



## FACTS ABOUT THE SCHOOL LEVY



FEBRUARY 2017

# Lake Pend Oreille School District will hold a **Supplemental Instructional Levy** Election March 14 *This two-year levy replaces the current expiring levy*

## What does the levy fund?

The proposed \$17 million two-year levy (\$8.3 million in 2018; \$8.7 million in 2019) would fund the following:

- **One-third of ALL district staff**; approximately 300 full-and part-time positions
- Support sound **class sizes** and secondary electives

**VOTE**  
**MARCH 14**  
**2017**

- ALL academic and athletic **extracurricular activities**
- **Technology** and all curricular materials, professional development
- **Extended full-day kindergarten**, Clark Fork experiential learning program, elementary counseling, and certified nursing assistant



## LEVY FACTS:

- This levy supports the operating budget for instruction and is **NOT** another plant facility levy
- It **REPLACES** the current levy that has been in place for 17 years
- It is for **two years only** and is **NOT** a permanent levy. Voters must approve any future levy
- Funding from state revenue **does not cover** all school needs – 82% of Idaho districts currently have levies
- LPOSD's school tax rate is 48 percent **below** the state average
- LPOSD's tax rate has **dropped** by 4.9 percent in the last 4 years
- State revenues for education remain **6 percent below** pre-recessionary appropriation levels of 2009

# A letter from the Superintendent

**Dear Patrons of the Lake Pend Oreille School District,**

On March 14, an instructional levy to support the Lake Pend Oreille School District and our community will be on the ballot. It is our hope that community members will make an informed decision at the polls.

Over the last five years we have adjusted our practices significantly to reflect the feedback of our community. We have added full-day kindergarten options, increased experiential learning classrooms, and created a Homeschool Academy. We have also continued to build on our pathways for students that better prepare them for both college and career options after high school. We have done this – without additional expense – with input and support of our community. A community that voted 70 percent to pass our last instructional levy.

The Lake Pend Oreille School District depends on local tax support to keep all of our schools open. Eighty-two percent of the school districts in Idaho currently have a supplemental levy in place. While these levies are officially called “supplemental” levies, they are in practice “operational” levies. Maintaining district operations is only possible by “supplementing” the tax dollars allocated from the state budget. In our case **the levy accounts for approximately one-third of the overall operating budget of our school district.**

Included in the levy are over 300 full and part-time staff positions. The people are indeed what make the difference in the quality of education for our students. Also included in the levy are all athletics and extra-curricular activities, instructional materials, professional development for staff, and technology upgrades.

It is important to understand that **this levy is different from the plant facilities levy** that was run last August. That effort was for building and upgrading schools. I want voters to know that we learned a lesson from the failure of the facilities levy. We moved too fast, held too few community meetings, did not provide options and did not give voters adequate time for questions and consideration.

**The levy on the March ballot is not new;** it has been in place for the last 17 years, renewed by voters every two years. **It is not a permanent levy.** The Lake Pend Oreille School District Board of Trustees decided at a recent meeting not to ask the voters for a permanent levy override, for which the district qualifies. This levy is only for the next two years and replaces the expiring levy. Owners of a home with an assessed valuation of \$250,000 with the homeowner's exemption, will see an increase to current school taxes of 50 cents per month. This small increase allows us to add much needed counseling and nursing support for students.

Without passage of this levy, the school district will be forced to lay off over 300 people. With the massive reduction in teachers and other staff positions, we also will need to consolidate schools. Clark Fork High School, Hope Elementary School, Southside Elementary School, Lake Pend Oreille Alternative High School, and possibly Northside Elementary School students would be moved into other schools. This would cause class sizes of over 40 students and double-shifts at the schools.

The Lake Pend Oreille School District serves approximately 3,700 students in 12 schools across Bonner County. The school district is the largest employer in the county with almost 900 full and part-time employees. Our employees have done a stellar job over the years to provide an excellent education for the children of our community.

Please get out and vote on March 14 to continue success for students, families and the community. Thank you.

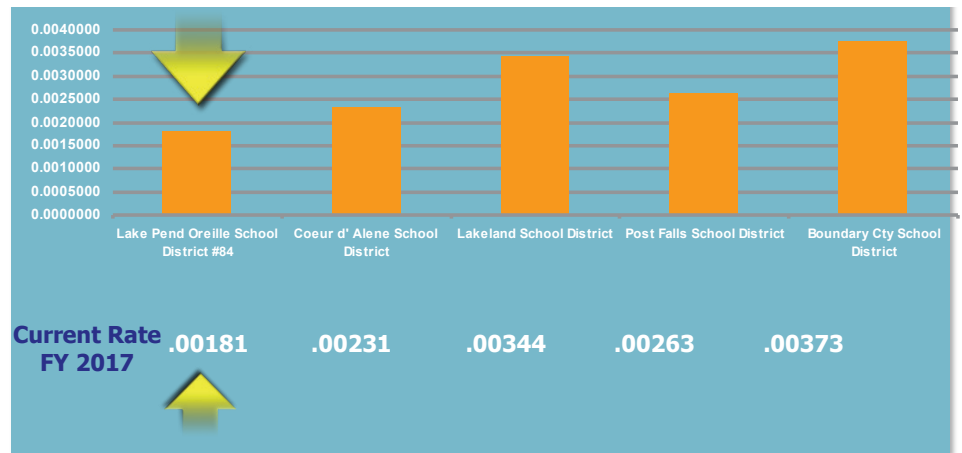
**Shawn Woodward**  
**Superintendent of Schools**

# What will the LEVY cost?

The projected cost per month on a home with an assessed valuation of \$250,000 with Homeowner's Exemption:

- Current Levy: \$22/month
- Proposed Levy in 2018: \$22.50/month
- Proposed Levy in 2019: \$23/month
- This equals .50 cent/month increase from current in 2018, and a .50 cent/month increase in 2019

**State average tax rate is .00357: We are 48% below the average**



Bonner County Assessed Value of Property and one acre land	Current Tax with Homeowner's Exemption (2016-2017)	Projected Tax with Homeowner's Exemption in Year One (2017-18)	Projected Tax with Homeowner's Exemption in Year Two (2018-19)	Projected Increase Over Current in Year One (2017-18)	Projected Increase Over Current in Year Two (2018-19)
	ANNUAL	ANNUAL	ANNUAL		
\$100,000	\$88	\$90	\$92	2%	2%
\$150,000	\$132	\$135	\$138	2%	2%
\$200,000	\$176	\$180	\$184	2%	2%
\$250,000	\$264	\$270	\$276	2%	2%
\$300,000	\$352	\$360	\$368	2%	2%
\$350,000	\$440	\$450	\$460	2%	2%
\$400,000	\$528	\$540	\$552	2%	2%
\$450,000	\$616	\$630	\$644	2%	2%
\$500,000	\$704	\$720	\$736	2%	2%



## WHAT IF THE LEVY FAILS?

- One-third of all LPOSD staff (300 full-time and part-time positions) will be eliminated
- Schools will be consolidated, with double-shifting required. Those likely to be consolidated are Clark Fork Junior-Senior High, Hope Elementary, Lake Pend Oreille Alternative High School, Southside Elementary, Northside Elementary
- All academic and athletic extracurricular activities will be eliminated
- Secondary elective courses will be eliminated
- Technology, all curricular materials, and professional development will be eliminated or curtailed
- Elimination of teaching positions will yield large, crowded class sizes
- Potential reduction in school safety and security due to reduced staffing





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## Lake Pend Oreille School District **SUPPLEMENTAL LEVY** Election



### WHEN and WHERE to VOTE

- **Vote in person.** Polls will be open from **8 a.m.** until **8 p.m. Tuesday, March 14, 2017**. All registered voters who live in the Lake Pend Oreille School District within Bonner County, Idaho, are eligible to vote.
- **Vote at your regular county polling place.** See chart at right or find out more on the Bonner County elections website at [www.bonnercounty.us/elections](http://www.bonnercounty.us/elections).
- The last day to **pre-register** for the March 14 election is **February 17, 2017**, but the State of Idaho has Election Day registration – so if you miss the pre-election registration date, you can still go to your polling place on Election Day, register to vote, and vote at the same time.
- Or **vote via absentee ballot.** If you will be out of the area on **March 14**, simply fill out an absentee ballot at the Bonner County election office, located in the County Building at 1500 Highway 2 in Sandpoint. For more information, call 208-255-3631. **The last day that the elections office can receive applications** for mail-out absentee ballots is **March 3, 2017** (please mail as early as possible). **Voted ballots must be received by the elections office by 8 p.m. March 14, 2017.**
- You may **vote in person** at the elections office beginning **February 20, 2017**, and the **final day for in-person voting** prior to Election Day is **March 10, 2017**.

### VOTE MARCH 14, 2017

PRECINCT NAME	POLLING PLACE
AIRPORT	Bonner County Extension Office
ALGOMA	Sagle Fire District Station
BALDY	First Christian Church
CAREYWOOD	Careywood Fire Station
CLARK FORK	Clark Fork City Hall
COCOLALLA	LDS Westmond Ward
COLBURN	Northside Fire Station #4
DOVER	Dover City Hall
GAMLIN LAKE	Garfield Bay Sewer District Office
GROUSE CREEK	Northside Christian Fellowship
HOPE	Hope Memorial Community Center
HUMBIRD	Sandpoint United Methodist Church
KELSO	Careywood Fire Station
KOOTENAI	Cedar Hills Church
LAKEVIEW	Clark Fork Public Library
ODEN	Oden Community Hall
SAGLE	Sagle Senior Center
SANDPOINT	Community Hall
SELLE	Northside Christian Fellowship
SOUTHSIDE	LDS Westmond Ward
WASHINGTON	First Lutheran Church
WESTMOND	Cocolalla Bible Camp
WRENCO	Westside Fire Station
ABSENTEE PRECINCT	Bonner County Admin Bldg