



Questions & answers about Ballot Measure 20-137

Local Option Levy Renewal

A message from the Eugene School Board

What is the Local Option Levy?

The Eugene School District Local Option Levy is a property tax that provides money for 4J school operations. The current levy expires in 2010; it was first approved by voters in 2000 and renewed in 2004.

Ballot Measure 20-137, on the Nov. 4, 2008 election ballot, would renew the levy at the same tax rate for another five years, through June 2015. If approved, the district would expect the levy to generate \$15 million-\$17 million per year, equivalent to operate two high schools for one year.

How would the levy money be spent?

The levy would maintain current school programs and staffing levels to the extent possible. Without this levy the school district would need to reduce its budget by about 10 percent, beginning in fall 2010.

How is the Local Option Levy different from a capital bond, like 4J passed in 2002?

The Local Option Levy pays for school programs and staff. By law, bond funds can only be used for new construction or improving buildings and facilities.

What would residents pay?

The average residential tax rate is projected at \$1.48 per \$1,000 of assessed value for 2010-11. No one can pay more than \$1.50 per \$1,000.

To see how much you would pay: check your 2007 tax statement to see how much you now pay for the Eugene School District Local Option Levy (look under **"CURRENT TAX BY DISTRICT"** for **"Eugene School District LO"**). If the Local Option Levy is renewed, you would continue to pay about the same amount. *Or, download and use the worksheet at http://www.4j.lane.edu/local_option_2008*

Each property would pay a different amount, depending on the difference between the assessed value and the real market value. Changes in the real market value and/or assessed value of property may affect the amount of your taxes.

What if the Local Option Levy fails?

The Eugene School Board could decide to submit a levy proposal to voters in a future election, in spring 2009, fall 2009 or spring 2010. If a new levy is not approved to replace the levy that expires in June 2010, the district would have to reduce its budget by about \$15 million, beginning in the 2010-11 school year. The district's budget committee and the school board would hold public hearings before making a decision about how to reduce the budget.

How are Oregon public schools funded?

The state legislature decides how much money schools get from a combination of property taxes and state funds (largely from state income taxes). Each school district gets about the same amount per student. The state allows voters to approve a Local Option Levy to add to the funding that is set by the state. For example, the state now allocates about \$6,500 per student* annually. The Eugene School District Local Option Levy currently provides about \$700 per student.*

*calculated by extended Average Daily Membership, weighted (ADMw)

Where can I find more information?

http://www.4j.lane.edu/local_option_2008

Voting information

The deadline to register to vote in the fall election is Oct. 14, 2008. Ballots will be mailed to voters beginning Oct. 17. Ballots must be returned to Lane County Elections or a ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2008.

Revised 2008-09-12



Key points of Ballot Measure 20-137

4J Local Option Levy Renewal

A message from the Eugene School Board

- **Renews the Local Option Levy at the same tax rate**
- **The Local Option Levy funds 10 percent of 4J's budget; enough to operate two high schools for one year**
- **The Local Option Levy — Ballot Measure 20-137 — will be near the end of the ballot; ballots will be mailed Oct. 17 and must be returned by Nov. 4**