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

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.
Key points of Ballot Measure 20-137

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