



West Linn-Wilsonville School District 3Jt

Explanatory Statement for 2014 Clackamas County Voters' Pamphlet

This levy is a renewal of the West Linn-Wilsonville School District No. 3JT five-year Local Option levy approved by voters in 2000, 2004, and again in 2008. The local option rate would remain unchanged from current levels at \$1.50 per thousand.

This levy would be used to fill the shortfall between the expected spending amount needed to maintain current teaching staff and programs and the State school funding support level. The District would use the revenues from this measure to maintain current services (e.g., to continue employing the same number of teachers and support staff to maintain or reduce existing class sizes) and where possible pay for other program enhancements. This measure would continue to support approximately 46 teaching positions that are dependent upon this current level of funding.

The District utilizes the local option levy, planning and reliance on cash reserves to supplement State funding in order to maintain the current programs, services, and teachers. The current local option levy has enabled the District to maintain smaller class sizes, and provide programs, and services to support student performance that it otherwise would not. The District has the highest graduation rate in the State for districts with more than 8000 students. In the past 5-years district schools have received the Advanced Placement Honor Roll Award, the US News & World Report's "Best High Schools" Award, the Washington Post "Challenge Index-Top 1900 Schools" Award, and Newsweek's "Top High Schools" Award. Programs and staffing for performing arts, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) have been maintained and enhanced with support from the current local option levy.

Renewal of this Local Option levy would provide funds to maintain current programs and staffing levels. This measure would renew the local option levy at the same rate; current tax rates will not increase as a result of this measure. The District maintains less than one month of operations expenses as cash reserves and the annual State revenue for program operations is not adequate to fund all of the District's current programs and services.

The amount of local option tax that would be imposed on each property is difficult to predict. Actual amounts depend on Real Market Values compared to Assessed Values. However, each property's total local option tax would not increase the existing rate of \$1.50 per thousand that has been in place since the local option tax started in 2000.

This local option tax is estimated to raise \$3,450,000 in 2015-16, \$3,967,500 in 2016-17, \$4,562,625 in 2017-18, \$5,475,150 in 2018-19, and \$6,296,425 in 2019-20 for an estimated total of \$23,751,700 over the five years.