

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

School operations in Eugene School District 4J are supported by a Local Option Levy which provides education funding beyond that provided to all Oregon schools through the State School Fund.

The levy currently provides about \$17 million per year for school operations, equivalent to about 161 teaching positions or 27 school days. All funds stay in 4J schools.

Measure 20-301 would renew the Local Option Levy approved by voters in 2000 and renewed in 2004, 2008 and 2014. It would continue the existing Local Option Levy rate for another five years beginning in 2020–21.

This is not a new or additional tax.

The Local Option Levy funds a level of staffing, class sizes and program offerings that would not be possible without it. Without this levy, the school district would need to reduce its operating budget by about 9 percent.

Renewal of the Local Option Levy would:

- Continue school funding equivalent to about 161 teachers or 27 school days each year
- Help preserve class sizes and school programs supported by the current levy
- Maintain local funding for education services beyond the state school funding level.

The Local Option property tax is levied at a maximum rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The exact amount varies from property to property, due to Measure 5 and Measure 50 limitations. Many property owners pay less than the maximum rate. Property owners can find their Eugene School District Local Option Levy cost by checking their most recent property tax statement and looking under “Current Tax By District.” To calculate an estimate, go to www.4j.lane.edu/levy.

The Local Option Levy is different from a capital bond measure, like the one passed by voters in 2018. Bond measures fund school construction, renovations, and other capital improvements. Bond dollars cannot be used to pay for operating costs. The Local Option Levy provides funding for operating costs such as teachers, class sizes, and school programs.

Without Local Option Levy funding, the district’s budget for staffing and programs would be reduced by approximately \$17,700,000 in 2020–21. This would increase class sizes and reduce funding for school programs and operations.

Renewal of the Local Option Levy would provide funds to sustain class sizes, staffing levels, school days, and school programs, without increasing the current tax rate.