



MARY WALKER

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 207

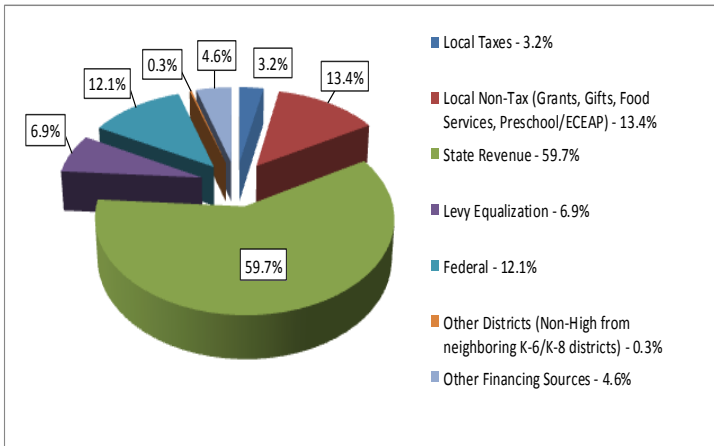
REPLACEMENT / CONTINUATION LEVY FACTS SPECIAL ELECTION ~ FEBRUARY 14, 2017

Mary Walker School District patrons will be asked to vote on a 4-year **REPLACEMENT / CONTINUATION** of an **EXPIRING** Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy.

This is a replacement/continuation of an expiring levy ... **NOT** a new levy. The M&O Levy helps to **SUPPORT** and **MAINTAIN** the district's current educational programs and activities which are not funded through State and/or Federal funds.

The M&O Levy will provide \$287,000 to the Mary Walker School District each year for four years (2018-2021). The State of Washington will provide approximately **\$503,000** to the Mary Walker School District in local effort assistance (Levy Equalization) to help offset the cost of a levy. The levy equalization funds are provided to districts that **PASS** levies **AND** have a lower tax base than the State's average.

If the levy does not pass, the Mary Walker School District does not receive the \$287,000 per year in levy funds or the full \$503,000 levy equalization funds from the State of Washington ... in the end, a double whammy to our students!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Why does the district need a levy?

As state and federal support for school operations continues to shrink, and as costs for providing essential services and programs continue to rise, the importance of local support becomes even greater. Currently, state funding meets only 64% of our district's budget, federal funding meets 12% of the budget levy and levy equalization meets 11% of the budget, and local/other meets 13%. Without levy funding, our district would fall far short of the funding needed to maintain our current programs.

Where does the levy money go?

Levy funds help pay for some of the fundamental tools of our strong educational program. These items include staffing (including 2 days per week for school nurse services), teaching supplies, textbooks, technology and extra-curricular programs. They can also help cover the non-State covered portion of expenses for utilities, fuel, food services and maintenance.

Is there a tax break for senior citizens or disabled citizens?

Yes, senior citizens may qualify for tax exemptions from levies and bond taxes based on household income. Exemptions may also be granted for disabled individuals. For more information, contact the Stevens County Assessor's Office (509-684-6161).

How can citizens register to vote?

Contact the Stevens County Assessors Office for more information. They can be reached via the internet (www.co.stevens.wa.us/assessor), by e-mail (elections@co.stevens.wa.us), by phone (509-684-6161), or in person (215 S. Oak Street, Colville).

What happens if a levy doesn't pass?

Because the district cannot function at acceptable levels only on funding provided by the state, a second levy would have to be offered later in that year. In the meantime, we could run the risk of losing additional levy equalization money from the state. Even more importantly would be the need to discontinue some of our district's most successful programs and activities.



Why is passing the levy important if I don't have kids in school?

A community's school benefits more than just the students who attend them and the parents who send them here.

Strong schools create environments for young people to learn and grow, and to become valuable contributing members of their community throughout their lives. Investing in the future of children through support of our school creates lasting rewards for the entire community. Whether you have children in classes or not, you and the entire community benefit from a strong school system. An investment in the children of today molds the workers, citizens and leaders of tomorrow and is an investment that is important to everyone.

What is Levy Equalization?

Levy equalization is a method used by our state to provide equity between school districts located in property rich areas and districts located in property low areas. The state’s budget office interpretation is: **“Since some school districts have lower property values than other local school districts, levy rates vary. The lower the property values, the higher the levy rates tend to be. The State ‘equalizes’ local funds by providing matching State funds for school districts with higher-than-average levy rates.”** The Mary Walker School District receives about \$503,000 in levy equalization, about 7% of the annual operating budget. Local taxpayers fund the remaining 4% (about \$287,000), for a total levy contribution of \$790,000 to the district’s operating budget.



MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS LEVY USES

Current M&O Levy dollars are used to fully fund or supplement state funds for the following programs, materials and services:

Extra-Curricular

Coaches, athletic program transportation, referees, tournaments, advisors, state, national and local competitions, uniforms and gear; as well as athletic programs, clubs, music, art, FFA and National Honor Society.

Drama Productions

Drama and music productions such as plays and concerts, K-12 music program, including instructor.

Textbooks and Other Media

Textbooks and instructional materials at all grade levels, AP program and curriculum, Biomed program and curriculum, magazine and newspaper subscriptions used by students, computer programs and other technology purchases.

School Safety

K-12 security system, the automated parent notification system, drug and alcohol intervention program and security cameras.

Professional Development

Workshops, in-service days, and related training for classified, teachers, principals and board members.



Non-State Funded Transportation

Costs associated with transporting students to and from school, including staff, bus maintenance and fuel costs; WA State funds about 85% of these costs ... the levy finances the remaining 15%.

Facilities and Grounds Maintenance

Costs associated with custodial services and maintenance of all facilities, fields and grounds, and energy improvements.

The Mary Walker School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: **Title IX Coordinator & Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator**, Jocelyne Medenwaldt, School Counselor, 509-258-4717, jmedenwaldt@marywalker.org and **Section 504/ADA Coordinator**, Edwina Hargrave, PK-5 Principal & Special Education Director, 509-258-7357, ehargrave@marywalker.org. Address: P.O. Box 159, Springdale, WA 99173.

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Kevin Jacka, Superintendent
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Matthew Cobb, Principal (6th to 12th)
(509) 258-4533

Edwina Hargrave, Principal (Pre-K to 5th)
& *Special Education Director*
(509) 258-7357

Jaime Palmer, Director
Mary Walker Promise (MWP)
(509) 258-7342

John Axtell, Volunteer Director
Springdale Academy
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