

Levy FAQ's - Vote on November 6, 2018
Washington Court House City Schools

What type of levy?

This is a continuing levy for operating dollars.
It is a 1% EARNED Income Tax.

Who is taxed?

All residents of WCHCS who earn money through employment.

What is not taxed?

The "earned income" school district income tax excludes interest, dividends, capital gains, pensions, rental income, lottery winnings, and income earned by estates.

What districts in our area have an income tax?

Athens, Wilmington (traditional), Circleville, Greenfield, Hillsboro (traditional), London (traditional), Yellow Springs (traditional), Cedar Cliff (traditional), Jefferson, Jonathan Alder, Greeneview (traditional), Teays Valley, Zane Trace, Union-Scioto (traditional), Xenia (traditional).

Why not a property tax?

WCHCS has one of the lowest per pupil property assessed valuations in the state (564 out of 610 school districts). Because of this statistic, it would require an 8.67 mill property tax levy to bring in the same dollar amount as a 1% earned income tax.

What would an 8.67 mill property tax cost a homeowner?

The cost of an 8.67 mill property tax would cost a homeowner:
\$100,000 house = \$303.45 in additional property tax/yr
\$200,000 house = \$606.90 in additional property tax/yr
\$300,000 house = \$910.35 in additional property tax/yr

Didn't we just pass a levy?

NO. WCHCS has not levied new money very consistently. Many districts ask for new money consistently every 3-7 years. Here is a history of our levies.

- ❖ **2005** - Bond for new buildings - will expire after 28 years - This money could only be used to build new schools. The district cannot use this money for any operating expenses (salaries, utilities, athletics, etc)
- ❖ **1996** - emergency levy - **expired in 2000 (we do not collect any more)**
- ❖ ****1991** - last operating levy
- ❖ **1989** - operating levy
- ❖ **1981** - operating levy
- ❖ **1980** - operating levy
- ❖ **1978** - emergency levy - **expired in 1980 (we do not collect any more)**

❖ 1976 - operating levy

We last asked for new operating dollars 27 years ago. We are operating on the SAME income for operating purposes from local sources since 1991.

Why now?

Our five year forecast shows that we will be operating in deficit spending in the 2019-2020 school year. This means we will be spending more money than that which is coming in from all revenue sources.

What happens if we do not pass this levy?

We will begin the process of reducing expenditures through reduction of programs and personnel. Some cuts will happen as early as July 1, 2019.

What will this levy support?

Primarily this levy will go towards our teachers. In our region (12 districts), our district ranks between 6th-8th in pay for our teachers who are on step 0-10 on the pay scale (our least experienced teachers). This is causing WCHCS to lose high quality teachers who are younger to other, higher paying districts. In addition, this has caused us to have a tougher time to attract high quality educators for openings we have.

Our most experienced teachers rank 3rd-4th in our region. We want our pay scale to get our teachers consistently in the 3rd-4th spot for all steps on the pay scale.

In order to increase student achievement and give our students the best education possible, we must have outstanding educators who are teaching them. We must be able to attract and retain outstanding young educators for the future of WCHCS and the City of Washington Court House.

In addition, the district will look to intensify our efforts on safety in our buildings. By adding additional measures we can make our environment more safe for our students. Some of this revenue will be used for updated systems and security measures.

Our buildings are a testament to the commitment this community has had for WCHCS, however the buildings are 10 years old. Each year the expenses increase a little more to replace/repair those things that are beginning to fail.

**The new buildings are one of the main reasons that we have been successful at staying OFF of the ballot for new money for so many years.

This additional revenue will allow us to continue the high level of education we currently offer and the programming we currently offer.