

# Levy Q & A

## February 13, 2024



Voters in the Aberdeen School District will decide two levies during the Feb. 13, 2024 special election:

- An Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy for **programs**
- A Capital Projects Levy for **projects**

### What will the levies pay for?

The EP&O Levy is a renewal of the existing levy, which is expiring. It will continue the community's support for programs such as athletics, music, drama, school counselors, nurses/health assistants, curriculum, technology, building maintenance, and other programs that are either not funded or are underfunded by the state.

The Capital Levy is new and will fund modern upgrades to our aging buildings and technology infrastructure. The bonds for J.M. Weatherwax High School are now paid off. The \$1 per \$1,000 being proposed for building upgrades is less than the annual tax rate was for the high school.

### Where do public schools get their money?

About 72% comes from the state, about 18% from the federal government, about 9% from local taxes, and 1% from other sources such as grants or fees.

### Why is the District asking for more money?

The current EP&O levy approved four years ago was for \$5,200,000 in each of the four years. This replacement request is for \$5,950,000 per year for the next four years and reflects increased program costs.

Due to the high school bond being paid off, the combined tax rate of both the EP&O Levy and the Capital Projects Levy will not result in a rate increase.

EP&O Levy		
<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Tax Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Levy Amount</u>
2025	\$2.50	\$5,950,000
2026	\$2.50	\$5,950,000
2027	\$2.42	\$5,950,000
2028	\$2.32	\$5,950,000
Capital Projects Levy		
2025	\$1.00	\$2,188,984
2026	\$1.00	\$2,276,544
2027	\$1.00	\$2,367,606
2028	\$1.00	\$2,462,310

### How much will the combined levy cost property owners?

<u>Collection Year</u>	<u>Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Value</u>	<u>Cost for \$250,000 Home</u>
2025 (est)	\$3.50	\$875.00
2026	\$3.50	\$875.00
2027	\$3.42	\$855.00
2028	\$3.32	\$830.00

*More Information is available at [www.asd5.org](http://www.asd5.org)*

**How do schools get “local” dollars?**

Through voter-approved property taxes such as the two being proposed.

Property owners pay a set amount for each \$1,000 of their property's value (called Assessed Valuation or AV). These levies cannot be increased once approved. Below is the estimated rate per \$1,000 of assessed value for both levies.

**Why ask for a Capital Levy and not a Bond?**

As you may recall, a bond initiative that was proposed to replace one of our elementary schools at the last election cycle failed by one (1) vote. Bond planning for a new school can take several years. Meantime, we have current facility needs that should be addressed before the next bond initiative for a new school is placed before voters.

**When is the vote?**

Ballots will be mailed in late January, with all ballots due on or before February 13, 2024.

**Do all school districts receive equal state funding?**

The state recognizes that some communities have higher property values and can more easily raise funds to support their schools. That is not the case in Aberdeen. For this reason, the state will provide a “match” to districts like ours if the levy passes. In the previous calendar year, the Aberdeen School District received an additional \$2.4 million from the state because voters supported the levy.

This match to our schools is over 3.67% of the total budget and is not available unless the levy is approved.

**What programs does the EP&O Levy fund?**

All extra-curricular, co-curricular, PE, music, and drama programs are funded with local levy dollars. The elementary swimming program and Outdoor School are supported with levy dollars. In addition, the levy helps fund salaries for staff to improve student learning and other professional development; para-educator support in the classroom and on the playground; improve and maintain technology in our classrooms; support the services and supplies needed to clean and maintain our buildings and grounds. The levy will also augment school counselor staffing above the state funding model so that services remain available. The capital levy will be used for construction/facility upgrades to continue investing in our existing facilities.

**Aren't these items funded by the state under basic education funding?**

No. Basic education funds from the state and federal government provide about 90% of the cost of basic education. The funds requested through this levy represent about 9% of the proposed budget for the next four (4) years. When the incentive funds from the state are factored in, the impact on the budget is 12%.

**What are co-curricular or extracurricular programs?**

These include drama, musicals, the swim program, athletic programs and competitions, performing arts and marching bands, choir, orchestra and other after school activities. These funds also supplement the staff funded by the state to support academic and social emotional support for all students. The levy funds make it possible to provide these opportunities to all students regardless of income.