

Example Endorsement format for PTAs

We have (3) renewal levies that will be on the February 13th, 2018 ballot. On November 29, 2017 the Issaquah School Board approved the Two Year Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy. On October 11, 2017 the Board approved a One Year Transportation Replacement Levy, and Four Year Critical Repair/ Technology Replacement Levy.

(you may decide to read the entire following ballot language or edit for your group)

1. A two-year Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy (formerly M&O Levy) in the amount of \$36,300,000 in 2018 for collection in 2019; in the amount of 44,900,000 in 2019 for collection in 2020.
2. A one-year School Bus Levy in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 in 2019.
3. A four-year Capital Levy (with educational technology and critical repairs components in the amount of 26,571,000 in 2019; 16,775,000 in 2020; 17,170,000 in 2021; and 18,000,000 in 2022.

“In order for our PTA to advocate for a yes vote for these 3 replacement levies, we’ll need to have an endorsement vote.”

(President can ask if there’s a motion if one is not already being made.) Sample motion language:

“I move that the _____ PTA/PTSA endorse the (3) Issaquah School District Replacement levies being put before the voters on February 13th, 2018.”

After a motion, a 2nd, ask for any discussion; Discussion points can be found on separate document (see attached page 2 for levy facts & information)

If no discussion, or after discussion, call for the vote -

“All those in favor? Any opposed? Any abstentions?”

If your PTA/PTSA has voted to endorse the 2018 Levy, please send an email to dawn@visvote.org or alicia@visvote.org letting us know so we can add your PTA to our VIS endorsement page.

Please remind your PTA members to go on the website at www.visvote.org and personally endorse the levy as well! If they have endorsed on the paper form you can mail that form to us, give it to us at the next council meeting or scan and email and we will add those names to the website.

Thank you for your support of the 2018 Levy!

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1. February 2018 Renewal Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O)

The Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy (formerly M&O Levy) is the only locally approved ballot measure that directly pays for basic general classroom and operational needs such as special education, curriculum, extra-curricular activities, and staff salaries that are not fully funded by the state. Like a subscription, local school levies must be renewed with the approval of voters or the funding will be lost. Our current levy expires in 2018! If renewed, the EP&O Levy will allow the District to collect \$81.2M over two years, which represents 15% of our total operating budget or 15¢ of every classroom dollar.

What is funded by the EP&O Levy?

Student Support and Safety Net: Nurses, Mental health counselors, Student support coaches, Security staff
Academic Programs and Classroom Supports: Certificated and classified staff for Special Education, Highly Capable, and English Language Learner Programs • Paraeducators • Professional development for teachers including professional learning days, training, and workshops • Substitute teachers • Career and Technical Education/STEM learning • Early Childhood Learning • Curriculum materials and training • Reduce class sizes
Activities, Athletics and Enrichment: Activities and Club Advisors • All extracurricular activities • Sports • Athletic Directors • Coaches
Operations: Transportation • Substitute classified staff • Maintenance staff • Custodians
Opportunities: High School schedules that create opportunities for acceleration, exploration, and remediation. • Elementary Dual Language program • New teacher mentoring program • More academic guidance counselors • Increased mental health counselors and support • Expanded Early Learning programs

2. Renewal School Bus Levy: Health, Safety, and Efficiency

If renewed, the School Bus Levy will provide \$2 million in 2019 to purchase 76 buses to enable the District's fleet to run as safely, cleanly, and efficiently as possible. The levy will allow the District to collect state funding to offset the cost of bus purchases, ensure alignment with state safety standards, and provide the most efficient buses, allowing the District to preserve more operational dollars for the classroom.

3. Renewal Capital Levy: Educational Technology and Critical Repairs

The Capital Levy includes two components: educational technology and critical repairs for each school District-wide. If renewed, the District will collect nearly \$54 million for technology and \$14.5 million for critical repairs over the life of the levy. For technology, these dollars will fund replacement of aging computers, printers, servers, and document cameras; staff training; development of online classes/educational opportunities; school tech specialists; upgrades of wireless Internet; safety and efficiency software for school bus operations; and continued upgrades to District websites, emergency alert systems, and other e-communications. For critical repairs, the Capital Levy includes maintenance of heating and cooling systems, additional portable classroom space, safety and security upgrades.

Fast Facts:

Local Tax Impact: In the Issaquah School District, the local school tax rate is expected to decrease an estimated \$0.72/ \$1,000 in 2019 and \$0.52/\$1,000 from 2019 to 2020.

State School Taxes/HB2242: The state portion of school taxes will increase an estimated \$0.96/\$1,000 and be further increased by the State Department of Revenue.

Issaquah School District Financial Management:

The Issaquah School District has the highest bond rating Moody's (Aaa) & Standard & Poors AA+ of any public school district in Washington State. In fact, less than 0.45% of school districts in the entire nation hold a AAA rating from Moody's. The District has received fifteen consecutive "clean" Financial and Accountability Audits.