Ten Facts Every Citizen Should Know about School Levies in UPSD

1. **Levies are still needed to fund schools.** The state has increased funding for schools, but levies are still needed to fund about 10% of our current costs. Levies are also needed to pay for improvements to our facilities like HVAC systems and roofs. They also fund most of our technology costs. The new state funding plan has a specific provision for levies because legislators know that school districts will continue to need local funds.

2. **School levies help all of our kids.** Levy dollars are use at all 8 schools to provide programs and services to kids in grades Preschool through 12th grade.

3. **Both Propositions 1 & 2 replace expiring levies and are not new taxes.** Voters approved two levies by large margins in 2014. These levies expire in 2018.

4. **Taxes for local levies will decrease significantly.** New state funding will reduce our need for local funds. The owner of a UP home at the current median value ($370,000) will see taxes collected by the district go down by more than $550 in 2019.

5. **Tax rates listed in the Voter’s Pamphlet are only estimates.** The numbers you see in the Voter’s Pamphlets are required by the Auditor’s office and are only estimates. Actual tax rates will be determined by the legislature and/or by changes in property values.

6. **Tax collection amounts in the Voter’s Pamphlet are only estimates.** The numbers you see in the Voter’s Pamphlets are required by the Auditor’s office and are only estimates. Actual tax collections – the total amount of money collected by the district from local taxpayers – will be less than the amounts shown in the pamphlet.

7. **Passing a local levy in UPSD make us eligible for millions of additional state dollars.** If our voters approve the Educational Programs levy, we will become eligible to receive Local Effort Assistance (or levy equalization) funding from the state in the amount of almost $3,000,000.

8. **The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will fund current programs our kids need and our citizens expect.** These programs include athletics, music, performing arts, after school programs, summer school, transportation, special education and gifted/honors programs. The levy also funds teachers, school safety personnel, counselors, nurses, librarians and support staff. The levy allows for expanded course offerings so kids can take advanced courses and a wider variety of electives.

9. **The Safety, Technology and Capital improvement levy will repair, renovate or replace basic systems in our facilities such as HVAC, roof, floors and outdoor facilities.** Maintaining our facilities is an important cost not paid for by the State. We need to take good care of our community assets so they can be used far into the future. Thanks to citizens, we have several new schools and new facilities. However, others are aging and need to be maintained.

10. **The Safety, Technology and Capital improvement levy will replace and upgrade technology systems used for safety, learning, operations and data.** As technology changes and improves, our students deserve access to these learning tools. Our schools also need strong technology infrastructure and updated equipment to serve students, parents and citizens well.
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Basic Information on this Levy Election

- Election is February 13, 2018; all by absentee ballot
- Educational Programs and Operations Levy; 4-year levy; simple majority needed
- Safety, Technology and Capital Improvements Levy; 4-year levy; simple majority needed
- Accurate, factual information can be found on UPSD website at www.upsd.wednet.edu
- Voter registration materials are available at all schools and online with Pierce County Auditor. January 15 is online deadline. February 5 is in-person deadline for registration or address change.