

PASD Capital Levy Q & A

What is a Capital Projects Levy?

A Capital Projects Levy is a short-term, voter-approved measure that provides funding for modernization and/or replacement of school buildings. A Capital Projects Levy will help the District begin to address some facilities projects in smaller steps. A Capital Projects Levy has no interest payments and requires a simple majority of voters.

What grants are available to help pay for construction costs?

The State of Washington offers a grant program called School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP). If we secure local funding for the Stevens Middle School Project by passing the 2020 Capital Projects Levy, we are eligible to receive \$18.4 million in grants from the State of Washington.

What will be the safety updates in our district if this measure passes?

Stevens Middle School and all elementary schools will be modified for a safety vestibule which will allow controlled access to our schools. This single point of entry is important to keep students safe.

Why does school construction cost so much?

School costs are based on many items. Schools have requirements that other buildings do not, including prevailing wage based on King Co. wages, Washington State Schools Protocol for green buildings, and seismic ratings that allow the school to be occupied after an earthquake equal to the biggest the area has seen in the last 500 years. Port Angeles currently lacks community spaces to use for emergency shelters. The new and modernized school construction would be a community asset, especially if a catastrophic event occurs. Other costs include technology, furniture, sales tax, permits and fees, architects and engineers, and SEPA review.

How old are the Port Angeles Schools included in the plan?

Stevens Middle School was built in 1960. Port Angeles High School was built in 1953 and renovated in 1978. Franklin was built in 1954, Hamilton in 1956, and Roosevelt in 1978.

What is included in the 2020 capital projects levy?

Stevens Middle School will be approached in phases. **Phase one:** 37,000 square feet of new construction at the middle school to include 18 new classrooms, new athletic fields, expansion of PE and cafeteria space, new music room, new restrooms, expanded parking and a new student drop off area. **Phase two:** Modernization of the existing Stevens structure. This will be a complete remodel down to the concrete slab. At the completion, there will be 109,000 square feet to accommodate 930 students. **Beyond Stevens:** All elementary schools will be modified for a safety vestibule which will make for controlled access to our schools. Also, the Monroe fields will be constructed for District and community use.

Why are we starting construction of Stevens Middle School instead of Port Angeles High School?

As a community, we get the most bang for our buck by starting with Stevens. The building ratings support beginning with Stevens, and it will also give all the elementary schools more classroom space. By aligning with our past practice and moving 6th grade to Stevens, space becomes available for use in the elementary schools. A 6 through 8 middle school system is customary in Washington State. It also addresses the culture and climate at the middle school level. Currently, students are only at Stevens for 2 years. This is an important transition period for students. Being there for 3 years allows a sense of community to develop.

Why do you keep asking the citizens of Port Angeles to pay for our schools?

School building construction is financed at the local level. There are no Federal or State funds that will pay for 100% of the capital needs of a school district. The only option is to come to local voters to finance capital projects. That is done through either a bond or levy being placed on the ballot for voter approval.

Why can't we use the old Fairview School to house students?

Fairview is a 12-room school and is the smallest school in the District. For example, it is 13,301 square feet smaller than Jefferson Elementary. It also had a building condition score in 2008 of 35, putting it at about a 24 today. That rates as an unsatisfactory condition. Furthermore, the size of Fairview makes renovation cost prohibitive. The capacity to house 235 students does not generate enough funding to pay for administrators, counselors, secretaries, and custodians.

What is happening with the Central Services Building (CSB)?

The District has hired a realtor. CSB has been assessed and is currently listed for sale. The proceeds from the sale will go into the District's capital funds to support capital needs in the future.

If the levy passes when can we expect work to begin?

Immediately. In 2020 we will update safety features for safety vestibules in all elementary schools. In 2021 we will design, bid and build Monroe fields. In 2022 Stevens Middle School will be designed. In years 2023 and 2024, we will bid and build the new construction at Stevens. In 2026 we will bid and build the modernization at Stevens. In 2027 will see the completion of Stevens Middle School (grades 6-8).

What is the projected cost and what will be the cost to individual taxpayers?

The projected cost for the 2020 capital projects levy is approximately 67 million. The Stevens Middle School new construction is over 27 million; the modernization portion of Stevens is over 39 million. State assistance is estimated at \$18.4 million leaving the rest to be funded at the local level. Proposed capital levy rate for 5 years is \$2.62 per \$1,000 assessed value. For a home with an assessed value of \$200,000, that means the proposed levy would cost \$524/year or \$43.67/month.

Are some homeowners exempt from paying a new tax?

Persons at least 61 years old or persons under 61 and retired from regular gainful employment due to a disability and earn less than \$35,000 annually may qualify for the Senior Exemption or Disability Exemption. Please contact the Clallam County Assessor's Office at 360-417-2400 for further information.

If I vote no, what next?

We are mandated to provide a public education to students in our community. Inherent in that mandate, we must provide a safe and healthy place for learning to occur. If voter support is lacking for this Capital Projects Levy, we will still be obligated to provide a safe learning environment. Eventually, our community will need to make some potentially difficult decisions about how to meet the high expectations this community has around education and school standards in deteriorated/unsafe buildings.

What is the condition of the Port Angeles Schools?

The schools in this 30-year plan were scored by BLRB architects. They were approved to do this work by OSPI. They look at systems such as safety, building envelope and HVAC. They are scored from 1-100. Most buildings on average lose about 1 point per year for scoring. Buildings rated between 61 and 30 are poor and those below 30 are unsatisfactory. The projected building scores for 2020 are Franklin= 25, Stevens =31, Hamilton = 33, PAHS =39, and Roosevelt =57.

Why is there a difference between the ballot levy number and the number projected as needed for Stevens?

The approximate 4-million-dollar difference between the ballot number and the number projected for the Stevens project is purposeful. Taxes are not collected at a 100% rate. For example, if 5% of taxes are left unpaid, that would eliminate \$2.5 million from collection for the Levy. The resolution approved by the School Board focuses on the need to expand and renovate Stevens, make districtwide safety and security measures, make other capital improvements including Monroe Fields, and acquire all necessary furniture and equipment. The approximate \$4 million will be used to pay for those items, again assuming 100% of taxes are not collected. The proposed Capital Levy cannot pay for any work beyond what is clearly specified. This means that if there are remaining funds, they can be used to offset the 2025 bond cost to local taxpayers.