

Levies, Bonds, and Trust Lands

How Timber Revenue Can Benefit Taxpayers and School Districts

A resource from the Washington State School Directors' Association - Trust Lands Advisory Committee

Different Types of Ballot Measures

There are five common types of ballot measures that local school districts can run. The most common of which is the *Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O)*, used to fund non-basic education operating expenses. The other types of levies and bonds are mostly used for one time special projects, but they can be renewed by the district voters.

<i>M&O or EP&O Levy</i>	<u>Educational Programs & Operations Levies</u> are used for educational programs, special programs, extra-curricular activities, etc. The EP&O Levy is subject to a levy lid.	1 – 4 years (Usually renewed prior to expiration)	50% + to pass
<i>Tech Levy</i>	<u>Tech Levies</u> are used for technology upgrades.	1 – 6 years	50% + to pass
<i>Transportation Levy</i>	<u>Transportation Levies</u> are used to purchase school buses.	1 – 4 years	50% + to pass
<i>Capital Projects Levy</i>	<u>Capital Projects Levies</u> are used for major repairs and/or minor upgrades to facilities.	1 – 6 years	50% + to pass
<i>Bonds</i>	<u>Bonds</u> are used for construction of new schools or major remodels.	15 – 20 years	60% + to pass

Federal Forest Lands
Managed by the United States Forest Service
Revenue goes to all counties that have National Forest Lands
Revenues are split 50/50 between counties and school districts
RCW 28A.520.020 requires that the school district's portion of revenues are deducted from their state funding and used to support K-12 state-wide
During the 2015-2017 biennium only, ESHB 2376 (sec. 21) permits school districts to keep these funds

Common School Trust Lands
Managed by the Department of Natural Resources
Revenue goes to the state to help fund school construction
Districts <u>must have passed a Bond</u> to access these funds This allows districts to run a smaller bond and saves taxpayers money.
The amount of funds that a district may receive depends in part on the size and design of the building compared to the School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) formula



State Forest Trust Lands
Managed by the Department of Natural Resources
Revenue goes to the county and then is distributed to the taxing district where the harvest occurred
RCW 79.64.110 requires that revenues are distributed according to the local tax code of each county, their taxing districts, and the state school levy
The state has the authority to retain the "EP&O" portion of these funds but currently allows school districts to use these funds as part of their district operating budget
Districts <u>must have passed a Tech Levy, Transportation Levy, Capital Levy, or Bond</u> , to access these funds. Generally, the funds must be used for purposes permissible for the type of levy or bond that generated them

There are three main types of timber lands that generate revenue for school districts. Each type has specific laws that govern how the revenues are distributed and used. To take full advantage of these resources, school districts may need to have certain ballot measures in place.

Questions? Want More Information? Contact:

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