

## Complaint Description

Dan Sullivan (Mon, 2 Mar 2020 at 8:27 AM)

**VIOLATION ONE** is that the Centralia School District has been extensively spending public funds to affect the February 11 levy election.

**1A Staff time.** Centralia School District's Public Relations & Communications Coordinator has been working daily for two months generating content, taking campaign photographs, writing and posting Facebook posts, creating blog entries, designing at least one patron mailing, preparing several district parent mailings, producing a video, creating visual images, designing and distributing literature, setting up a community meeting, sending a dozen email alerts about the levy election, preparing and deploying district robo-calls about the levy election, setting up and marketing a student mock election, and communications with reporters on behalf of a ballot measure's passage. Exhibits 1-4.

**1B Staff time arranging a mailing for the Citizens for Centralia Schools campaign.** Centralia public relations staffer, Petersen, is also a member of the campaign committee. He is responsible for the preparation of exhibit 4, a school district mailing. A near identical mailing (exhibit 5) using the same printer and mailhouse was prepared for the campaign committee. The allegation is that CSD staff time, computer and art was prepared for the campaign.

**1C Mailing Feb 1.** Centralia School District's PR Coordinator sent a mailing to all households in the area. This mailing was coordinated with the campaign and was sent within 14 days of the election. The content of one known mailing is exhibit 4. There could be others.

**1D electioneering communication using students as couriers.** Since November, reportedly several mailings were sent to families about the levy using students as couriers to carry these election-affecting messages.

**1E electioneering email messages using the district directory.** Since November, reportedly several email messages were sent to families using the school district's family directory. Exhibit 2 is one such example discussing turning in ballots and how the district will collect ballots from patrons.

**VIOLATION TWO** is that the Centralia School District is collecting political donations and transferring them to the Citizens for Centralia Schools as payroll deductions or otherwise without written authorization, without notifying employees having funds withheld of their right to revoke, and without maintaining records of such authorization in violation of RCW 42.17A.495.

Citizens for Centralia Schools is sporadically reporting PAC receiving funds and making expenditures to affect elections. See exhibits 5 and 6.

**March 2 Addendum:**

**VIOLATION THREE** Centralia School District solicited funds for Citizens for Centralia Schools campaign in violation of RCW 41.06.250

A payroll deduction solicitation was delivered to all employees district-controlled internal mailboxes during the week of February 24.

Only the district manages what is put in these boxes, and employees felt pressured to fund an election campaign as part of their employment.

Public entities soliciting campaign donations violates RCW 41.06.250 which states: *Political activities.*

*(1) Solicitation for or payment to any partisan, political organization or for any partisan, political purpose of any compulsory assessment or involuntary contribution is prohibited: PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That officers of employee associations shall not be prohibited from soliciting dues or contributions from members of their associations. No person shall solicit on state property or property of a political subdivision of this state any contribution to be used for partisan, political purposes.*

As an order for a remedy, the Public Disclosure Commission should order the Centralia School District to end all payroll deductions on behalf of this political action committee.

**What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?**

Citizens pay levies to the school district, and should not have these used to advocate in mailings, on purchased facebook advertising and with extensive staff time to promote the passage of a ballot measure. Tax-funded electioneering is harmful to democracy.

Employees should have payroll deductions safeguarded from unaccountable withholding. Their consent is a form of protection against unwanted deductions. Their annual notification allows consideration of whether the PAC continues to work as they desire or even exists at all officially.

Taxpayers should not subsidize campaign solicitations, and public employees should not be pressured to contribute to district-favored election causes.

**List of attached evidence or contact information where evidence may be found.**

March 2 Addendum, evidence that PAC solicitations were made on public property using district resources.

Exhibit 1, website indicating a host of district outreach efforts to pass the levy

Exhibit 2, CSD email message example of electioneering

Exhibit 2b offers additional email communications regarding the levy

Exhibit 3, CSD purchased Facebook advertisements near the election

Exhibit 4, Centralia SD all-households mailing

Exhibit 5, Citizens for Centralia Schools Campaign all mailbox mailing.

Exhibit 6, Citizens for Centralia Schools sign purchases.

**List of potential witnesses with contact information to reach them.**

Centralia School District  
Ed Petersen, Public Relations & Communications Coordinator  
Mark Davalos, Superintendent  
2320 Borst Ave.  
PO Box 610  
Centralia, WA 98531  
epetersen@centralia.wednet.edu  
360-827-6375  
360-330-7600

**Complaint Certification:**

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

February 3, 2020

RECEIVED  
FEB 04 2020  
Public Disclosure Commission

Dan Sullivan  
906 S. Buckner  
Centralia, WA 98531

(360) 388-0594

Public Disclosure Commission:

I would like to file a format complaint about the Centralia School District's use of public facilities to affect an election.

**Respondent name:**

Centralia School District  
Ed Petersen, Public Relations & Communications Coordinator  
Mark Davalos, Superintendent  
2320 Borst Ave.  
PO Box 610  
Centralia, WA 98531  
[epetersen@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:epetersen@centralia.wednet.edu)  
360-827-6375  
360-330-7600

**Sections of Law violated**

RCW 42.17A.555 Use of public office or agency facilities in campaigns  
RCW 42.17A.495 Withholding of employee wages for contributions without written authorization, without notifying of the right to revoke, and without maintaining records of such authorization.

**What impact does the alleged violation(s) have on the public?**

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Employees should have payroll deductions safeguarded from unaccountable withholding. Their consent is a form of protection against unwanted deductions. Their annual notification allows consideration of whether the PAC continues to work as they desire or even exists at all officially.

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Citizens for Centralia Schools is sporadically reporting PAC receiving funds and making expenditures to affect elections. See exhibits 5 and 6.

I or declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that information provided with this complaint is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Dan Sullivan, February 3, 2020

**March 2 Addendum:**

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As an order for a remedy, the Public Disclosure Commission should order the Centralia School District to end all payroll deductions on behalf of this political action committee.

**Payroll Deduction Form - Citizens for Centralia Schools**

I authorize Centralia School District to automatically deduct the amount indicated below from each paycheck for Citizens for Centralia Schools. I understand this deduction will continue until I notify payroll of my wish to end it. Citizens for Centralia Schools support district levy, bond, and other elections through grassroots activities. Donated funds are used for signs, mailings, and other advertisements. They do not have a paid staff.

\$5       \$10       \$15       Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$5     \$10     \$15     Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exhibit 1, website indicating a host of district outreach efforts to pass the levy**

# Levies are for Learning!

Replacement Levy 2020  
Posted by Centralia School District 401  
2,566 Views

Our Board of Directors has approved a replacement levy election for the February 11, 2020 ballot ([click here to read the full resolution](#)). The current levy expires at the end of 2020. Here are some important facts:

- The levy rate is increasing to \$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed property value. (The district's bond rate will fall to \$1.65 per \$1,000, resulting in a net tax increase of 45 cents per \$1,000, possibly less). This is lower than the 7-year average of \$2.66
- The replacement levy will generate about \$6.6 million in local revenue in 2021.
- Levy funds cannot be used for basic education. They may only be used for enhancements beyond what the state's basic education funding model provides.

- **This is not a new tax, this is a replacement of the current levy which expires in 2020.**
- Levy funds impact nearly every program in our district from athletics to academics. We are able to provide full-time school counselors, nursing staff, athletic options, extended learning programs, additional classroom support and much more because of levy funds.
- Our levy helps us keep class sizes comparatively low. Our levy helps us provide behavioral support in our schools.
- Our levy helps purchase, maintain, and replace important classroom technology resources.
- **SENIOR EXEMPTION: If you are 61 years old or older, with disposable household income under \$40,000 per year, you may qualify for an exemption from this tax. Please contact the Lewis County Auditor at (360)740-1392**

Washington's education funding model leaves a gap between what the state funds for education and what our students in Centralia need for success. Local school levies are voter-approved sources of funding that are on the ballot every 2-4 years. We collect local levy revenue through a tax on properties in our school district boundaries. The current rate per \$1,000 in property value is \$1.50, which was the current legal maximum for our district during the last election cycle.

Voters approved the current CSD Enhancements & Operations levy in February 2018. The state has raised the limit on local levies to \$2.50 per \$1,000 in property value, however the district receives no additional funding unless voters approve a new levy at a higher rate.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Is this a new tax?**

No. Centralia property owners have been paying local school levy taxes for more than 45 years.

**Why do we vote on levies so frequently?**

Local school levies expire. The duration of a levy generally most commonly ranges from two to four years. School districts ask voters

to renew their levies as they approach their expiration date.

### **When does the current EP&O levy expire?**

At the end of 2020.

### **How much will the replacement levy cost?**

The rate of the proposed replacement levy is \$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value. The median home value in Centralia is \$197,500. The levy tax for a home at the median value will be \$493.75 per year, or about \$41.15 per month.

### **What do levy funds pay for?**

Levy funds can only be used for enhancement and programs that are *not* defined as basic education. This includes (but is not limited to):

- o Special Education
- o Additional staff (such as counselors, additional teachers to reduce class sizes, paraeducators, etc.)
- o Athletics
- o Music and arts programs
- o Facility Maintenance
- o Student transportation
- o Staff professional development
- o Food service
- o Technology purchases, maintenance, and replacement

### **How much of the district's annual budget is made up of levy funds?**

In the current school year, about 6.6% of our budget is EP&O levy funds.

## **Where can I learn more about the current and historical taxes for my property?**

The **Lewis County Assessor's office** offers a parcel search service where you can find this information.

## **Didn't the McCleary ruling and subsequent legislation "fully fund" education?**

No. The McCleary ruling only involved the way the state funds basic education. It did not impact special education or anything else not defined as basic education.

## **I'm a senior citizen or disabled. Do I have to pay this tax?**

Certain senior citizens or disabled persons may qualify for an exemption from school levy taxes. Please contact the **Lewis County Assessor's office**.

## **Our current EP&O levy is \$1.50 per \$1,000. Why is it going up?**

State legislation in 2017 forced districts to lower their local levy rates. The impact of that legislation left districts struggling to continue to provide levy-funded programs and services their voters asked for. From 2013 through the current year, our average levy rate per \$1,000 in Centralia has been \$2.66.

In 2019, the legislature took action to remedy the situation caused by their McCleary fix. Districts can now seek local levies at a rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value. Our Board of Directors deliberated carefully before deciding to seek a replacement levy that restores funding for important programs and services in our district.

**Please email additional questions to [levyquestions@centraliaschools.org](mailto:levyquestions@centraliaschools.org) or call 360-330-7600.**





# CENTRALIA SCHOOL DISTRICT Replacement Levy

## February 11, 2020 Replacement Levy Election Fact Sheet

Centralia School District is asking voters to approve a replacement of our current Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) levy, which expires at the end of 2020. The EP&O levy helps us reach strategic goals that are set by our Board of Directors and our community. Those goals include helping students thrive in the classroom and graduate college and career ready.

### What is the EP&O levy? What does the funding do? How much will it cost?

The replacement levy is **NOT A NEW TAX**.

The replacement EP&O levy will cost \$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value. **This rate is lower** than the \$2.66 average rate of Centralia School District levies approved by voters since 2013.

The EP&O levy:

-  Funds programs that put our students on pathways to career & college success.
-  Helps fund student transportation, including a study of a two-tiered bus system to separate elementary students from older riders.
-  Provides support for athletics, paraeducators, nurses, arts programs, and additional staffing for every school. The EP&O levy also helps keep class sizes comparatively low and funds behavioral support staff and academic coaches.

Ensures that every student receives a nutritious lunch or breakfast every school day *regardless of financial standing.*

Learn more about how you  
learning at

## LEVIES ARE FOR LEARNING

Centralia has a long history of showing support for education. Voters have approved levies (formerly known as Maintenance and Operations Levies) consistently for more than 45 years.

Our Board of Directors deliberated thoughtfully and cautiously when considering the rate for the replacement EP&O levy. The \$2.50 rate is necessary to maintain services and to accomplish goals set by our community, such as two-tiered busing systems.

The tax rate of our construction bond will fall to at \$1.65 in 2021, from the current \$2.20. This reduction means the net increase with the replacement EP&O levy will be 45 cents per \$1,000 in assessed value.

The average levy rate in Centralia since 2013 is \$2.66 per \$1,000

**\$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value**  
(\$625 per year for a home valued at \$250,000)

Property owners age 65 or older with fixed income under \$40,000 per year can be exempt from this tax. Contact the Lewis County Assessor's Office.

## REMEMBER TO VOTE FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Independent Mark Davalos  
20 Borst Ave.  
Centralia, WA 98531

If you are having trouble viewing the document, you may [download the document](#).

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Download any of our **levy informational materials by clicking on the file name.**



**Superintendent Letter to Parents**

Letter from superintendent Mark Davalos sent home with elementary students in December, 2019.



**Levy Questions Graphic**

Graphic advising where to email questions about the EP&O levy



**Levy Technology Poster**

11x14 poster showing how the EP&O levy supports technology in our district



**Electronic Readerboard Video**

Brief video formatted for the district office electronic readerboard



**Basic Info Slide**

Basic information about the EP&O levy



**Levy Pool Poster**

11x14 poster showing how the EP&O levy helps support student-focused activities at the Centralia Community Indoor Pool



**7-year Average Levy Rate Slide**

Chart showing the rate per \$1,000 of our Centralia School District levies over a 7 year period.

# Replacement EP&O Levy Questions

\* Required

Please send us your questions about the Replacement EP&O levy. We will respond as soon as possible! \*

Your answer

Please enter a valid email address so that we can respond. \*

Your answer

Submit

Never submit passwords through Google Forms.

This form was  
created inside of  
Centralia School  
District 401.

Google Forms



# Register to Vote!

You must be legally registered to vote in a school levy election. Washington State makes it easy to register online, by mail, or in person (at a county elections office). [Click here to register to vote...](#)

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## Levy 2020 Headlines

**OSPI APPROVES CSD LEVY EXPENDITURE PLAN**

**[READ MORE](#)**

**BOARD SETS RATE FOR RENEWAL LEVY**

Replacement levy will appear on the February 11, 2020 ballot.

**[READ MORE](#)**

**Exhibit 2, CSD email message example of electioneering**

**From:** Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>  
**Subject:** CSD Levy Update - Important Information  
**Date:** January 27, 2020 at 9:18:30 AM PST  
**To:** Centralia School District 401 Recipients <[recipients@centralia401\\_parentlink.net](mailto:recipients@centralia401_parentlink.net)>  
**Reply-To:** Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>

# EP&O Levy Update

*Ballots are out, make sure you send them back!*

Ballots have arrived in local mailboxes for the February 11, 2020 election. Voting is an important responsibility in civil society. Please take a few minutes to mark your ballot and send it back. Mailing is free, just drop it in any outgoing mailbox.

We will also have ballot boxes in our school offices. You can check online to ensure your ballot was delivered and counted ([click here](#), login, then click "my ballot").

If you are not registered to vote, you can still register through election day! Contact the [Lewis County Auditor](#).

[Click here to learn more about your EP&O replacement levy.](#)

The video below was shown to students in a mock election. It contains information about the levy.

Please email questions to [levyquestions@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:levyquestions@centralia.wednet.edu) or call 360-330-7600.

## Mock Election Video



## Centralia School District

Facebook @centralia\_sd

Centralia School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator & Title IX Coordinator: Tabitha Whiting ([twhiting@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:twhiting@centralia.wednet.edu)); and Section 504 Coordinator: Tammy Jensen-Tabor, ([jensen.tabor@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:jensen.tabor@centralia.wednet.edu)) (360) 330-7600, 2320 Borst Avenue, Centralia, WA 98531-0610.

2320 Borst Avenue, Centralia, WA 98531-0610 [publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)  
 360-330-7600 [CentraliaSchools.org](http://CentraliaSchools.org)

**Exhibit 2b offers additional email communications regarding the levy**

**From:** Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>  
**Subject:** Ballots are out!  
**Date:** January 26, 2020 at 7:26:58 PM PST  
**To:** Centralia School District 401 Recipients <[recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net](mailto:recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net)>  
**Reply-To:** Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>

Hello families!

Ballots have arrived in mailboxes! Voting is an important part of civil society. We encourage everyone to take a couple of minutes to fill out your ballot and return it. Postage is free on Washington state ballots.

Visit [www.CentraliaSchools.org/levies](http://www.CentraliaSchools.org/levies) if you have questions about the replacement EP&O levy, or email [levyquestions@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:levyquestions@centralia.wednet.edu).

-Centralia School District-  
[www.CentraliaSchools.org](http://www.CentraliaSchools.org)  
360.330.7600

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You are receiving this email because of your relationship with Centralia School District 401. If you wish to stop receiving email updates sent through the Blackboard service, please [unsubscribe](#).  
Centralia School District 401 | 2320 Borst Ave PO Box 610, Centralia, WA 98531 | 360-330-7600

**From:** Josue Lowe <[jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu)>  
**Subject:** Student & Family Weekly Update - February 3, 2020  
**Date:** February 2, 2020 at 7:30:02 PM PST  
**To:** Centralia High School Recipients <[recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net](mailto:recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net)>  
**Reply-To:** Josue Lowe <[jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu)>

**Centralia HS**  
Student & Family Update - February 3, 2020

**Who We Are at Centralia HS**

In all that we do, we ask ourselves how it fits into the following statements;

**Levies are for Learning**

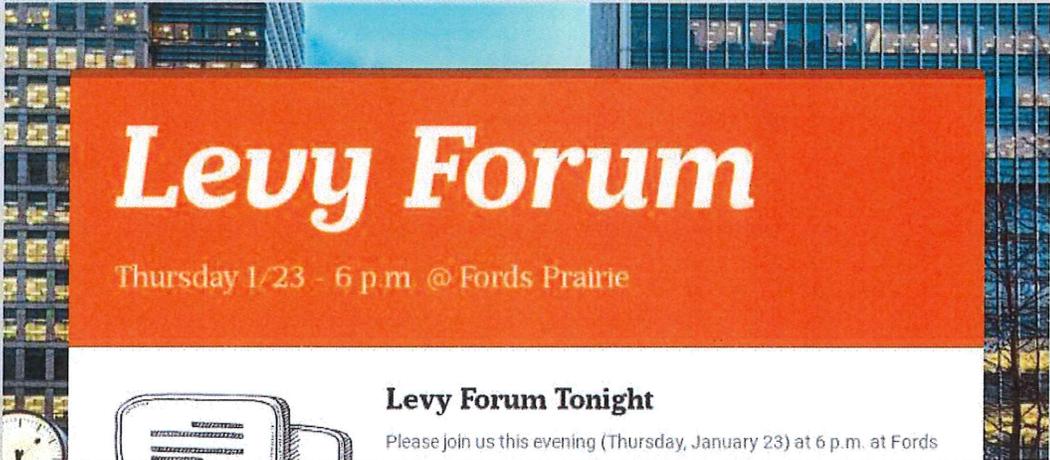
Ballots for the February 11, 2020 election will arrive at your homes very soon. Centralia School District is asking voters to consider a proposition to renew our Educational Programs & Operations Levy (EP & O), which expires at the end of the year. The district is asking for levy rate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value for two years. This is lower than our average levy rate over the past 7 years.

Our EP&O levy provides funds important programs and services here at (insert school name). Here are some examples of how the levy supports students in Centralia:

- Athletics
- Transportation (the replacement levy will allow our district to improve transportation technology and move toward separating elementary students from older bus riders on separate routes).
- Food service (every student in Centralia can receive lunch and breakfast at no charge).
- Technology (purchase and replacement of technology items like Chromebooks).
- Additional teachers and paraeducators to keep class sizes low and students on-track.
- Behavioral support staff.
- Music and arts programs.
- Career and technical education.
- Special education.

Please visit [www.CentraliaSchools.org/levies](http://www.CentraliaSchools.org/levies) to learn more about our EP&O levy and how it

From: Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>  
Subject: Levy Forum TONIGHT  
Date: January 23, 2020 at 4:30:04 PM PST  
To: Centralia School District 401 Recipients <[recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net](mailto:recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net)>  
Reply-To: Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>



# Levy Forum

Thursday 1/23 - 6 p.m. @ Fords Prairie

## Levy Forum Tonight

Please join us this evening (Thursday, January 23) at 6 p.m. at Fords

From: Josue Lowe <[jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu)>  
Subject: Student & Family Weekly Update - January 27, 2020  
Date: January 27, 2020 at 2:50:11 PM PST  
To: Centralia High School Recipients <[recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net](mailto:recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net)>  
Reply-To: Josue Lowe <[jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:jlowe@centralia.wednet.edu)>



# Centralia HS

Student & Family Update - January 26, 2020

## Who We Are at Centralia HS

In all that we do, we ask ourselves how it fits into the following statements:

From: Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>  
Subject: CSD QuickNews - January 31, 2020  
Date: January 31, 2020 at 1:38:39 PM PST  
To: Centralia School District 401 Recipients <[recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net](mailto:recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net)>  
Reply-To: Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>



# CSD QuickNews

January 31, 2020

## Welcome, Dr. Lisa Grant!

Our Board of Directors has selected Dr. Lisa Grant as Centralia's next superintendent. Dr. Grant has accepted the offer, pending official board approval and the negotiation of a mutually agreeable



## Remember to Vote!

Have you mailed your ballot back for the 2020 election yet? Our district encourages all eligible citizens of our district to participate in the election process. The renewal of our EP&O levy is on this ballot. The replacement levy will provide approximately \$6.5 million in annual local revenue for programs and services that are not funded or fully funded by the state. Including:

- **Career and Technical Education** - creating pathways to post graduation employment success.
- **Technology** - More than 2,000 Chromebook computers require replacement within two years.
- **Transportation** - More than 70% of Centralians want drastic changes to busing, including separation of elementary and older students on individual routes. The replacement EP&O levy will help make this happen.
- **Food Service** - Learning is impossible when you're worried about when your next meal might be. Every student in Centralia



## Centralia School District

Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy

### February 11, 2020 Special Election





**Your Educational Programs & Operations Levy (EP&O) helps fill state funding gaps, including:**

- Athletics
- Special Education
- Music & Arts Programs
- Transportation
- Food Services
- Additional teaching/support staff
- Technology purchases/replacement
- Staff professional development
- Career & Technical Education
- and much more...

**NOT A NEW TAX**

Centralia School District is seeking the replacement of the current levy, which expires in 2020.

The EP&O levy helps fund programs and services that are not fully funded by the state. Levies require a simple majority for passage.

**\$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value for two years.**

2021: \$6.5 million  
2022: \$6.6 million

Low-income senior citizens may be exempt from this tax. Contact the Lewis County Assessor.

# CSD QuickNews

January 24, 2020



## School Board Appreciation

January is School Board Appreciation month! Please join us in thanking our Board of Directors for their hard work! They put in a lot of volunteer hours every month to keep our schools moving.

- Lori Fast
- Amy Buzzard
- Vickie Jackson
- Mandi McDougall



## Ballots Arriving - Remember to Vote!

If you haven't already received your ballot for the February 11 special election, you will soon. Our replacement EP&O levy will be on it! It only takes a few minutes to fill out your ballot and place it in a mailbox. Please remember to vote!

[Click here for information about the replacement EP&O Levy](#)

We will have special ballot boxes at each school office where you can deposit your ballot if you choose. We hand them over to the auditor's office personally. You can check online to ensure your ballot was delivered and counted.

If you are not registered to vote, you can register right up to election day. The staff at the [Lewis County Auditor's](#) office will be happy to help!

**Fifth Grade Leads Book Drive**

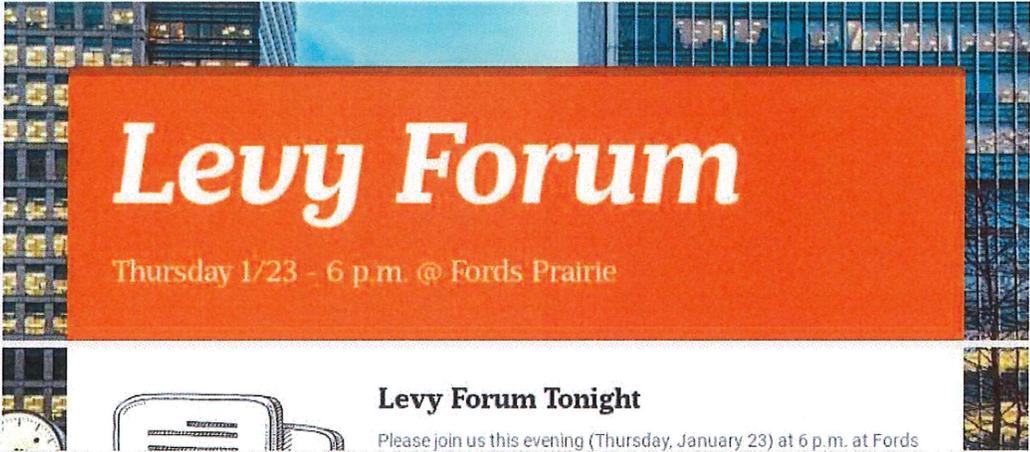
From: Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>

Subject: Community Levy Forum Tonight at 6 p.m.

Date: January 23, 2020 at 8:43:12 AM PST

To: Centralia School District 401 Recipients <[recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net](mailto:recipients@centralia401.parentlink.net)>

Reply-To: Centralia School District <[publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu](mailto:publicrelations@centralia.wednet.edu)>



# Levy Forum

Thursday 1/23 - 6 p.m. @ Fords Prairie



## Levy Forum Tonight

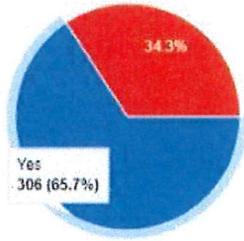
Please join us this evening (Thursday, January 23) at 6 p.m. at Fords

January 16, 2020



### Superintendent Search Application Window Closes

The application window has closed for Centralia's search for our next superintendent. Our Board of Directors will review applications on January 22nd and the first round of interviews will be held on January 28th. The date for the finalist interview is yet to-be-determined.



### Mock Levy Election Held for Students

High school, middle school, and 6th grade students were given an opportunity to participate in a mock levy election this week. Classes watched a short video presentation about the levy and then read the language that will appear on the actual February 11 ballot before casting their votes.

As of the publication of this newsletter, 65.7% of participating students voted "yes" in the hypothetical election.

# CSD QuickNews

January 3, 2020

## Small Equipment Fire at CHS

Centralia High School was briefly evacuated on Friday after a brand-new milk cooler caught on fire. The incident occurred in a temporary food service area in the school's entry hall.

Students and staff did a great job of evacuating the school quickly and safely, and Riverside Fire arrived minutes after the call was made. The malfunctioning cooler was quickly extinguished and removed and there were no injuries or damage to the school.

Thank you to Riverside Fire Authority and to our CHS staff for their quick response and action!

Students and staff were allowed back into the building just after 1 p.m.

## Levy Information Easily Available Online

We have placed information about our replacement educational programs & operations levy on our website at [www.CentraliaSchools.org/levies](http://www.CentraliaSchools.org/levies). The information includes a short video, documents and flyers we have distributed, news updates, and more. You can also submit questions about the replacement levy to [levyquestions@centraliaschools.org](mailto:levyquestions@centraliaschools.org).

Election day is February 11 and ballots will begin arriving in mailboxes around January 25th.

## Educational Programs & Operations Levy

Two years @ \$2.50 per  
\$1,000 in assessed  
property value.

February 11, 2020



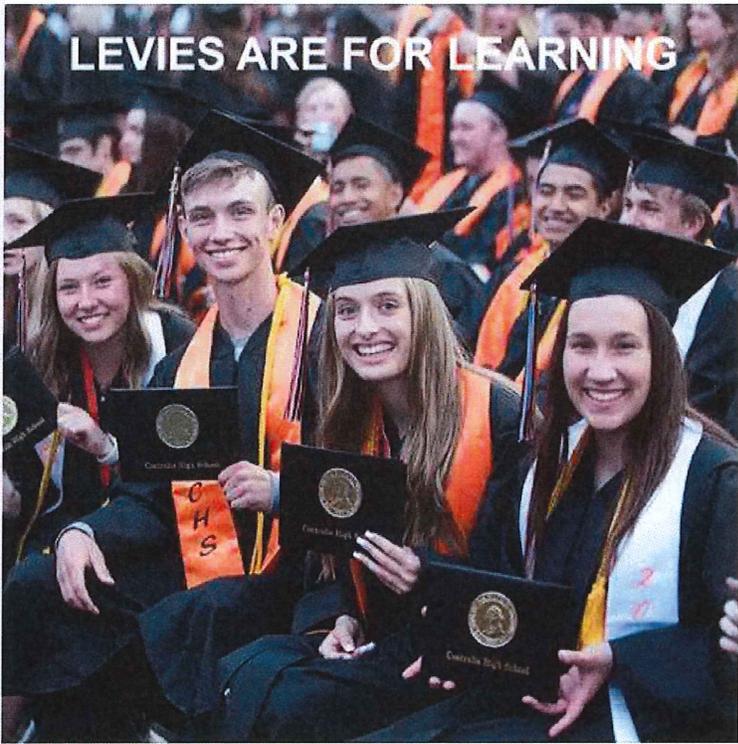
**Exhibit 3, CSD purchased Facebook advertisements near the election**

**Exhibit three:**

**ONE of at least two different ads the district ran once ballots were mailed**

 **Centralia School District 401** Sponsored

Your EP&O levy helps create pathways to career and college success after graduation. Learn more about how your levy supports learning in Centralia!



CENTRALIA.K12.WA.US  
**Levies are for Learning!** [Learn More](#)

Less Loved, More Belie and 57 others 21 Comments 14 Shares

**Why You're Seeing This Ad** ✕

 Only you can see this

You're seeing this ad because your information matches **Centralia School District 401's** advertising requests. There could also be more factors not listed here. [Learn More](#)

-  Centralia School District 401 is trying to reach people, ages 25 to 55. ➤
-  Centralia School District 401 is trying to reach people whose primary location is Centralia, Washington. ➤

**What You Can Do**

-  Hide all ads from this advertiser  
You won't see Centralia School District 401's ads [Hide](#)
-  Make changes to your ad preferences  
Adjust settings to personalize your ads ➤

Was this explanation useful? [Yes](#) [No](#)

411 Comments 8K Shares

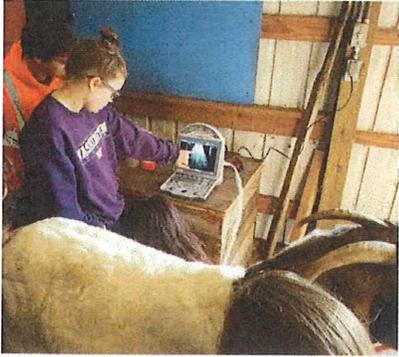
**Exhibit 4, Centralia SD all-households mailing**



# Centralia School District

Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy

## February 11, 2020 Special Election



Your Educational Programs & Operations Levy (EP&O) helps fill state funding gaps, including:

- Athletics
- Special Education
- Music & Arts Programs
- Transportation
- Food Services
- Additional teaching/support staff
- Technology purchases/replacement
- Staff professional development
- Career & Technical Education
- and much more...

### NOT A NEW TAX

Centralia School District is seeking the replacement of the current levy, which expires in 2020.

The EP&O levy helps fund programs and services that are not fully funded by the state. Levies require a simple majority for passage.

\$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value for two years.

2021: \$6.5 million  
2022: \$6.6 million

Low-income senior citizens may be exempt from this tax. Contact the Lewis County Assessor.

### NOT A NEW TAX

Washington's basic education funding model does not fully fund the cost of education. It leaves gaps in important programs and services.

Local levies have been an important part of school district funding since the beginning of our statehood. They give our community a voice in how our schools are funded, and in what programs we value for our students.

In 2018, our local voter-approved levy was cut from \$2.83 per \$1,000 to \$1.50 by state legislation. This removed nearly \$2.5 million from our budget for programs and services not fully funded by the state. Since then, Centralia has relied on reserve funds to maintain levy funded programs. Last year, the legislature raised the limit back to \$2.50.

Our Board of Directors deliberated thoughtfully before deciding to approve a levy election at the \$2.50 rate. The replacement levy will restore our ability to fund programs and services that our community tells us are important to them.

The owner of a property assessed at Centralia's median value (\$197,500) will pay \$493.75 per year under the replacement levy.

LEARN MORE AT

[WWW.CENTRALIASCHOOLS.ORG/LEVIES](http://WWW.CENTRALIASCHOOLS.ORG/LEVIES)

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GLENDALE, CA  
PERMIT #00017

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSDDM\*\*\*\*

Local  
Postal Customer



# LoriFast

Lori Fast - CSD Board President

**Exhibit 5, Citizens for Centralia Schools Campaign all mailbox mailing.**

# VOTE YES FOR SCHOOLS

Approving the Centralia School District replacement EP&O levy ensures continued funding for vital programs and services in our schools.

**THIS IS NOT A NEW TAX!**  
It is the replacement of our current levy, which expires in 2020.

**Remember to return your ballot by February 11!**

Paid for by Citizens for Centralia Schools



## Levies are for Learning!

Our Educational Programs & Operations Levy gives citizens in our school district a voice in how our schools are funded. It pays for important programs and services that are not included in the state's basic education formula. Technology, transportation, food services, athletics, music and arts programs, career & technical programs, additional teachers for lower class sizes, additional special education funding, and extra classroom support are all made possible by our levy.

Please vote yes for schools, and remember to return your ballot by February 11!

**\$2.50 per \$1,000 in assessed value for two years**

**\$6.5 million in important, locally controlled funding for our schools annually.**

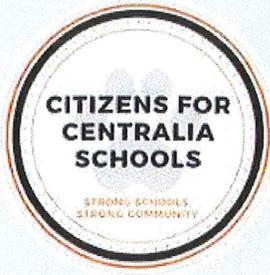
**VOTE YES FOR SCHOOLS!**

PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
GLENDALE, CA  
PERMIT #00017

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*

Local  
Postal Customer

**Exhibit 6, Citizens for Centralia Schools sign purchases.**



### Citizens for Centralia Schools

@CitizensForCentraliaSch  
ools

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Community

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zensForCentraliaSchools/#

Like Follow Share ...

View 5 more comments



Citizens for Centralia Schools



December 17, 2019 · 🌐

Would you like a sign for your yard? We will have some available at our meeting tonight- 6 p.m. @ Centralia Community Church of God.

