

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: What is the difference between a Capital Projects Bond and a Levy?**

A: A Capital Projects Bond represents a long term commitment from voters to support the improvement or new construction of district facilities. Once bonds are approved and subsequently offered for sale to investors, repayment involves a period of up to 20 years.

A Levy is a property tax on real estate that helps finance day-to-day educational programs and operations of the public schools. The Levy specifies an amount to be collected each year.

**Q: What are the election requirements?**

A: Washington State law has three requirements for school Levy and Bond elections:

(1) Replacement Levy measures require a simple majority vote; that means that at least 50% of the votes must be "YES" in order for the measure to pass.

(2) Capital Projects Bond measures require a super majority vote; that means that at least 60% of the votes must be "YES" in order for the measure to pass.

(3) At least 40% of the voters who voted in the last general election must cast a ballot for the February 14, 2012 election to be validated.

**Q: Does an increase in property values mean schools get more money?**

A: No. Once the Levy, or Bond, amount has been approved by the voters, the district cannot collect a total Levy amount higher than that which has been authorized, regardless of changes in property values. Any increase or decrease in property value may impact the tax rate, but will not impact the amount of total revenue approved by the voters.

**Q: Where do I vote?**

A: A ballot for the Blaine School District February 14, 2012, Maintenance & Operations Levy and Capital Projects Bond election will be mailed to the homes of registered voters on or around January 26, 2012.

**Q: Am I tax exempt?**

A: An exemption may be available for qualifying seniors and low-income homeowners. You are encouraged to contact the County Auditor's Office for information specific to property tax exemptions.

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