



What is Measure 26-246?

The Portland Teachers Tax Levy currently funds over 650 teaching positions a year in our Portland Public Schools. **IT IS NOT A NEW TAX.** Portland voters have supported a Teachers Levy since 2007. Measure 26-246 continues this local funding for another 5 years without raising your taxes.

> Preserves Over 650 Teaching Positions

Teachers are the heart of our schools. Renewal of the Levy will continue funding over 650 high quality teaching positions across the District. If not renewed, **20% of all teaching positions in Portland Public Schools are at risk of being cut.**

> Maintains Current Levy Tax Rate – 0% Increase

Measure 26-246 keeps this tax at the same level. Taxpayers would continue paying the same local option tax rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value they have paid since 2007.

> Funds Teaching Positions - Not Administration

All Levy funds are placed in a separate account and can only be used to fund educator positions. The Community Budget Review Committee will provide independent oversight and track spending to ensure tax dollars are used only for the purposes approved by voters.

> Supports a Comprehensive Education

Levy funds help support a well-rounded program including career and technical programs and enrichments and electives, so our students can graduate with the skills they need to be career and college ready.

> Directs Support to the Classroom

Funds critical staff such as educational assistants and reading specialists for students struggling with academic or mental/behavioral health issues.

Frequently Asked Questions About Measure 26-246

When will the Tax Levy Renewal be put before the voters?

The renewal of the Teachers Levy will be on your May 21, 2024 Primary Election ballot.

Will this levy raise my taxes?

This Levy is a renewal of the current tax. It is **NOT A NEW TAX.** If passed, taxpayers will continue paying the same local option tax rate they have paid since 2007 – \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value.

What will the funds from the Teachers Levy renewal be spent on?

The renewed Levy will provide an estimated \$100 million in the first year and is projected to fund over 655 teachers and classroom support staff **annually** over five years.

Frequently Asked Questions About Measure 26-246

If renewed, this local Tax Levy would fund teaching and other positions to:

- Support a well-rounded education, including career and technical programs and enrichments and electives, so students graduate with the skills they need to be career or college ready.
- Provide classroom support positions across the District, such as educational assistants, reading specialists, and special education certified personnel to help identify and support students with mental or behavioral health issues, academic issues, or other needs.
- Help maintain class sizes and prevent significant increases across the district.

When will the District receive the funds from the proposed education Levy, if passed?

If passed, the District will continue receiving Levy funds for the next school year, 2024-25, and for the following 4 years. If it is not renewed by the voters, the District will be forced to cut an additional \$100 million dollars out of its budget.

Are levies a permanent tax?

No, they must be approved by the voters each time.

How long will the renewed Teachers Levy last?

The proposed Levy renewal on the May 2024 ballot continues this funding for another 5 years. Voter approval prior to the 2029-30 school year would be required again to keep this local funding option in place.

How much would the renewed Teachers Levy cost property owners?

The Levy would continue to cost property owners a maximum tax rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed property value per year. This is the same rate they have been paying for over a decade. For a home at the current average assessed value of \$275,700, the Levy cost is about \$45.70 per month, or \$548.60 per year.

What accountability measures are in place to ensure Levy funds are used appropriately and managed correctly by the District?

Funds collected from the proposed levy are placed in a sub-account, and a Community Budget Committee and School Board oversight will monitor expenditures to verify that funds are used only as approved by voters.

No Levy funds will be spent for administration, and performance auditing of district programs are completed regularly.

Will this Levy prevent PPS current budget shortfall? No. The Levy currently pays for over 655 teaching positions. Passing the renewal of the Levy is vital to keeping those positions. While the Levy renewal will not erase the \$30 million budget shortfall for next year, its passage will prevent even deeper cuts to our classrooms in this next school year.

Doesn't the state fully fund schools?

No. Our schools are funded from primarily 3 sources: property taxes, state funding and local taxes or levies. School-based fundraising also helps to support some school programs.

PPS is continuously advocating for the State to increase funding to our public schools so that ALL schools can provide the high quality education our children deserve.

Want to Learn More about how you can help? Visit RenewTeachersLevy.com