

# Voters to decide local levy for schools

*Measure 26-84 would keep 380 teaching jobs, buy up-to-date classroom materials*

The Portland School Board unanimously decided to seek voter approval for local school funding, and has referred a five-year local option levy to the November election ballot, where it will appear as Measure 26-84. The levy would fund teaching positions and up-to-date books and learning materials for students and teachers, and would cost the median homeowner about \$13 a month. If passed, local option funding would first be collected in November 2007.

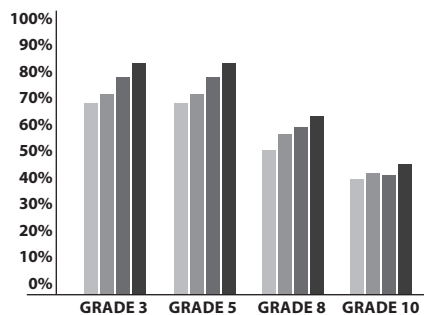


## WHAT WOULD THE LOCAL OPTION LEVY DO?

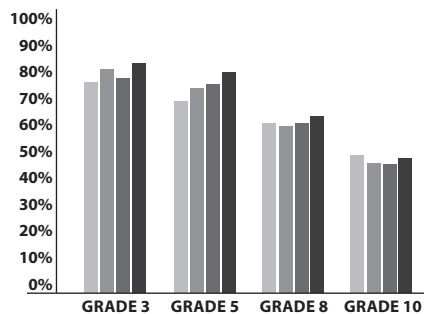
*The five-year local option levy would fund:*

- **380 teaching positions across all 85 schools: \$29.3 million.** Maintaining teachers' jobs will prevent increases in class sizes, and help preserve programs such as art, music and PE, vocational and technical education, support programs for at-risk students and library services.
- **Up-to-date classroom materials for students and teachers: \$4 million.** The local levy would pay for more adequate learning materials and training that teachers and students will use in the classroom, such as science lab materials, math workbooks, literature and reading texts.

## 2002 - 06 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT GAINS AT EVERY GRADE LEVEL



### MATH



### READING

The local funding would pay for:

- 380 teaching positions
- \$4 million of classroom materials for teachers and students

The local option levy would cost \$13 a month for the typical homeowner.

## VOTER INFO

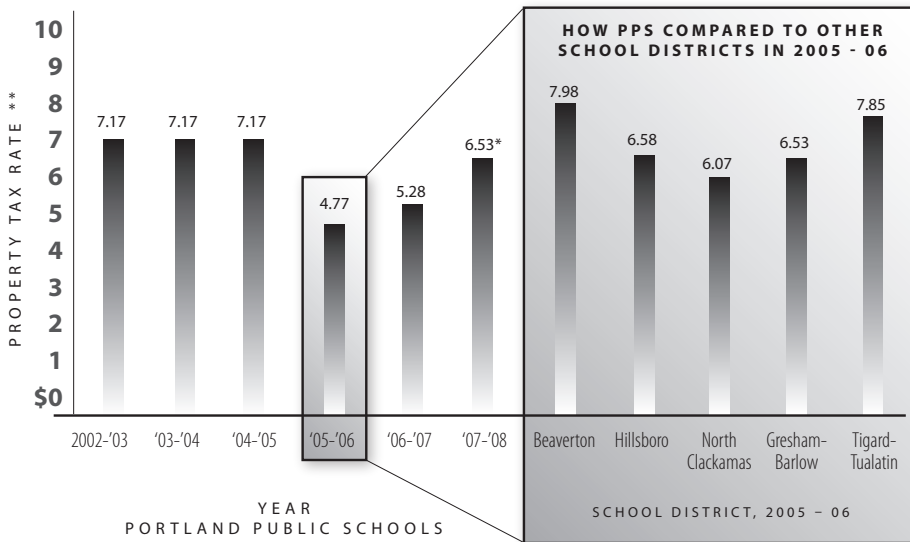
*Ballots will be mailed to registered voters Oct. 20 and must be returned by 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 7.*

## MOVED, OR NOT REGISTERED?

*Pick up a voter registration form at most banks, post offices, schools and libraries or in the Qwest phone directory, and send it in by the Oct. 17 deadline.*



# Property tax rates for Portland Public Schools and Neighboring School Districts



\* If voters approve local funding measure. \*\* Tax rates per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value.

## WILL THERE BE OVERSIGHT OF LEVY FUNDS?

The local option mandates independent citizen oversight to ensure that the money is spent as the voters directed. All money raised will be spent directly in PPS schools, with no money spent on central administration and no money distributed to other parts of the state.

## HOW DOES THE LOCAL OPTION FIT WITH OTHER FUNDING?

The Legislature, recognizing that many communities might want to support their schools beyond the base state funding, authorized communities to pass local option levies for

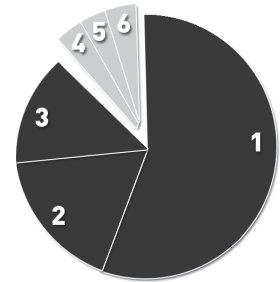
their schools. Portland voters approved a local option in 2000, which expired in 2005.

## WHAT WOULD THE LEVY COST?

The levy is \$1.25 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. A homeowner with a typical home assessed at almost \$124,000 would pay less than \$13 a month. The median home in PPS is assessed at \$123,630 (half are assessed at higher values, half lower) and has a real market value of \$240,660. The total property tax rate collected by PPS would remain lower than the rate paid in 2004-05, the final year of the previous voter-approved local option levy.

# 2006 - 07 PPS GENERAL FUND BUDGET

## WHERE THE MONEY GOES:



### 1. Teachers and textbooks\* 54.7%

Includes special education, ESL, teachers' aides, class supplies.

All local option money would be spent here, directly in schools — NOT administration.

### 2. School staff and support\* 18.7%

Librarians, counselors, principal's office, speech services, extra-curricular activities, professional development and curriculum support

### 3. Buses, buildings and more\* 14.3%

School buses, utilities, cleaning and maintenance, printing, purchasing and technology services

### 4. Central administration\* 4.3%

Superintendent and School Board offices, public information, research and evaluation, legal, budget, accounting, payroll and human resources

### 5. Debt and capital payments 3.1%

Payments on borrowed funds

### 6. Contingency 4.9%

Prudent reserves, savings for emergencies, liabilities

**TOTAL: 100%**

\* Categories defined under the Oregon Department of Education's Database Initiative.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Contact Sarah Carlin Ames, PPS Communications, (503) 916-3304; [sames@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:sames@pps.k12.or.us), or visit the Portland Public Schools website at [www.pps.k12.or.us](http://www.pps.k12.or.us).