



# School Programs & Operations Levy

**Election Date: February 14, 2012**

The Central Valley School District Board of Directors is seeking voter approval to **renew and replace** the district's expiring educational operations levy. The three-year School Programs and Operations Replacement Levy (also known as M&O levy):

- **Maintains quality educational programs** – good public schools are essential to maintain a vibrant community. High levels of student achievement across the district are directly tied to levy-funded school programs which impact every child.
- **Provides basic funding** - represents more than 22% of the district's operating budget
- **Not a new tax** – replaces the expiring \$27.3 million levy with a \$27.1 million levy

## Funds Essential Educational Programs and Activities

Shrinking state and federal dollars do not fully fund the day-to-day operations of Central Valley schools. To fund the growing gap, the district relies on local taxpayers through the replacement levy to pay for essential educational programs and activities, including:

- Textbooks and teaching materials
- Technology for classroom instruction and support
- Extra and co-curricular activities such as music, drama, debate and athletics
- Programs for struggling and academically advanced students
- Maintaining class sizes at current levels
- Special education programs
- School bus transportation
- Utilities and insurance

## Replaces Expiring Three-Year Levy

Central Valley voters approved a three-year levy in February 2009. This levy expires in December 2012. In order to maintain current educational programs, the district is again seeking voter approval of a three-year levy to **renew and replace** the expiring levy. It is not a new tax. And, it is not a construction bond. Voters will be asked to approve the following:

- **Levy amount** = \$27.1 million\* each year for 2013, 2014 and 2015
- **Estimated levy tax rate** = \$4.19/thousand\* of assessed property valuation  
*\*Assumes all state levy equalization funding is eliminated. If state levy equalization funding is received, the levy tax rate will be reduced to an estimated \$3.54/thousand*
- **Estimated cost to taxpayers** – change from 2012 levy tax rate of \$3.54/thousand
  - Without levy equalization = 65¢/thousand increase
  - With levy equalization = no change

Voters approve a specific, fixed dollar amount to be collected to maintain quality schools in the Central Valley School District. This fixed amount is shared by all district taxpayers, based on assessed property value. An estimated levy tax rate of \$4.19 per \$1,000 means a homeowner with an assessed property value of \$100,000 would pay \$419 per year in school levy taxes.

**For more information, visit [www.cvsd.org](http://www.cvsd.org) or call 228-5405**

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ***What is a levy?***

Levies pay for day-to-day operations of schools including teachers, textbooks, supplies and co/extracurricular programs. They are a way for local communities to supplement state funding, which falls short of providing for all that is required. Currently in Central Valley, the local levy funds approximately 22percent of the annual budget, filling the gap between state and federal funds and maintaining essential educational programs for more than 12,600 students in 22 schools.

### ***Is this a new tax?***

No. The School Programs and Operations Replacement Levy will renew and replace the current levy, which expires in December 2012.

### ***What is the cost to taxpayers?***

The levy would provide \$27,100,000 in 2013, 2014 and 2015 to maintain essential educational programs for students across the district. The proposed levy tax rate is estimated to be \$4.19 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. This assumes that all state levy equalization funding is eliminated. If levy equalization funding is received, the levy tax rate is estimated at \$3.54 per \$1,000.

### ***What is levy equalization?***

A voter-approved local levy brings state matching funds to Central Valley through levy equalization (also known as LEA). Levy equalization is intended to level the playing field between property-rich and property-poor school districts, providing funding in lieu of local taxes in districts with lower property values than the statewide average. Currently, Central Valley receives about \$4.3 million in levy equalization, representing about four percent of the annual operating budget.

### ***Although it is not a new tax, will the proposed levy increase my tax rate?***

Given the sobering financial news from Olympia and the anticipated loss of levy equalization funding beginning in 2013, the proposed Central Valley levy assumes no state levy equalization relief for local taxpayers. This means the levy tax rate will increase an estimated 65¢ per \$1,000 due to the expected loss of levy equalization. If state levy equalization revenue is received, the levy tax rate will remain steady at the 2012 estimated levy tax rate of \$3.54 per \$1,000.

### ***Will any of this money be used to remodel or build new schools?***

No. The February ballot measure is a replacement levy to pay for day-to-day school operations. A construction bond is a separate ballot measure. Bonds are used to remodel and build new schools. Central Valley is not running another construction bond this year.

### ***Is this the right time to be asking the community for funding?***

The current levy expires in December 2012, which means the district must seek voter approval to renew the levy for another three years. Given the uncertainty of state funding, voter support of the replacement levy is even more important to sustain and maintain essential educational programs for Central Valley children.

### ***What about senior citizens on a fixed income?***

Senior citizens (age 61+) and disabled individuals with a total annual income of under \$35,000 may be eligible for a residential property tax exemption. Call the County Assessor's Office at 477-5754.

### ***What happens if the replacement levy does not pass?***

Without levy funds, the School Board would be required to make program reductions and adjustments in order to balance the budget. The loss would have a devastating impact on students and educational programs. As one of the Valley's largest employers, a failed levy would result in lost jobs and have a dramatic impact on the local economy.