 - 2021?**

**Projected Total Local School Tax Rates**

	Renewal EP&O	Tech	Bond	Local School Tax Rate
2018	1.50	.32	1.52	\$3.34
2019	1.51	.31	1.54	\$3.36
2020	1.52	.31	1.54	\$3.37
2021	1.54	.31	1.53	\$3.38

**Q: How do local school taxes compare with other school districts?**

	Median Assessed Home Value	Total Annual School Tax
Bainbridge Island	\$535,555	\$1,631
Bellevue	\$640,000	\$2,009
Issaquah	\$587,000	\$2,408
Mercer Island	\$982,000	\$2,435
North Kitsap	\$305,000	\$1,323

**ELECTION INFORMATION**

**Q. When will the election be held?**

**A:** The election is on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

**Q. When will ballots be mailed to voters?**

**A:** Kitsap County uses a mail-in ballot system. The Kitsap County Auditor will mail ballots to voters in late January. All ballots must be postmarked or deposited at a polling location before 8 p.m. on February 14. The Bainbridge Island polling location is located in parking lot of the Aquatic Center.

**Q. What will be on the ballot?**

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303  
PROPOSITION 1

**RENEWAL OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS LEVY**

The Board of Directors of Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 adopted Resolution No. 1-16-17, concerning a replacement levy for educational programs and operations. This proposition would re-authorize the continuation of levies to support educational programs and services, including teaching, instructional support, school supplies, extracurricular activities and transportation, and authorizes the following excess levies to replace an expiring levy on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2018	\$1.50	\$10,400,000
2019	\$1.51	\$10,600,000
2020	\$1.52	\$10,800,000
2021	\$1.54	\$11,000,000

Should this proposition be approved?

YES .....

NO .....

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 303  
PROPOSITION 2  
RENEWAL OF SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY LEVY**

The Board of Directors of Bainbridge Island School District No. 303 adopted Resolution No. 2-16-17, concerning a replacement technology levy to advance student learning. This proposition would authorize the District to modernize school facilities through the acquisition, installation and improvement of computer technology and telecommunication systems, equipment and facilities, and levy the following excess taxes, to replace an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District:

Collection Years	Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value	Levy Amount
2018	\$0.32	\$ 2,200,000
2019	\$0.31	\$ 2,200,000
2020	\$0.31	\$ 2,200,000
2021	\$0.31	\$ 2,200,000

Should this proposition be approved?

YES .....

NO .....

**Q: What is required for a levy to pass?**

**A:** Levies pass with a simple majority, which is 50% + 1 vote. The percentage is based on all who vote in the election, not total registered voters.