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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | |  | **November 2, 2010**  **Seattle School District No. 1 – Proposition No. 1**  **OPERATIONS LEVY**  ***Please mail your ballots by November 2\*\**** |   The Seattle School Board voted unanimously at its July 7 meeting to place a three-year, $48.2 million operations levy before Seattle voters on the Nov. 2, 2010 general election ballot. These levy funds are specifically targeted to:   * **Reduce the number and severity of cuts ($25.5M)** that will have to be made to instructional programs and services over the next several years. The state has made dramatic cuts to K-12 funding over the past two years - approximately $32M over the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school year; and a funding gap of approximately $28M is estimated for 2011-2012. * **Support our students, teachers and classrooms ($19M total; $16.8M from levy; $2.2M from TIF grant) –** includes additional collaboration time for teachers ($4.6M); career ladder stipends for teachers ($5.1M) and a 1% pay increase for teachers in year 2 and an additional 1% in year 3 of the new teacher's contract ($5.4M); $2.4M to implement the new teacher evaluation system and $1.5M for other contract provisions such as a 1% increase for substitutes; an extra prep day for nurses. * **Purchase new textbooks and classroom materials** for elementary music, middle school language arts, and high school science and social studies – **($5.9M)** – these materials will be in schools for fall 2011.   **WHY ask for a $48.2M Levy?** The state has made dramatic cuts to K-12 funding over the past two years – approximately $32M over the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years; and a funding gap of approximately $28M is estimated for 2011-2012. Recognizing that districts across the state are facing additional severe cuts to programs and services due to decreased state funding, in March 2010 the legislature authorized school districts to ask local voters for additional levy funding.  For Seattle Public Schools, that authorized amount is $48.2 million over three years - 2011, 2012 and 2013.  **WHAT is the cost to taxpayers of this Levy?** This levy will raise $48.2 million. The additional levy rate per $1,000 of assessed value would be 12 cents per year, so a homeowner with a home valued at $400,000 would pay an additional $48 per year.  **WILL these levy funds be invested in classrooms and schools?** Yes.  This levy will enable SPS to reduce the number and severity of cuts to classrooms and educational services due to shortfalls in funding. The legislature has not yet told us where funding cuts will be made, so we can’t specify the services and programs at this time. However, we can say that 80 to 85% of the district's operating budget is spent on wages and salaries and so levy funds will help us reduce the extent and severity of cuts to staffing. The levy will also contribute to funding the new teachers’ contract as well as new textbooks and materials.  **FOR ADDITONAL INFORMATION:** [**www.seattleschools.org**](http://www.seattleschools.org)  **\*\*King County Elections is reminding voters that many measures are located on the BACK of the ballot. This includes the Seattle School District Operations Levy.** | | |  | | http://www.seattleschools.org/images/blank.gif |