



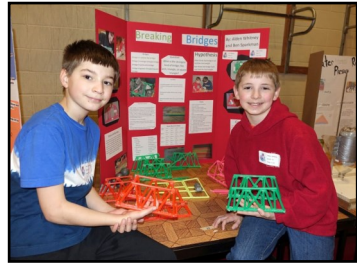
GriffinLink

"Lifelong learners leading productive, healthy, and responsible lives."

4-Year Replacement Levy for School Programs and Operations

FACTS & INFORMATION

On February 9, 2016 a School Programs & Operations Levy will be presented to voters. Griffin is requesting replacement of the current School Programs & Operations Levy that expires in 2016.



This four-year replacement levy would take the place of the two-year levy approved in 2014.

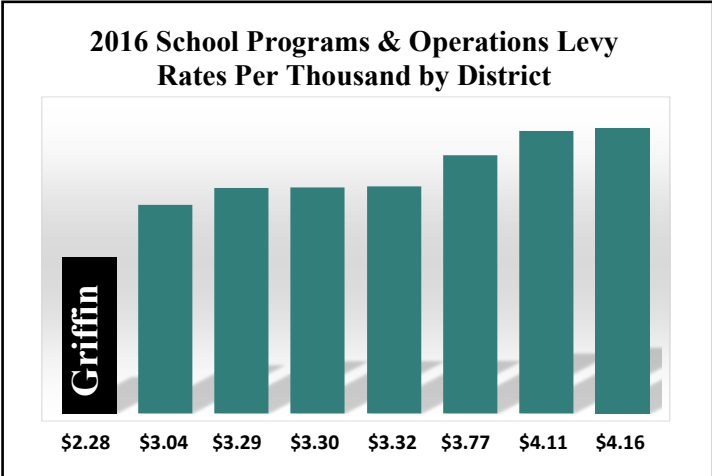
Funds from this replacement levy would continue to be used for school programs and operations including:

- Educational Programs and Services**
- Curriculum, Materials and Supplies**
- Staffing to Lower Class Sizes**
- High School Attendance Fees (Non-high Fee)**
- Special & Gifted Education**
- Facilities Operations**
- Student Transportation**
- Child Nutrition Services**

Griffin Levy Amounts & Estimated Rates Per Thousand

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|-------------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Levy Amount | \$ 2,275,000 <i>Previously Approved</i> | \$ 2,350,000 | \$ 2,233,500 | \$ 2,267,000 | \$ 2,301,000 |
| Levy Rate * | \$2.28 | \$2.33 | \$2.19 | \$2.21 | \$2.22 |

*Approximate levy rate per \$1,000 of assessed value. Rates may see some fluctuation with changes in property taxes.



IMPORTANT DATES

January 20, 2016
Ballots mailed to voters

February 1, 2016
Deadline to register to vote by mail or online at www.vote.wa.gov

February 9, 2016
Election Day
Ballots must be postmarked by February 9, 2016

SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Tim Layton, Patty Gregory, Brandon Anderson,
Maureen Karras, and Joseph Peters

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a school levy?

A levy is a local property tax that supports educational programs for students. The state and federal government do not currently provide enough funding to cover the cost of a basic education, so communities supplement their schools with levy funding.

Why is it called a Replacement Levy?

Levy funding is temporary. In 2014, the citizens of Griffin passed a ballot measure to provide levy funding for the Griffin School District through 2016. In order to sustain school funding, a replacement levy will be on the ballot February 9, 2016. Funding would be used to maintain school programs and district operations.

Is this levy a new tax?

No. Our local voters approved a School Programs and Operations Levy in 2014 that expires in 2016. The 2016 levy would allow the district to continue the programs and services that are currently funded with levy dollars. As a result, this makes it a replacement levy and not an additional tax.

Didn't Griffin just pass a levy in November?

Yes. The Griffin voters generously supported a special two-year levy for School Safety, Technology and Capital Projects in November. Funds from that levy will be used to make safety and technology upgrades at Griffin School and make payments to Olympia School District for costs associated with bond and levy related technology and capital improvements in their high schools (for educating Griffin high school students).

How is the School Programs & Operations Replacement Levy different?

A School Programs & Operations Levy bridges the gap between what it actually costs to educate a Griffin student and what is received in state and federal funding. These levy funds are used to help pay daily expenses of the school district. Among these daily operating expenses are educational programs and services, curriculum, materials and supplies, staffing to lower class sizes, high school attendance fee (non-high fee), special and gifted education, day-to-day operations, student transportation, and child nutrition services.

A Safety, Technology & Capital Projects Special Levy is restricted to major renovations of buildings including the replacement of facilities and systems, the purchase of equipment and costs associated with implementing technology. Additionally, these funds are used to pay for technology and capital improvements at Olympia School District high schools.

What does the 2015-17 Legislative Budget mean for Griffin School District?

Despite being held in contempt of court, the Washington State Legislature has not yet fully funded basic education as outlined in the McCleary decision. Levies are still needed to fill the gap between what "basic education" actually costs and what is currently funded by the legislature.

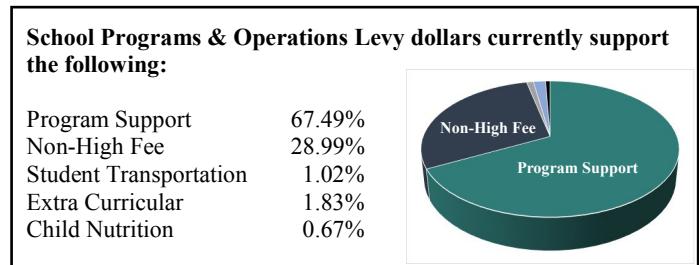
What is a non-high fee?

Griffin School District does not keep all of the local levy dollars collected. Because Griffin is the only non-high school district in Thurston County, legislation mandates that a fee be paid to local area high schools to educate Griffin high school students.

| History of Non-High Fees Paid to Local High School Districts | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | 2014-15 | 2013-14 | 2012-13 | 2011-12 | 2010-11 |
| Olympia | \$577,590 | \$612,549 | \$586,067 | \$556,195 | \$698,320 |
| Tumwater | \$13,653 | \$24,156 | \$20,934 | \$25,403 | \$24,550 |
| NTPS | \$3,204 | \$0 | \$2,226 | \$0 | \$2,016 |

How much of Griffin's budget does a School Programs & Operations Levy currently provide?

Levy funding provides nearly 28% of the district's operating budget. Without levy funding the district would be forced to look at the reduction of essential programs and services.



Why is the district running a four (4) year levy?

Griffin is running a four (4) year levy to save money and provide stability. Each time Thurston County School Districts run a levy we must pay the Thurston County Auditor's Office for the election costs (ballot printing, mailing, tabulation, voter's pamphlet, etc.). The more school districts that hold an election at the same time, the lower the cost to each district. The other Thurston County School Districts (Tumwater, Olympia, North Thurston, Yelm, Rochester, Rainier & Tenino) have all indicated they plan to run four (4) year levies.

Are any citizens exempt from local levy taxes?

Yes. Some senior, veteran and disabled homeowners with an income of \$40,000 or less may be eligible for a full or partial exemption. For details, please contact the Thurston County Assessor's Office at 360-786-5410.

For more information

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