

Blaine School District

“Continuing Our Commitment To Excellence”



2018 Capital Levy

For the present and for the future

Thanks to community support, school facilities in the Blaine School District have seen many improvements in recent years. However, upgrading facilities for a safe and functional learning environment is cyclical and ongoing. A facility review committee made up of community volunteers and staff convened in 2017 to consider facility needs related to:

- Capital projects commitments that are currently unfunded
- District-wide facility needs over the next 5-7 years

Full details of the committee’s recommendations are available at www.blainesd.org.

Capital Levy Proposal

The Blaine School Board of Directors is proposing a Capital Levy that would collect property taxes of \$2 million per year for six years. Other local school taxes are decreasing an estimated \$1.76 million at the same time.

The levy would pay for important technology needs and construction or maintenance projects that are too expensive for the General Fund, including:

Technology
Planning and designs
Major maintenance
Activity space
Aging building systems



Future school site
Unfinished 2015 Bond projects
Remodel existing spaces
Career learning equipment

Election date:

April 24, 2018

Ballots will be mailed by the County Auditor to all registered voters residing in the Blaine School District 20 days prior to the election.

How to vote:

Official ballot drop boxes are conveniently located in Point Roberts, Blaine, and Birch Bay. Ballots can also be returned by mail with postage, if postmarked by the election date.

How can I vote?

The County Auditor’s office assists voters with registration and issues concerning ballots. The Election Division can be reached at 360-778-5102.



Capital Levy Projects

Technology (\$1.5 M)

Career exploration coursework on the horizon will utilize modern technology equipment. Levy dollars will:

- Provide exciting and engaging hands on and interactive learning opportunities in Math and Science.
- Equip students with a 1:1 ratio of computers or tablet devices
- Currently, not all students have similar instruction in technology. The levy will help develop and train classroom teachers of all grade levels to integrate technology use in lessons.
- Replace obsolete lab computers and staff laptops

District-wide Facility Improvements (\$4.5 M)

- Point Roberts - school play room heating and fire suppression, exterior paint
- Gymnasium complex – new roofing, paint, foyer flooring, heating upgrade
- Performing Arts Center – new roofing, gutters, paint, stage floor, sound, light, curtain, restrooms upgrade
- Blaine Middle School – heating upgrade, cafeteria flooring, gym roofing and paint
- Blaine Primary School – roof top heating unit replacement
- Vocational building – interior remodeling, restroom upgrade, paint
- Archives and technology office relocation,
- Transportation office carpeting, painting, and restroom upgrade
- Track building remodel and storage
- Security camera upgrades
- Sidewalk upgrades and ADA compliance
- Seal coat parking lots
- Improve catch basins and drainage issues
- Exterior lighting
- Allowance for unforeseen needs arising during the levy period
- Replace old house serving as office space



School Site in Birch Bay

School Board Resolution 14/15-04 directs the district to purchase land for the next school siting located in the Birch Bay community. Feasibility, purchase, and preliminary planning costs are included in the levy proposal.

Grandstands (\$3.15M)

Construction bids for the Blaine High School Addition project were higher than cost estimates. As a result, grandstands were not funded. A revised design awaits funding in the capital levy proposal and includes:

- Wider aisles
- Bird resistant ceiling
- Current building codes
- Modern restroom facilities
- Convenient concessions
- Increased seating capacity



Fields and Activity Space (\$1.83M)

The school district supports several important outdoor fields that represent a limited community resource. Grassy areas shared by all schools have eroded over time, especially athletic fields, and use must be restricted for safety and preservation.

Reduced use for PE classes, athletics, community recreation, youth sports, and recess prompt attention for capital levy funds. Projects include:

- Installation of artificial turf within the boundaries of the track
- Restoration of fields at Pipeline
- Pipeline dugouts, storage barn replacement, and irrigation equipment
- Future restroom planning
- Relocation of transformer in Blaine Elementary playfield





Q & A

Q: Why a levy?

There are no other sources of funds to address these projects. Very few capital projects for schools generate much state funding assistance. General funds are limited and dedicated for student learning and support services. This means most capital needs rely on Bonds or Capital Levies.



Q: Why now?

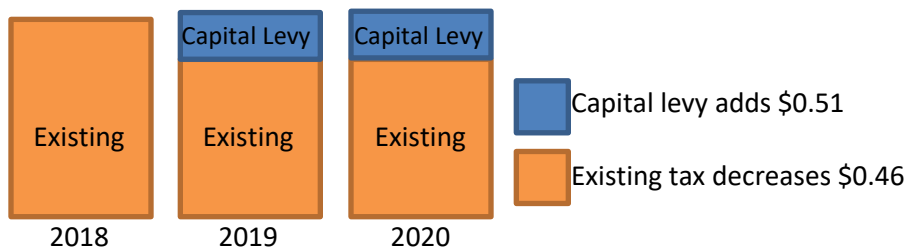
There is a cost in waiting until later:

- Construction costs have escalated in recent years affecting school projects across the region. Some anticipate increases up to 10% annually over the next few years.
- Deferring needed maintenance projects escalates costs and can mean full scale replacements later.

The timing of the proposed capital levy coincides with a reduction of existing local school taxes (M&O and Bonds) creating an opportunity to keep tax rates level.

Q: How will taxes be affected?

Below is a projection of Blaine School District tax rates under current laws expressed as a rate per thousand dollars of property value:



2018 School District Tax Rates	
\$4.552	Bellingham
\$4.325	Ferndale
\$2.803	Blaine
\$3.829	Lynden
\$4.677	Meridian
\$4.256	Mount Baker
\$5.861	Nooksack Valley

The net effect will be an increase of approximately \$0.05 per thousand. Actual taxes paid by individual taxpayers depend on the County’s assessed value of their property compared to all other property within the district.

For more information, please visit the school district website (www.blainesd.org) or call 360-332-5881

Q: What is a capital levy?

A capital levy is a property tax, approved by voters that can last only six years. Taxes collected must be used for school capital or technology needs. The funds go directly to project costs or principal on loans for project costs. No funds are spent on interest costs. Election approval requires 50% or greater yes votes.