



# Your Guide

To the February 3, 2009  
 Replacement Maintenance and  
 Operations Levy and  
 Replacement Technology Capital  
 Projects Levy



**The REPLACEMENT Maintenance and Operations Levy and REPLACEMENT Technology Capital Projects Levy pay for important programs and services for students.**

**The Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy will pay for:**

- ◆ Academic program support
- ◆ Classroom textbooks and supplies
- ◆ Transportation services
- ◆ Custodial and Maintenance services
- ◆ Vocational education
- ◆ Music, art and drama
- ◆ Athletics, intramurals, and co-curricular programs

**The Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy will pay for:**

- ◆ Funding to support the technology section of the district Strategic Plan
- ◆ Maintaining state standards for technology instruction

**West Valley Schools have a great reputation for quality education:**

- ◆ Achievement scores that are consistently above the state average
- ◆ Low classroom sizes
- ◆ Successful academic programs
- ◆ Strong academic curriculum
- ◆ Award-winning extra-curricular programs
- ◆ Sound fiscal management that earns praise from auditors
- ◆ Thriving community partnerships

**These levies are not an additional tax, but replace the existing Maintenance and Operations and Technology Capital Projects Levies that expire this year.**

**The projected 2010 tax rate is 15% less per \$1,000 assessed value for the M & O Levy and 23% less per \$1,000 assessed value for the Technology Levy compared to the voter-approved 2007 levies.**

# Your Guide . . .

## To the *Replacement* Maintenance and Operations Levy

### What is a Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Levy?

The M & O Levy funds the difference between state allocations for school funding and the actual cost of operating our schools. As state support for school operations continues to shrink, local levy funds are necessary to pay for essential services and programs. **The M & O Levy accounts for over 20% of the district annual budget.**

### What is the amount of the Replacement M & O Levy?

Year	per \$1,000	levy amount
2010	\$3.89	\$7,300,000
2011	\$3.84	\$7,500,000
2012	\$3.79	\$7,700,000

The maximum amount of the levy is set by the state and represents the maximum dollars that can be levied.

The projected levy rates are based on the total assessed value of property in the district. If the total assessed value exceeds projections, the tax rate will decrease.

**The projected 2010 M & O Levy tax rate is 15% less per \$1,000 assessed value compared to the voter-approved 2007 levy.**

The state of Washington has provided almost \$1,500,000 annually in Local Effort Assistance Funds (Levy Equalization) to West Valley Schools to help offset the cost of the levy. These funds are provided to districts that pass levies and have a lower tax base than the state average.

### If I don't have children in school, how can I benefit from approval of the levy?

Our schools belong to the West Valley Community. With a strong heritage and multi-generational families, the West Valley Community has a long tradition of meeting the community's educational vision.

Typical taxpayers have a great deal of their total assets in their homes and property. Property value is greatly affected by the quality of area schools. Good schools that are built on a solid financial foundation help to protect the investment in your home and property.

### Is anyone eligible for an exemption from the levy tax?

Disabled persons or those 61 years of age and older may be eligible for a tax exemption. For more information call the Spokane County Assessor's office at 509-477-5754.

### What evidence is there that West Valley students are making academic strides?

West Valley students consistently score above the state average on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning, particularly in reading and writing. Additionally, the WVSD graduation rate for 2007 was 91.7%, which was 14.7% higher than the state average.

### How can we be sure the district makes good use of its tax dollars?

- ◆ The West Valley School Board reviews all expenditures on a monthly basis.
- ◆ No out-of-area travel is allowed without board review and approval.
- ◆ West Valley has a strong history of excellent state audit reports with commendations for financial investment practices.



# Your Guide . . .

## To the *Replacement* Technology Capital Projects Levy

### What is the Technology Capital Projects Levy?

A Capital Projects Technology Levy provides funding to support the technology section of the district's 2008-2013 Strategic Plan. The levy provides for hardware and software for student access as well as education tools for teachers. The levy also provides funds for the ongoing development and maintenance of a network that enables students and staff to participate fully in this new age of information. Strategic Plan goals include public wireless access at our schools as well as family access portal computers for public use.

Over the past few years the \$500,000 technology levy has supported a primary goal held by our School Board: to give each and every student the opportunity to prepare themselves to be contributing members of society. As students leave the West Valley school district, they will do so with the necessary technological skills for success.

West Valley's Technology Academy provides extensive training that enables teachers to use technology to enhance the education of their students. Each teacher that graduates from the Technology Academy is provided with substantial technology equipment and materials to use in their classrooms.

The dedication of our School Board and the vision of our superintendent, coupled with the commitment of West Valley's patrons through their support of an ongoing Technology Levy, provide each and every one of our students with the technological skills that will be necessary for success in this new millennium.

***The projected 2010 Technology Levy tax rate is 23% less per \$1,000 assessed value compared to the voter-approved 2007 levy.***

### What will the Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy cost tax payers?

Year	per \$1,000	levy amount
2010	27¢	\$500,000
2011	26¢	\$500,000
2012	25¢	\$500,000



### Frequently asked questions:

#### Can levy dollars be used for pay raises?

According to Washington State law, levy funds cannot be used for salary increases.

#### What is the difference between a levy and a bond?

Washington State law directs how school districts can use funds collected from tax payers. A common way to differentiate levies from bonds is to think of it as "Bonds are for buildings and levies are for learning." For example, funds from the 2004 taxpayer approved bond to remodel West Valley High School and the four elementary schools were used solely for those purposes. Bond dollars cannot be used for classroom materials, transportation, maintenance or technology needs.

# Top 5 Levy Facts

## What will I pay?

### 1. When?

Election day is Tuesday, February 3, 2009 for the Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy and the Replacement Technology Capital Projects Levy.

### 2. Where?

Ballots must be returned by mail and postmarked on or before February 3rd or dropped off in the designated ballot box at the Argonne Library, 4233 N. Argonne Road on or before February 3rd.

### 3. What?

Both levies fund the difference between state allocations and the actual costs of operating our schools. We rely on these funds for 20% of our total district budget.

### 4. Why?

Local levy funds enable us to enhance classroom learning opportunities, extra curricular activities, and athletics.

### 5. How Long?

These are both three-year levies.

### Monthly Property Taxes



Home Value	\$100,000	\$150,000
<u>Voter approved 2007 tax</u>		
M & O	\$38.17	\$57.26
Technology	\$2.92	\$4.38
<u>Replacement 2010 tax</u>		
M & O	\$32.42	\$48.63
Technology	\$2.25	\$3.38



### West Valley School Board

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Contact us at 509-924-2150

West Valley website  
[www.wvwd.com](http://www.wvwd.com)

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