

2012 Levy Q&A

Q: What is a Maintenance and Operations (M&O) levy?

A: A levy pays for day-to-day educational programs and operations and makes up the difference between the cost of educating Finley's students and the funding received from the state and federal government.

Q: What does the M&O levy help pay for?

A: The proposed levy maintains current district programs. It helps pay for:

- Lower class sizes
- Accelerated Reading Books and Tests
- Kindergarten Readiness
- Technology Updates for Classrooms
- Textbooks, Library Materials and Curriculum Updates
- Athletics at the High School and Middle School
- Activities – ASB, Honor Society, Drama, Annual
- Salaries for Coaches and Advisors
- Bus transportation costs to and from school
- Bus travel for Athletics and Activities
- Maintaining teaching and support staff
- Heat, lights, custodial supplies and equipment

Q: Is the levy a new tax?

A: No. This levy replaces the levy that expires in December 2012, which was approved by voters in 2010. This is not a new tax.

The capital projects bond (passed almost 12 years ago) that was approved to remodel Finley Middle School and River View High School will be paid in full in December 2011. In 2011 the Bond rate was \$1.08 per \$1,000 of assessed property. Finley School District **taxpayers will see a savings** of the amount when they receive their 2012 property statement.

Q: How much will the levy cost me?

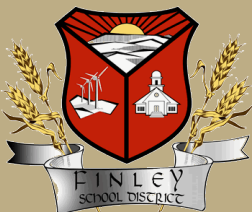
A: The levy rate is estimated at \$4.32 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Q: What is the levy request for 2013 and 2014?

A: The levy request is \$1,700,000 for 2013 and \$1,750,000 for 2014. The estimated levy rate for 2013 is \$4.32 and for 2014 is \$4.36.

Q: How often does Finley School District run a M&O levy?

A: Finley School District runs a replacement levy every two years. If approved, the collection of this levy would continue in calendar years 2013 and 2014, replacing the levy that expires in December 2012.



FINLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Maintenance & Operations Levy
February 14, 2012



Q: Which students are impacted with programs funded from the levy?

A: Every one of our students. Levy dollars fund our day-to-day educational programs such as textbooks, technology, athletics, activities, coaches, advisors, transportation, heat, lights, custodial supplies and equipment that affect all students in the district.

Q: If voters approve this levy, will Finley School District get any additional money from the state?

A: Possibly, but **only** if the state legislature approves "Levy Equalization" funds.

Q: Can senior citizens get a tax break?

A: Yes. Some senior citizens may qualify for a partial or total exemption from payment of the levy property taxes. Contact the Benton County Assessor at 735-2394.

Q: What happens if the levy fails?

A: If the levy does not pass, Finley School District **will not qualify** for Levy Equalization funds. Therefore, Finley School District would lose approximately \$2.3 million each year. A levy loss would reduce revenues for the district's general operating budget by about 20%.

Q: Why does the M&O levy matter to Finley?

A: If voters approve the levy, the district will receive \$1.7 million for 2013 and \$1.75 million for 2014.

Q: When do I vote?

A: As soon as you receive your ballot. The election is set for February 14, 2012. Benton County runs a mail-in-ballot election. This means you will receive your ballot in your mailbox sometime during the first weeks of January 2012. In order to have your vote counted, make sure your ballot is postmarked by February 14, 2012 and is properly submitted.

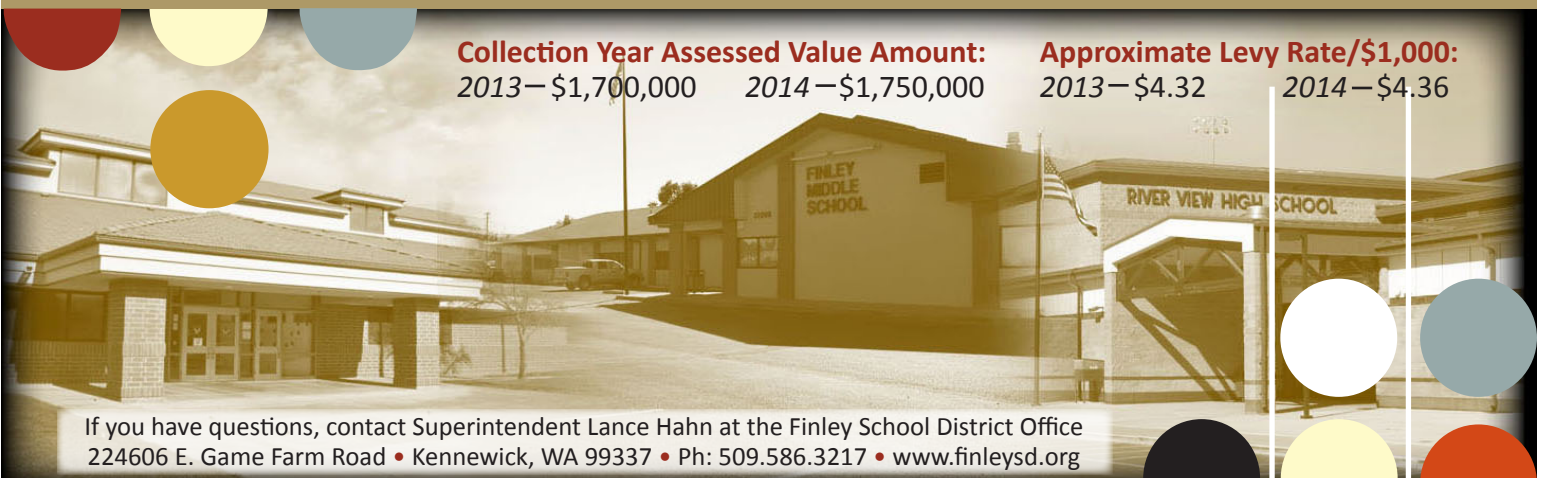
Q: How do I register to vote?

A: There are several ways to register to vote. You may register at any school office or at the Benton County Auditor's Office located at 5600 West Canal Place in Kennewick. Registration is also available online at <http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/olvr/site/>. Contact the Benton County Auditor at 736-2727. You can register to vote in this election up through January 16, 2012.

*You asked...
we answered.*

Collection Year Assessed Value Amount:
2013—\$1,700,000 2014—\$1,750,000

Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000:
2013—\$4.32 2014—\$4.36



If you have questions, contact Superintendent Lance Hahn at the Finley School District Office
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