



SAN JUAN ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND TECHNOLOGY LEVY FACTS

On February 13, 2024, the San Juan Island School District will ask voters to renew the capital projects and technology levy for four years. **This levy provides funding for safety improvements, major facility repairs, and technology equipment and updates.** Basic education funding provided by the State of Washington does not provide the necessary funds for facility improvements or technology. Re-authorization of this levy ensures the maintenance of our school facilities and sustains our investment in technology by:

- Staying current with ever-changing technological demands through new educational and operational technology and staff training
- Enclosing the STEAM (**S**cience, **T**echnology, **E**ngineering, **A**rt, and **M**ath) building breezeway in order to expand the trades
- Repairing/replacing and painting the middle and high school siding
- Replacing the elementary school carpet
- Replacing the wallpaper and repainting the elementary school interior
- Painting the elementary school covered play area
- Replacing the elementary school gym floor and repairing the ceiling
- Remodeling the Turnbull Gym entry and bathrooms
- Replacing failing boilers
- Replacing bleachers in the elementary school gym, the Hall Gym, and the football field
- Repainting and repairing the exterior of the district office

While the general operating fund pays for the daily operating expenses and minor repairs of our facilities, capital funds are required for major repairs, system replacements, facility renovations, and technological services for staff and students.

The renewal of the capital and technology levy continues to ensure that a greater portion of the general fund is directed to sustaining high-quality instruction and reasonable class sizes.

If approved, the capital projects and technology levy would reestablish the existing levy at the amount of \$1,860,837.50 each year for four years from 2025 through 2028.

Collection Years	Levy Amount per year	Mill Rate (amount/\$1,000 of assessed home value)	Annual Cost for a Home Assessed at \$800,000 at the approved rate
Approved 2020 Levy	\$1,353,750	\$0.39	\$313
Actual 4-year average of the current levy	\$1,353,730	\$0.28	\$224
*2024 Proposed Levy	\$1,860,838	\$0.34	\$268
The levy is a fixed amount of \$1,860,837.50 per year. As new construction is added to the tax rolls, those properties pay into the levy, lowering your personal taxes, as evidenced in the chart above. The voter-approved levy in 2020 was \$.39/\$1,000 of assessed value, but the actual average collection rate is lower at \$.28/\$1,000 of assessed value.			

Voters approve a total fixed levy amount for each of the four years. Estimates are based on property tax values provided by the San Juan County Assessor's Office. Some property owners may qualify for an exemption from levy property taxes if they are enrolled in the Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons State Exemption Program. Criteria for enrollment are available at the County Assessor's Office.

Ballots are due by Tuesday, February 13th

Fact #1

On February 13, 2024, the San Juan Island School District will ask voters to reinstate the capital projects and technology levy for four years. This levy provides funding for critical capital improvements, major facility repairs, and technology equipment, implementation, and support. This levy is essential to our schools. San Juan Island voters have supported our schools at the polls for decades.

Fact #2

This is not a new tax. Our school district is authorized to file two levies every four years. In 2022, voters approved an Educational Programs and Operations Levy that supports basic education and daily district operations. This Capital and Technology Levy request replaces the expiring 2020 levy.

Fact #3

We have worked hard to keep the levy increase small. If you own a home assessed at \$800,000, the increase to your taxes would be less than \$4 per month over the current four-year average mill rate. Taking care of the existing facilities is an economical long-term approach to fiscal responsibility. The proposed capital and technology projects list prioritizes improving safety, energy efficiency, and providing preventative maintenance.

Fact #4

Local capital levy dollars make up the difference between what it costs to operate our schools and what the state funds. State basic education funding does not

provide the necessary funds for school district capital facility improvements or technology. The school district applies for competitive grant funding but is still reliant on local levy support to maintain the integrity of facilities and to fund technology systems.

Fact #5

Our schools require maintenance for safety, instructional improvement, program expansion, and community asset protection. Upcoming projects include enclosing the STEAM building breezeway to expand the trades, repairing and painting the middle and high school siding, replacing the elementary school carpet, repainting and wallpapering the elementary school interior, and replacing the elementary school gym floor. **A complete list is available at www.sjisd.wednet.edu.**

Fact #6

Technology is essential. Technology improvements will include a computer replacement schedule for all the campuses, tech support, and ongoing costs associated with instructional programs. Technology advances every day and education must be responsive to these advances. Our teachers must stay up-to-date with the skills and tools that will ensure our students have the knowledge necessary to compete in the workforce.

Fact #7

The capital levy is an investment in student success. The capital levy allows for a greater portion of the general fund to be directed

to instruction. San Juan Island School District students' graduation and college enrollment rates are well above the state averages, and each year our students receive state awards for outstanding academic achievement.

Fact #8

The district has been very intentional and very detailed in this capital and technology levy process and continues to work hard to ensure transparency. Our committees have included community representatives, school board directors, and school district staff. More importantly, we have a capital and technology implementation plan to ensure our students and teachers have a safe and healthy environment and the tools necessary for teaching and learning.

Fact #9

The whole community can be proud of well-maintained schools and well-kept facilities available for public use. Our facilities are used weekly by various user groups serving thousands of community members for recreation, meetings, and events during evenings, weekends, and during school breaks. School facilities are community-owned assets. This levy preserves and protects these assets for future generations.

If you have questions contact Superintendent Fred Woods
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