



**STANWOOD-CAMANO
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Every student is **empowered
to learn** in an inclusive setting
and is **prepared for the future**
of their choice.

Education Levy Renewal

Key Information



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Stanwood-Camano School District's Prop. 1 is on the February 13 ballot

Election Day
Feb. 13

PDC — What we can and can't do



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CAN promote the levy outside of work hours and off school property

CAN share facts and figures about the levy and district needs — without including opinion — during work hours and on school property

CAN remind voters of upcoming election dates and ballot deadlines



CAN'T campaign during work hours or on school property

CAN'T use district resources to create or distribute campaign materials

CAN'T pressure or coerce employees to participate in campaign activities

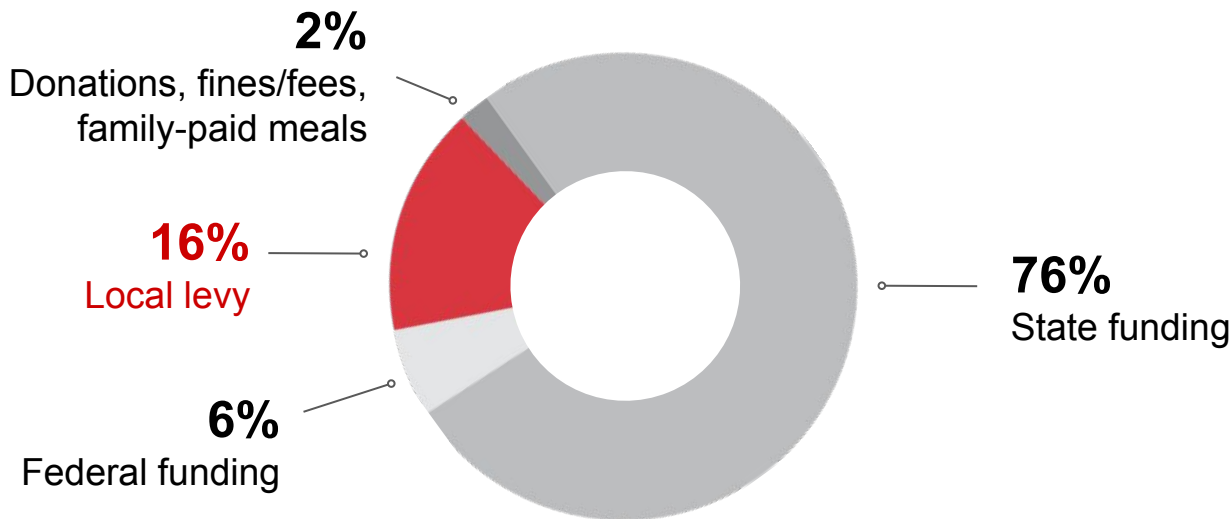
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Visit www.pdc.wa.gov for more specific rules

What is on the Ballot?

A 4-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O) that funds about 16% of our total budget.

This levy will average about \$17 million each year — the largest piece of revenue outside the allocations from the state.



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Why is Levy Funding Needed?

In short: To bridge the gap between what the state provides and the services our community wants.

Levy dollars help pay for staffing and operations, including for sports, most safety and security personnel, and many other staffing costs such as teaching, nursing, and counseling.

This levy would continue funding for educational programs so all Stanwood-Camano students have opportunities to succeed in school.

A levy failure will mean significant reductions in staff, programs, and services for students.



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What Does the Levy Cost?

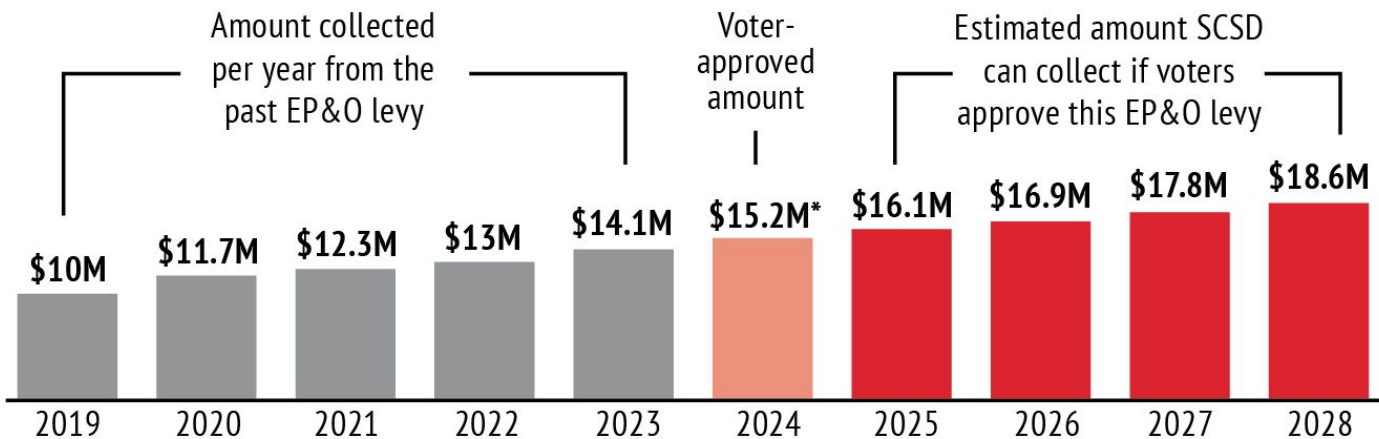
The levy is not a new tax. It renews an expiring levy that provides local funding for needs not covered by state and federal funding. The levy amount increases each year partially due to enrollment growth and inflation. The estimated tax rate is \$1.42 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2025.



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*Estimated

What Does the Levy Fund?

Local funding pays for staff positions such as instructional assistants, nurses, custodians, safety and security staff. Below are examples of *some* of the funding gaps (in FTE):

Position	State Funded	Needed Staff	Difference Levy Funded
Nursing/Health staff	4.3	9.8	+ 5.5
Instructional assistants	7.7	18.6	+ 10.9
Custodians	17.6	24.9	+ 7.3
Student & staff safety	0.8	9.2	+ 8.4
Technology staff	2.5	5.0	+ 2.5
Athletic coaches*	0	106	+106

*Actual number of positions, not FTE



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Where will the levy money go?



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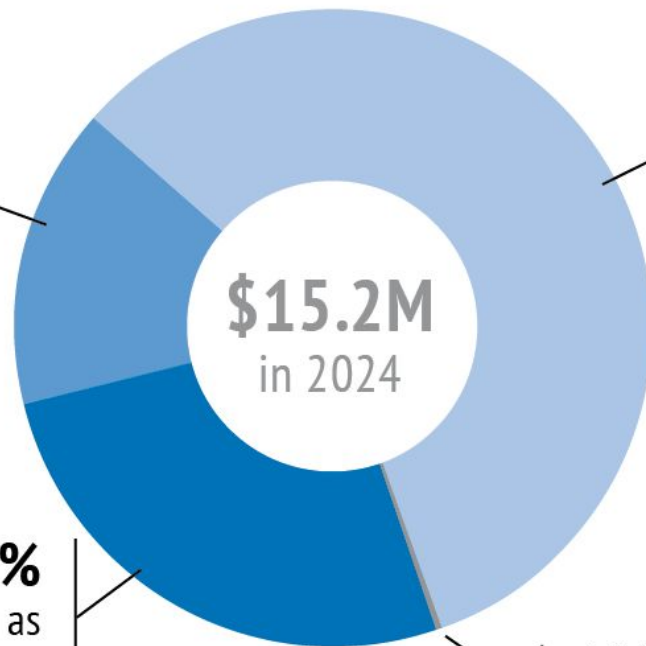


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26%
Special Education,
such as teachers,
paraeducators,
substitutes,
and more

15%
Support Services, such as
staff for serving meals,
custodial, technology,
and transportation



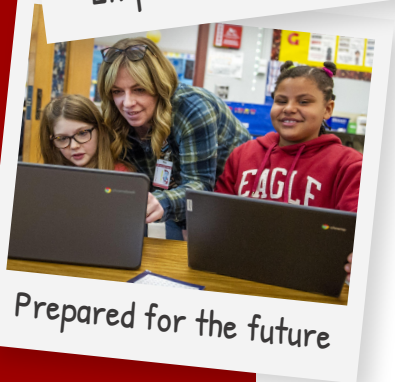
\$15.2M
in 2024

58%
Regular Instruction,
such as teachers,
paraeducators,
safety staff, coaches,
health staff,
substitutes,
transportation to
activities, and more

1%
Other instructional programs
such as highly capable

How this levy benefits students

- Enhances level of paraeducator classroom help
- Reduces class sizes
- Allows us to continue small group interventions
- Provides for adequate supervision of students before/during/after school day
- Supports extracurricular activities, such as our athletic programs
- Enhances level of safety personnel



Q: Could the levy generate more money if necessary?

The levy would authorize the district to **collect no more than the voter-approved amount** over the four years.

In a given year, if property assessed value goes up, the local levy rate goes down so that we don't collect more than what voters approved in that calendar year.

The amount collected each year **could be less** than the voter approved amount based on a legislative cap imposed by Washington state.



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Q: What is the difference between a school bond and a school levy?



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Levies are for learning. Levies provide money for educating students and operating schools. When voters approve a levy, they are agreeing to pay taxes to fund these services.



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Bonds are for building. Bonds pay for capital facilities needs. When voters approve a bond, it allows the school district to borrow money to build, renovate or repair schools or other facilities. Bond dollars can only be used for capital improvements.

Q: How is this measure different from the Maintenance and Technology levy in 2022?

In 2022, Stanwood-Camano voters twice failed a four-year, \$10 million **Capital** Maintenance and Technology Levy.

That levy has now expired, and the total tax rate for the school district has decreased.

That levy would **not have funded** other academic, health, and safety needs — including additional teachers, instructional aides, athletics and activities programs, safety personnel, and other staff not fully funded by the state.



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Q: There is a state property tax for education. Why do we need a local levy?

A portion of the property taxes that used to go directly to local schools now goes to the state for distribution back to school districts.

The state's McCleary decision increased state property taxes and decreased the amount school districts could collect through local levies.

Levy funding **still pays for important needs** not fully funded by the state.

Q: What happens if property values increase during the year?

Because **voters approve a set levy amount**, if property values go up, the tax rate is adjusted downward.

The school district **cannot collect more** than the levy amount approved by voters in that calendar year.

Increases in property values **do not generate more local tax revenue** for the school district.



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Q: How will this tax impact senior citizens on a fixed income?

There are tax exemption programs for senior citizens and disabled persons. These programs can reduce property tax bills.

Qualifying for these exemptions is based on age or disability, residency, and income.

Both the Island County and Snohomish County Assessor's Office can help people apply for these programs!



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How do we stack up with our peers?

189th

We rank in the bottom half of the 295 school districts in the state when comparing the tax rate for EP&O levies

11th

Among the 14 Snohomish County school districts, only Edmonds, Darrington, and Index have lower tax rates for their EP&O levy. *Of 14 districts, we rank 3rd from the bottom of the lowest tax rates for a levy*



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*According to 2022 rates

How are we planning for future growth?

Our enrollment is projected to grow in the next decade.

Our **Capital Facilities Advisory Committee (CFAC)** is meeting this school year to analyze the district and possibly make a recommendation to the school board about next steps.

Our **Community Budget Advisory Committee (CBAC)** is also meeting this school year to provide fresh perspectives on the district finances and to possibly make a recommendation to the school board about next steps.



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Questions? More Information?

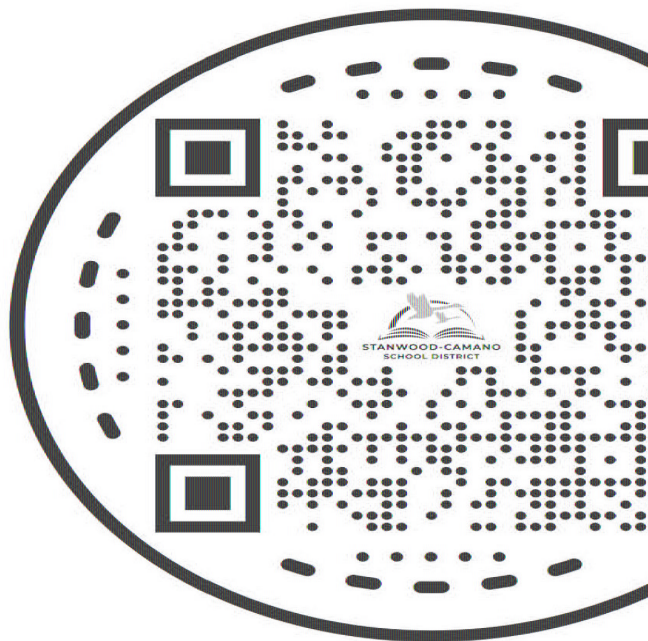
Visit www.stanwood.wednet.edu/levy or email scsdinfo@stanwood.wednet.edu with any questions



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