



Renew Your Support
For Our Students!

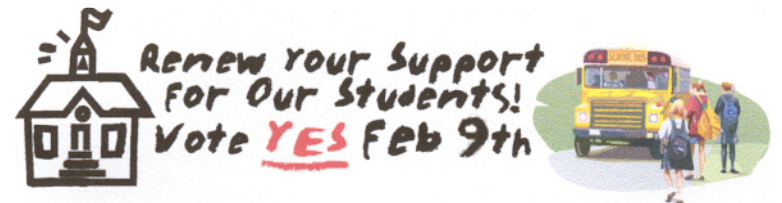
Vote ***YES***

Feb 9th



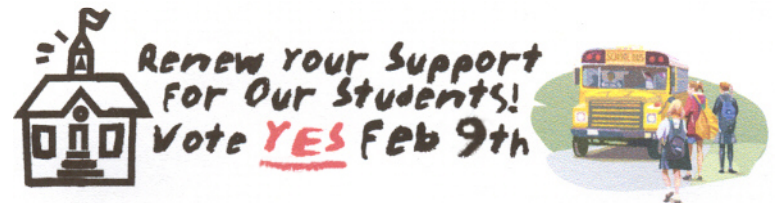
Good News!

- Immediate Drop in Levy Rate
- Current 2009 rate is \$2.57 per \$1,000
- Projected 2010 rate is \$2.20 per \$1,000
- Effective Jan 1, 2010, all of DuPont tax base is in the Steilacoom School District



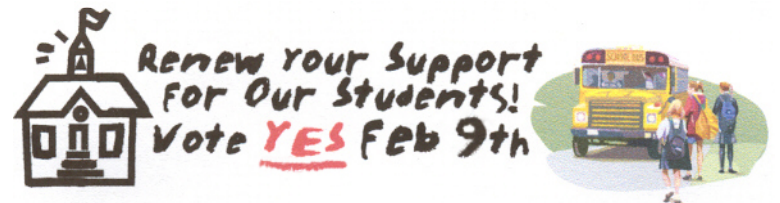
The Challenge

- On February 9th, 2010, the voters will be asked to renew the SHSD Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy.
- The state currently provides approx. 80% of the necessary funding for school districts.
- We ask for your support for this levy renewal so we may better meet the needs of the school district to educate our kids.



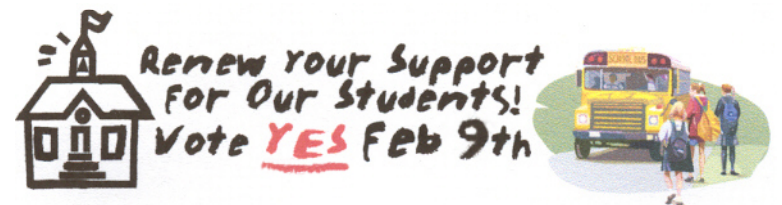
What's the Difference Between Our Bond and Levy?

- Our bond finances the construction and/or renovation we have done to our buildings.
- Our levy provides the funds to maintain the school buildings and the educational programs of our school district.



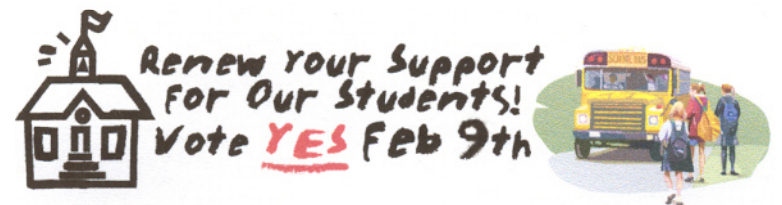
What is a Levy?

- A school levy is a property tax on real estate to help operate schools.
- The state pays about 80% of operating costs.
- Our school levy makes up the 20% not supported directly by the state.
- The levy is a specific amount per year.
- As the district grows in assessed valuation and number of houses, the actual rate per house drops.



The 2010 Levy

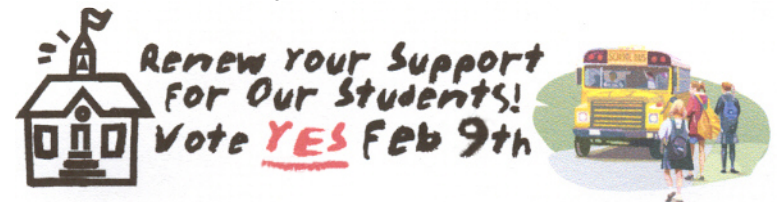
- It is NOT a new tax. It is a renewal.
- The levy rate is projected to **decrease** annually from \$2.24 to \$2.18 in 2014.
- One of the **lowest** in Pierce County.



2009 Area School District Levy Rates

District	Levy Rate*	District	Levy Rate*
Eatonville	\$2.50	Orting	\$2.65
Bethel	\$2.53	Clover Park	\$2.97
Steilacoom	\$2.57	UP	\$3.05
Puyallup	\$2.59	Tacoma	\$3.15

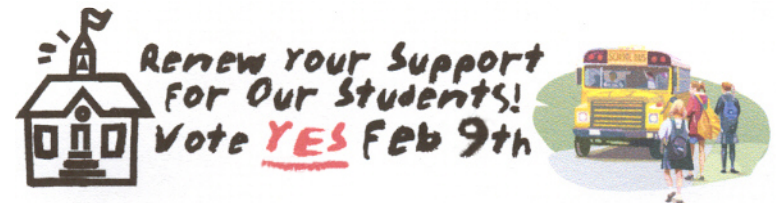
*Levy Rates as published October 2009, by the Pierce County Auditor



Projected Levy Rate

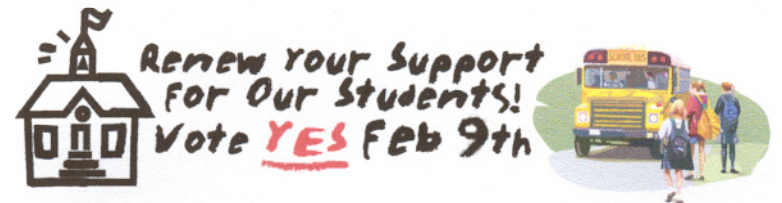
Collection Year	Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	Levy Amount
2011	\$2.24	\$6,280,495
2012	\$2.22	\$6,406,105*
2013	\$2.20	\$6,534,227*
2014	\$2.18	\$6,664,912*

**Projected increases in enrollment necessitates increased M&O funding.
The levy rate remains constant due to the district's rapid growth.*



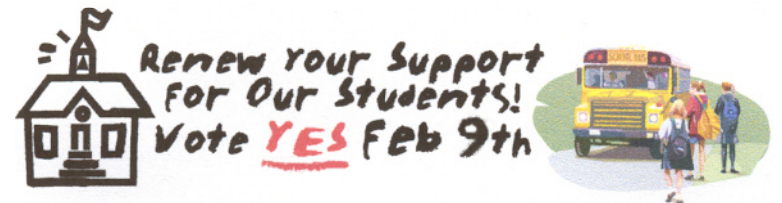
Key Points

- The 2010 levy will cover funding for 2011-2014.
- A 4-year levy saves thousands of dollars in election costs.
- A 4-year levy allows staff to focus on education.
- Since the levy amount is fixed, real growth in the district, i.e. new houses and businesses, broadens the tax base lowering the tax rate.



What Does Our Levy Support?

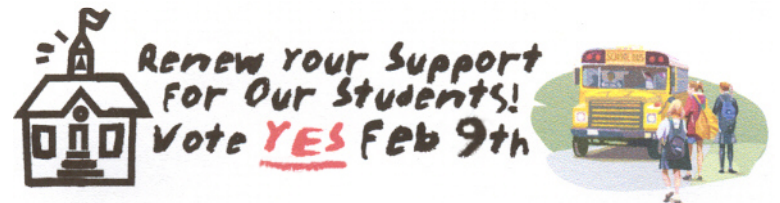
- Textbooks and other teaching materials
- Student Transportation
- Special Education and Pupil Services
- Instruction Technology
- Athletics, Music and other Student Activities
- Security and Safety
- Maintenance
- Staff Training and Professional Development



Conclusion

Due to the recession:

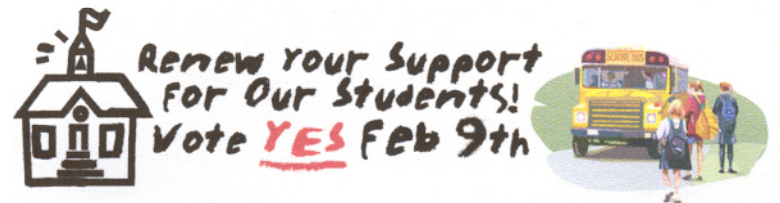
- State and Federal funding levels are uncertain.
- During this time of uncertain funding, it is critical that local funding remains available to educate our youth.



Conclusion

Failure of the levy would result in:

- Larger classes in all schools
- Fewer teachers and para-educators
- Severe cutbacks on athletics and extra-curricular activities
- Degradation of instructional materials
- Reduction in District services





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Vote YES

Feb 9th

