



Seattle Public Schools

Information on the February 11, 2025
levy renewals

www.seattleschools.org/levies



**BUILDING
FOR
LEARNING**

EDUCATION LEVIES 2025

About SPS School Levies

Local property taxes used to fund public schools

- Must be approved by voters
- All funding stays in Seattle to support our students and schools
- Not new taxes
 - If approved, these levies continue current funding sources
- Fixed amount collected over life of levy



Two SPS Education Levies Up for Renewal

Educational Programs & Operations Levy (EP&O) renewal

- Provides day-to-day operations not fully funded by state
- Funds staff positions, special education, and programs and opportunities for students such as athletics, drama, and art

Capital Levy renewal

- Main source of funding for safety and security improvements, technology, and school building replacement, renovation, and repair

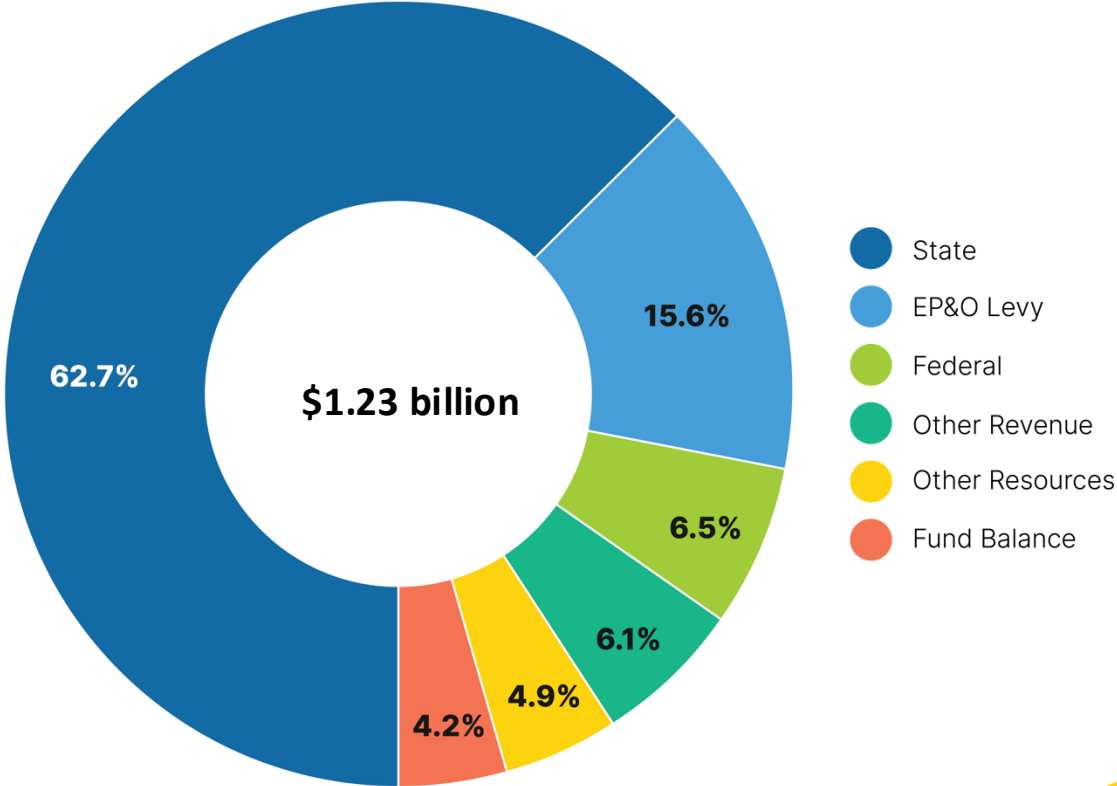
These levy renewals will be on the Feb. 11, 2025, ballot

K-12 Funding in Seattle

- School districts are funded through state, local, and federal dollars.
- \$191.1 million or **15.6 percent** of the District’s 2024-25 General Fund comes from voter-approved local levy funding.

2024-25 Budgeted Resources by Type

May not equal 100% due to rounding



Renewal of the Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy



Educational Programs and Operations Levy

Helps continue funding for day-to-day educational programs and services not fully funded by the state

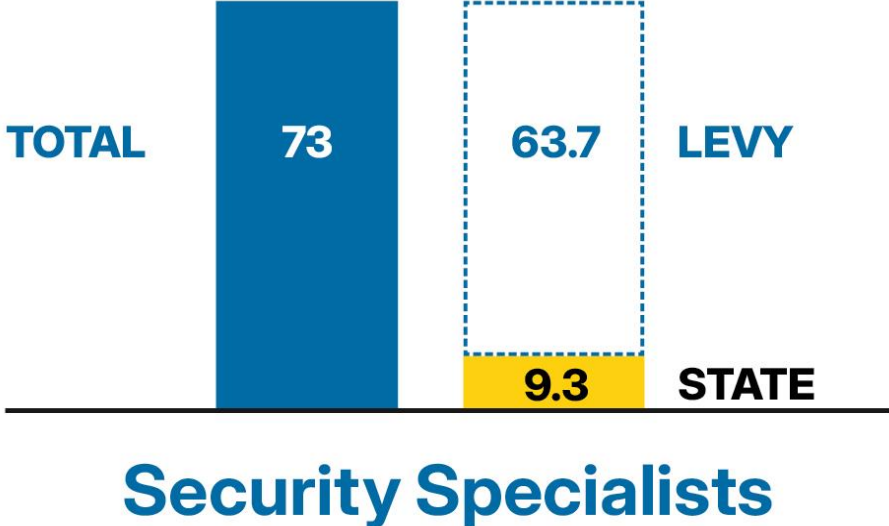
- **Student safety and support:** Funds salaries, including school security, special education, and multilingual support staff
- **Student services and programs:** Ensures continued funding for special education, healthy student meals, and student transportation
- **Student opportunities:** Supports student activities such as athletics, arts, music, and drama

Example of the Funding Gap

Security Staff

The state funds 9.3 security specialists for Seattle Public Schools.

Levy funds are used to provide an additional 63.7 security specialists for a total of 73.



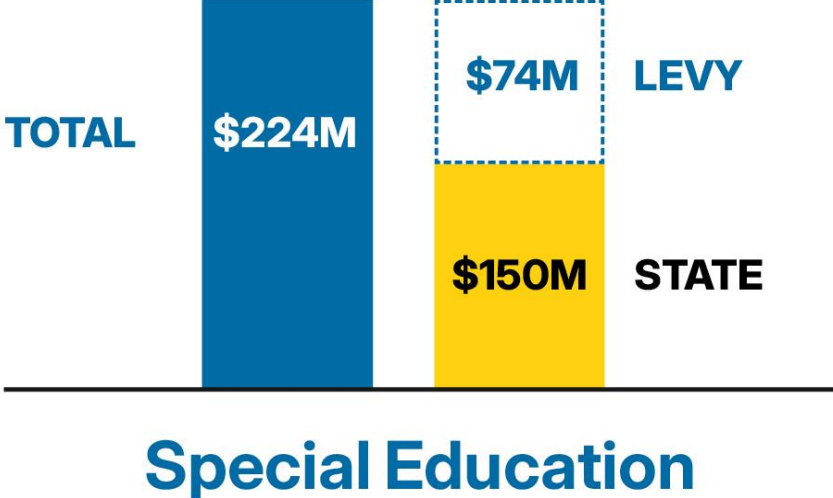
Example of the Funding Gap

Special Education

To ensure our 7,809 students who need special education services have the supports they need, we spend \$224 million per year for special education.

The state provides \$150 million.

That's a \$74 million gap.

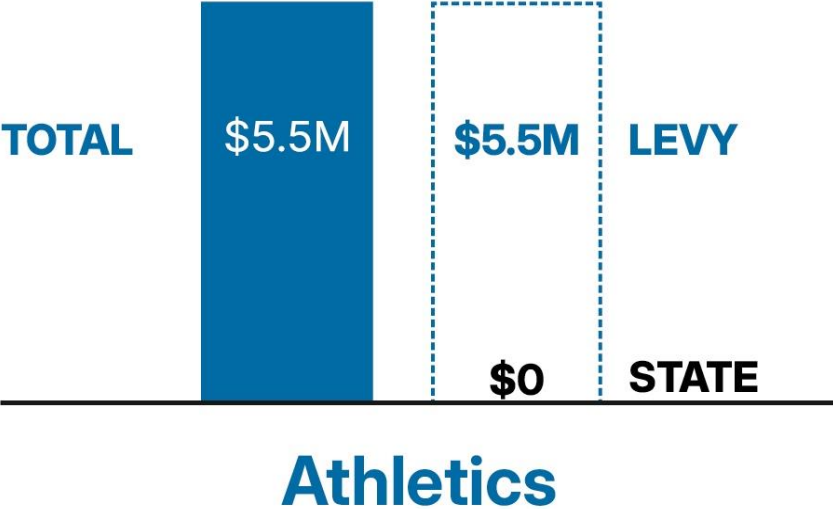


Example of the Funding Gap

Athletics

The state provides zero funding for middle and high school athletics.

The levy funds coaches, field rentals, equipment, and transportation to ensure our students have access to after-school sports.



Restrictions on EP&O Levies

State Law

- Limits amount school districts may collect
- Amount has changed
 - Washington Supreme Court decision in McCleary v. State and subsequent changes in state law further restricted the amount school districts can ask for in local taxes

Our Financial Ask

- Request maximum allowed plus additional amount in case state increases limit during 3-year levy
- Extra amount not collected unless authorized by state Legislature

What is the cost of the Educational Programs and Operations Levy Renewal?

- \$747 million over three years (if the state lifts our current levy restrictions)
- We are proposing a levy rate between 78 and 72 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value over the 3 years.

Building Excellence Capital Levy (BEX VI) Renewal



Capital Levy Renewal

- 6-year levy
- Replaces expiring BEX V levy
- Building Projects
 - Safety and security improvements
 - Heating and ventilation improvements
 - Replacements, renovations, and repairs
 - Energy conservation
- Technology funding



BEX VI Capital Levy Building Recommendations

Major Renovations and Replacements

- Lowell ES addition and renovation of historic building
- Elementary school replacement on same location to be determined later this year
- Aki Kurose MS addition and renovation
- Chief Sealth International HS Career and Technical Education (CTE) and classroom addition
- John Marshall School interim site renovation

BEX VI Capital Levy Building Recommendations

- Safety, Security, and Accessibility Improvements
 - Security entry lobbies
 - Building and site security equipment (fencing)
 - Intercom systems (districtwide emergency notifications)
 - Security systems
 - Fire alarm systems
 - Seismic improvements for earthquake safety
 - Defibrillator replacements
 - Accessibility (ADA) improvements including elevator repairs



BEX VI Capital Levy Building Recommendations

- Building Condition Improvements
 - Exterior improvements: Roofs, windows, walls
 - Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC)
 - Single occupancy student restrooms
 - Lighting upgrades and other changes to comply with new regulations such as Clean Buildings Performance Standards
 - Playground safety and site improvements; athletic field replacement and field lighting
 - Central kitchen improvements to support school breakfast and lunches

How Were Projects Selected?

- Reviewed consultant report and facilities department data on condition of school buildings
- Developed cost estimates
- Assigned priority number to each project
- Refined list using School Board policy and Guiding Principles (which includes using an equity lens)
- Reviewed with BEX/BTA Capital Levies Oversight Committee and Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC)
- Made recommendations to School Board on Oct. 9
- School Board approved to place proposal on the ballot for consideration by voters Nov. 19

BEX VI Technology Funding



Technology Funding

Capital levies fund 90% of SPS's technology budget

- Student and staff computers/devices
- Classroom technology
- Software and hardware
- Development and implementation of a digital curriculum
- Upgrades to digital systems
- Upgrades to cyber security systems
- Equitable access to digital resources and language support systems

Technology Areas of Funding

\$415 million over 3 years to fund:

- Student Learning and Support
 - Technical support staff for repairs and logistics at schools
 - Digital learning support, instructional software, student laptops
- Infrastructure and Security
 - Cybersecurity monitoring
 - Server software licenses, operations, equipment/hardware maintenance
 - District infrastructures such as internet, telephone service, and associated staff
- District Systems and Data
 - Business/financial systems, learning management systems, student information systems



What is the cost of the BEX V Capital Levy Renewal?

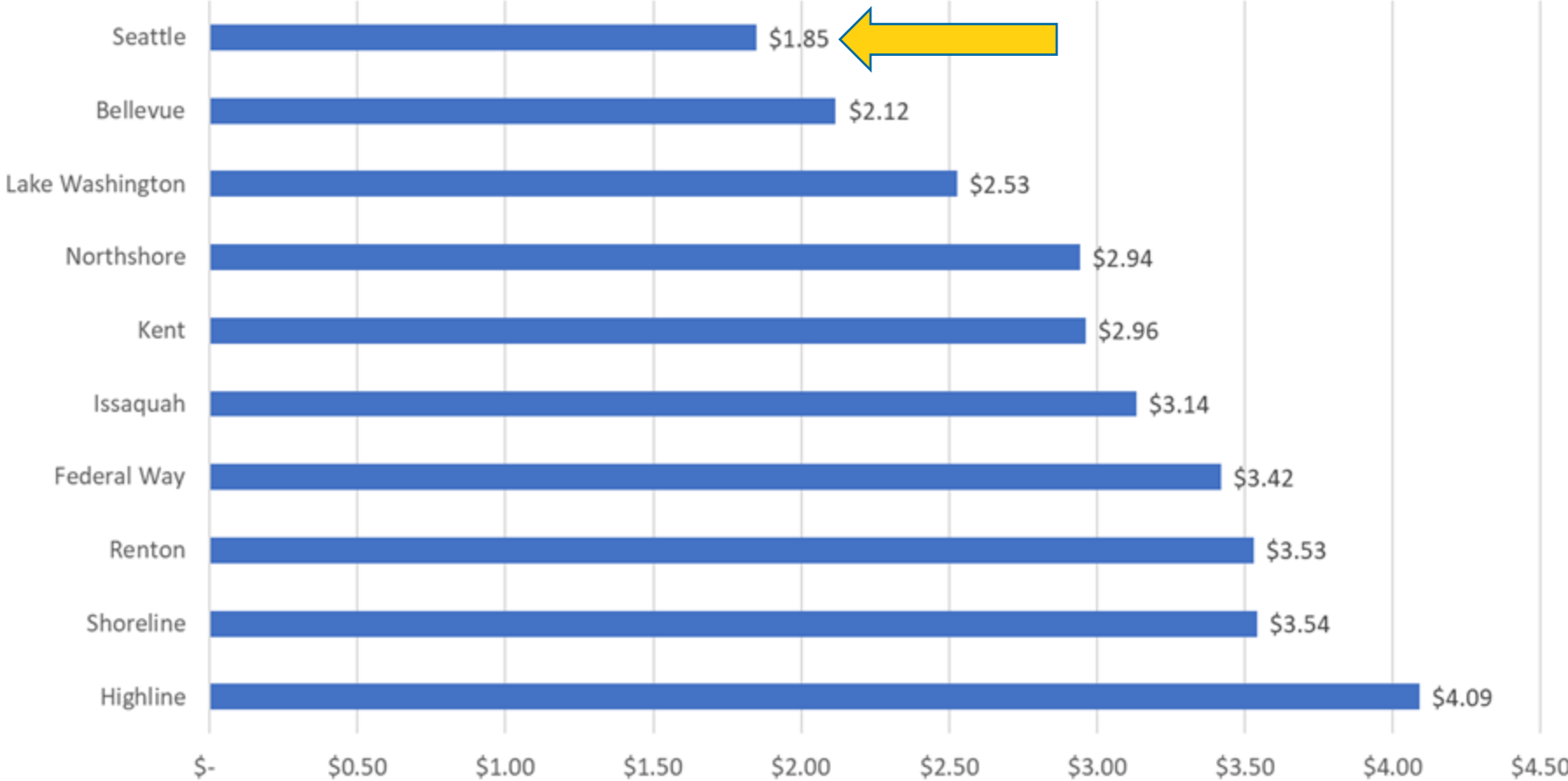
- \$1.8 billion over six years for all projects including Technology funding
 - Rate ranges between 93 cents and 79 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value over the 6 years of the levy

Levy Rate Comparison



How Seattle School Taxes Compare — 2024

per \$1,000 of assessed property value



Source: King County Assessor Reports, Levy Rate Reports; Includes all current school levies and bonds for 2024



SPS levy rate

All taxes approved by Seattle voters stay in our district to fund SPS schools. We continue to maintain one of the lowest tax rates in the Puget Sound region.

Current SPS levy rate (2024)

\$1.85 per \$1,000 of
assessed property value

SPS levy rate if renewed* (2025-2028)

\$2.12 per \$1,000 of assessed
property value

*If the state lifts our current levy collection restrictions.

Thank you!

Election date: February 11, 2025

Five in-person community meetings (with interpretation):

Thursday, January 9

- 6:30, Genesee Hill Elementary

Monday, January 13

- 6:30, Wing Luke Elementary

Tuesday, January 14

- 6:30, Viewlands Elementary

Thursday, January 16

- 6:30, Kimball Elementary

Tuesday, January 21

- 6:30, Olympic Hills Elementary

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