



Renewal of the Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy *(prior name was Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy)*

On **Tuesday, November 3, 2020**, Eastmont School District residents will be asked to vote on a ballot item to renew our current four-year Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy. A local levy is one source (11%) of the three common revenues used for funding Washington public schools. Other sources include general state apportionment based on student enrollment (79%) and federal funds based on exceptional student needs (10%). The remaining 1% consists of facility use fees, student fees, etc.

Fact #1: *This is not a new tax.*

Our current EP&O Levy which expires December 2021. By putting the levy on the 2020 general election ballot, we save over \$50,000 in election costs than if we run a special election. This is also one of the few taxes that is not sent to the State or the Federal Government, but rather stays in our community to only support K-12 public education.

Fact #2: Levy vs. Bond

EP&O levies are primarily for learning and supporting educational programs and the day-to-day operation of our schools. They require 50%+1 for approval. Bonds are for building schools, purchasing property, and other District capital projects, however, these require 60% approval.

Fact #3: Is a Levy Still Needed?

Yes, Eastmont has been unable to do on-campus instruction since March. It is important to recognize we provide a 13-year service. As in all community emergencies, getting schools operational is always a priority to ensure the next generation is as skilled and educated as possible to learn from this experience, and hopefully prevent/reduce future similar events.

Fact #4: Eastmont is limited and can only collect the total amount approved by the voters.

The total amount collected by a voter approved levy is a fixed amount. This is different than a sales tax or income tax type collection which is a fixed rate.

The District is asking voters to authorize the collection of the following exact amounts:

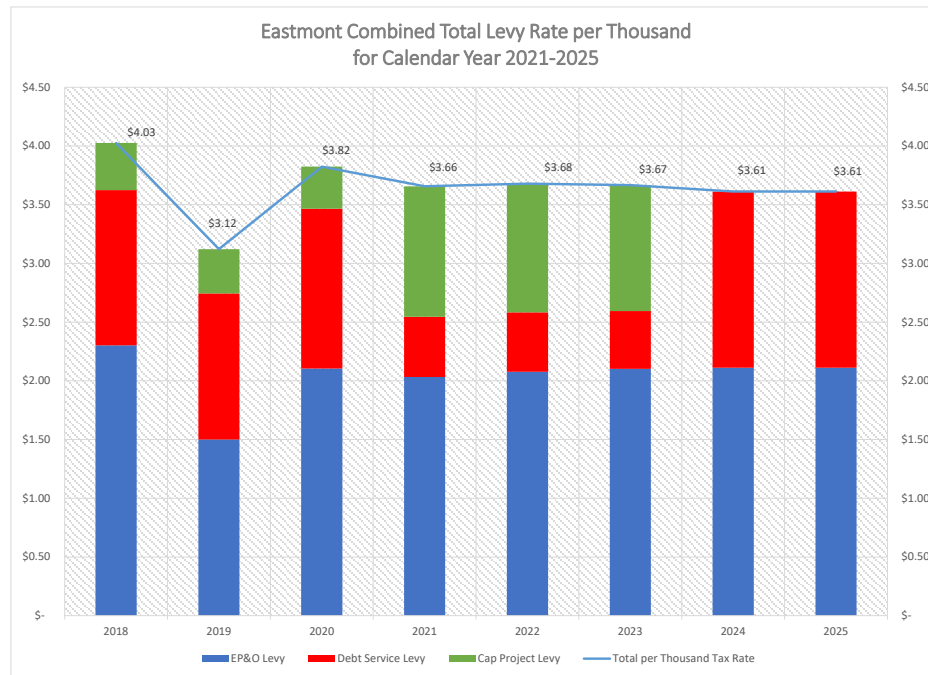
Calendar Year	Levy Amount
2022	\$11,049,000
2023	\$11,602,000
2024	\$12,182,000
2025	\$12,791,000

Fact #5: The estimated tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value will not increase.

The actual rate is based on the total assessed value of all taxable property within our school district. When the total value for the school district goes up, the tax rate goes down.

The current tax rate per thousand of assessed value for the current Educational Programs and Operations Levy is \$2.11 per thousand. The estimated future tax rate per thousand for the 4-year renewal levy is estimated to be no more than \$2.11 per thousand.

For comparison, our estimated rate for our current 4-year levy when voted on in 2016 was \$2.83 per \$1,000. This rate has decreased and is now \$2.11 per \$1,000 as a result of continued economic growth in Eastmont. Below are prior and future estimated total rates.



Fact #6: Eastmont receives additional Local Effort Assistance (LEA) funding from the State, because we have an approved EP&O Levy. These funds attempt to bridge the gap between a school district in a community with lower property value and one in a community with above average property value. If approved, the District will continue to qualify for approximately \$2.1 million annually in additional funding.

Fact #7: All but some of the very small school districts (289 out of 295 total) need levies to provide a comprehensive educational program. State funding does not:

- Pay for any extra-curricular programs (athletics, art, music, drama)
- Pay for all of the costs necessary to meet special education student’s educational needs
- Pay for the costs of personnel that exceed the state’s formula allocation
- Pay for all of the costs associated with student safety and school security
- Pay for all of the costs associated with technology (infrastructure; hardware; software)
- Pay for costs associated with the District’s pre-school program

Fact #8: Levy tax exemptions are available for senior citizens (61+), veterans, and disabled persons. Visit the Douglas County Assessor’s website at www.douglascountywa.net/elected-offices/assessor for more information or call (509) 745-8521.

Fact #9: The deadline to register online for voter registration is October 26. Citizens of Douglas County can register online or by mail. Visit the Douglas County Auditor’s website at <http://www.douglascountywa.net/elected-offices/auditor/elections> for more information.