



# A Guide to School Levy Taxes

## Under the State's New Education Funding Plan

In 2017, Washington State's education-related tax plan underwent an overhaul, and, as a result, your next state school property tax bill will look different.

Why? In an effort to address the state's constitutional duty to fund basic education, the State Legislature changed the way Washington funds K-12 education. The changes affect:

- Property taxes imposed by the state
- Certain voter-approved property taxes imposed by school districts
- State funding for most school districts

You can read the fine print in Engrossed House Bill 2242 at:  
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/bills/summary?BillNumber=2242&Year=2017>

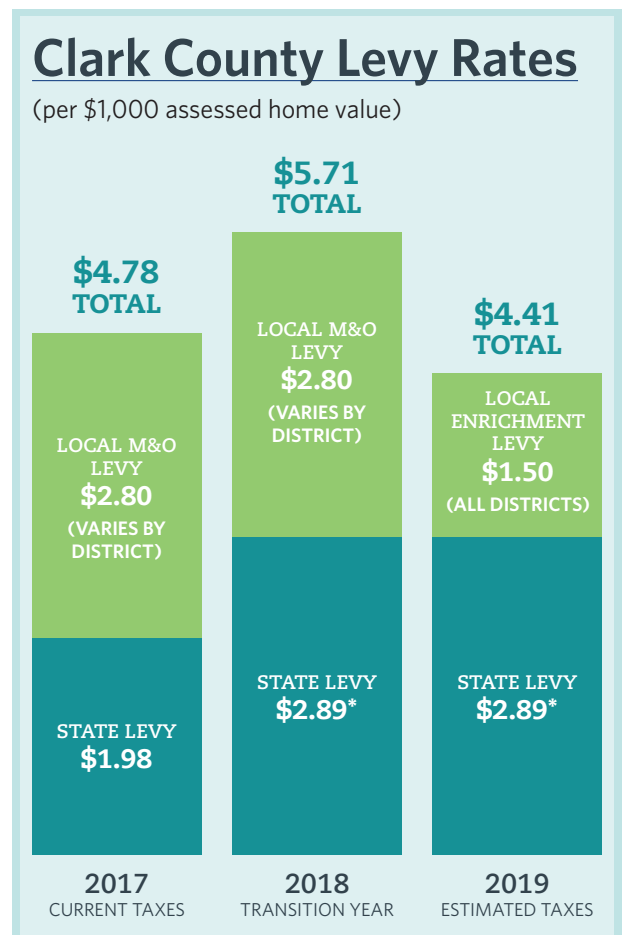
### 2018: THE TRANSITION YEAR

In 2018, the state will implement a "levy swap" that will cause a temporary one-year tax rate increase. The bump will occur in 2018, because it is a transition year. Existing voter-approved Maintenance and Operations (M&O) levies will remain in effect in local school districts, while the state phases in increased state levy collections.

In 2019, tax rates will likely be lower than in 2017, because school district M&O levies—now known as "enrichment levies"—will be limited to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Total school taxes will vary from school district to school district, but the chart on the right shows how the levy tax rates will change from 2017 to 2019 in a sample Clark County district. **The chart does not reflect voter-approved bonds, which vary by district and are not affected by the levy change.**

The 91 cent state levy increase in 2018 does not result in a direct 91 cent increase for Clark County school districts because the money is redistributed through the state. In fact, when the local levies are capped starting in 2019, many districts will have smaller operating budgets.



\*See note on reverse side.

# Tax Guide

(continued)

## EXAMPLE: School Property Taxes<sup>†</sup> for a Clark County Homeowner

### TOTAL LEVY TAXES

To calculate total school levy taxes owed annually, the tax assessor uses the following formula:

$$\text{Assessed Home Value} \div 1,000 \times \text{Total Levy Rate}$$

The chart at right is a sample of what levy taxes could look like for a Clark County homeowner, accounting for a rise in property values of 3% per year. Future taxes are only estimates, however, because taxes will change proportionately to changes in assessed property values.

TAX YEAR	2017	2018	2019
ASSESSED HOME VALUE	\$291,000	\$300,000	\$309,000
STATE LEVY TAXES	\$576	\$867	\$893
LOCAL LEVY TAXES	\$815	\$840	\$462
TOTAL TAXES	\$1,391	\$1,707	\$1,355
CHANGE	-	\$316	-\$352

Indicates year-over-year INCREASE

Indicates year-over-year DECREASE

<sup>†</sup> Does not include voter-approved bonds.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information on the state property tax to support public schools, please visit the Washington Department of Revenue website (<https://dor.wa.gov>).

For more information about your local school district's property tax, please visit:

Battle Ground School District  
[www.battlegroundps.org](http://www.battlegroundps.org)

Green Mountain School District  
[www.greenmountainschool.us](http://www.greenmountainschool.us)

Ridgefield School District  
[www.ridgefieldsd.org](http://www.ridgefieldsd.org)

Camas School District  
[www.camas.wednet.edu](http://www.camas.wednet.edu)

Hockinson School District  
[www.hocksd.org](http://www.hocksd.org)

Vancouver School District  
[www.vansd.org](http://www.vansd.org)

Evergreen School District  
[www.evergreenps.org](http://www.evergreenps.org)

La Center School District  
[www.lacenterschools.org](http://www.lacenterschools.org)

Washougal School District  
[www.washougal.k12.wa.us](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us)

\* NOTE: The new state public schools tax levy rate for 2018 through 2021 is \$2.70 per \$1,000 of assessed fair market value. However, the rate that will appear on Clark County's 2018 tax bill will likely be \$2.89 per \$1,000 of assessed value, based on Clark County property valuations. (Rates will vary by county, because Washington State applies a ratio percentage to each county's certified fair market values.)