

Levy Information

WHAT

Proposed 5-year Learning Levy for Bend-La Pine Schools

WHEN

On the May 21, 2024, ballot. Ballots will be mailed to voters May 1.

WHY

To address a state education funding shortfall exacerbated by the end of ESSER (federal COVID relief) funds in September 2024; and to provide new educational opportunities for students in all grades and all schools in the district

HOW MUCH

The proposed local option levy is a property tax to be assessed at a rate of \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It would generate an estimated \$21.2 million in the 2024-25 school year. If approved, the typical homeowner would pay about \$20 per month. This is based on the median assessed value of residential properties in the Bend-La Pine School District. (Assessed value is well below median market value.)

WHAT THE LEVY WOULD DO

If approved, the Learning Levy would help Bend-La Pine Schools address serious funding challenges for the coming school year and through 2028-29. This includes:

- Restoring planned staff cuts of up to 180 positions over the next two years
- Keeping class sizes from growing by as many as 4 students per classroom
- Expanding access to Career Technical Education in high Schools
- Introducing CTE opportunities in middle schools
- Adding school counselors and learning specialists
- Adding middle school campus safety monitors
- Expanding advanced academic offerings and elective classes

QUOTE

“As the 5th largest school district in Oregon, we are facing critical challenges in adequately funding our educational system,” Superintendent Steven Cook said. “Despite our district’s dedication to providing quality education, the state’s funding falls significantly short of recommended levels. This funding gap jeopardizes essential services and initiatives vital for the success of our students and staff.”

MORE INFORMATION

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[Video on Career Technical Education](#)