

Ritzville School District
209 E Wellsandt Ave
Ritzville, WA 99169

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM
RETAIL

Local Postal Customer

Ritzville School Board Members
Scott Carruth Tia Kubik
Reid Phillips Erin Repp
Superintendent Donald Vanderholm

Ritzville School District
209 E Wellsandt Ave
Ritzville, WA 99169
509-659-1660



Ritzville School District
2024 Replacement Levies Information
February 13, 2024

The Lind-Ritzville Cooperative complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to Lind-Ritzville Cooperative Schools Title IX RCW 28A.640 Officer, Don Walker, 209 E Wellsandt Ave., Ritzville, WA 99166, 509-659-1660 or PO Box 340 Lind WA 99341 Phone: 509-677-3499



On **Tuesday, February 13, 2024** Ritzville School District residents will vote on two measures affecting students in our community; a two-year replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy and a two-year replacement Capital Levy for Educational Technology Improvements.

What do these levies support?

Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy

Levies provide local funding that bridges the gap between what the state and federal governments pay and the actual costs of operating our schools. EP&O levy funds support approximately 17% of the overall district budget.

These funds would support a portion of:



Academics

- Staff for Smaller Class Sizes
- Special Education Services
- Student Intervention Programs
- Credit Retrieval Programs
- Learning Enrichment Opportunities



Enrichment & Extra-Curricular Activities

- Elementary Music & PE
- Band
- Athletics (Coaching Staff)
- Academic Clubs
- Field Trips
- Transportation



School Support

- Counselor
- School Nurse
- Paraeducators
- Library
- Social/Emotional Support
- Administration & Secretaries
- Food Services
- Transportation
- District/Business Office




Building Maintenance & Utilities

- Custodial
- Grounds & Maintenance Staff
- Routine Repairs
- Minor Construction
- Utility Costs not funded by the state

Replacement Capital Levy for Educational Technology

These funds would support:



- Technology Upgrades
- Safety Improvements
- Security Improvements
- Replacement of Aging Student & Staff Computers
- Classroom Technology

Please join us for an EP&O and Technology Levy Informational Webinar on Wednesday, January 24th at 6:45 PM. Access the link at www.lrschools.org.

Eight facts every citizen should know about school levies in Ritzville School District

1 Ritzville citizens are being asked to **renew two replacement levies by February 13, 2024** to cover important programs and services not fully funded by the state.

2 **Both propositions replace expiring levies and are not new taxes.** Voters approved two levies in 2022. These levies expire at the end of 2024 and require a vote to renew the measures.

3 **Levies are still needed to fund schools.** While the state has increased funding for schools in recent years, state funding does not cover the full cost of operating a school district. Levies are still needed to fund nearly 17% of current costs. Levies are also needed to pay for critical infrastructure like HVAC systems, boilers, and roofs. Levies also fund a portion of our technology costs.

4 **The levies help all of our kids across all schools.** Levy dollars are used at all schools to provide programs and services to kids in preschool through 12th grade.

5 **The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will continue funding current programs our kids need and our communities expect.** These programs include athletics, music, performing arts, transportation, special education, and highly capable/honors programs. The levy also funds teachers, counselors, school nurse, and support staff. The levy allows for expanded course offerings so kids can take college courses and a wider variety of electives.

6 **Tax rates for local levies will remain consistent over the life of the levies.** The amount requested by the district is actual but the tax rates listed in the voters pamphlet are estimates. This is because the actual tax rates are determined by the property values within the county, we anticipate the rates will remain the same, or even decrease, over the next three years.

7 **The Enrichment & Technology Levy funds a majority of the technology used across the district.** As technology changes, students across all schools need access to current learning tools and a strong technology infrastructure. If approved, the Enrichment & Technology Levy continues to support our promise to provide 1:1 technology tools for every student and ensure equity across the district.

8 **The two-year proposal provides the district an opportunity for more consistent planning through sustained funding.** A two-year levy also saves taxpayers the election costs of running a levy each year.

Please join us for an EP&O and Technology Levy Informational Webinar on Wednesday, January 24th at 6:45 PM. Access the link at www.lrschools.org.

For more information contact: Don Vanderholm, Superintendent at Ritzville District Office 509-659-1660 or dvanderholm@lrschools.org

Important Election Information

- February 5** Online and by mail registrations must be received.
- February 13** Register to vote in person by 8 p.m. on Election Day at a County Elections Office.
- February 13 Election Day** Ballots must be postmarked or returned to a ballot drop box by 8:00 PM

- Where can I register to vote?**
You can register to vote online at <https://olvr.votewa.gov/> or at the Election's Office at 106 W Main, Ritzville, WA or The Auditor's Office at 210 W. Broadway Ave, Ritzville WA.
- Are tax exemptions available?**
Yes, if you are at least 61 years old, or older, or disabled, you may be eligible for the Washington State property tax exemption program (dor.wa.gov). For information about your status, call the Adams Co. Assessor's Office at 659-3200.



What will the levies cost me?

Replacement Educational Programs & Operations Levy

Estimated Annual Amount

The proposed levy is \$1,131,300 for 2025 and \$1,174,250 for 2026. This will require an estimated collection rate of \$1.90 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The estimated effect on property owners is as follows:

Assessed Home Value	Current Levy Rates	Projected Levy Rates
\$100,000	\$225.00/year	\$190.00/year
\$150,000	\$337.50/year	\$285.00/year
\$200,000	\$450.00/year	\$380.00/year

Replacement Capital Levy for Educational Technology

Estimated Annual Amount

The proposed levy is \$25,000 for 2025 and \$25,000 for 2026. This will require an estimated collection rate of \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed valuation. The estimated effect on property owners is as follows:

Assessed Home Value	Current Levy Rates	Projected Levy Rates
\$100,000	\$6.00/year	\$5.00/year
\$150,000	\$9.00/year	\$7.50/year
\$200,000	\$12.00/year	\$10.00/year

How does Ritzville's School Tax Rates Compare to Other Districts:

