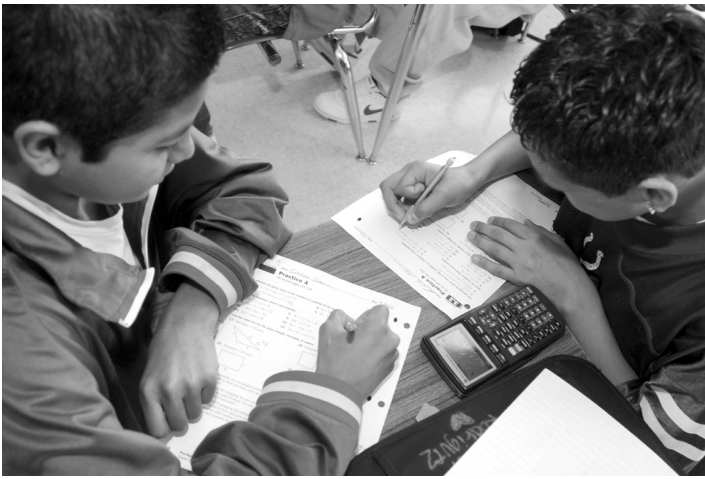


# On February 9 please take time to **VOTE!**



### How does Mount Vernon Schools receive local money to pay for instructional improvements?

The District receives funding through levy propositions, which are approved by voters and based upon local property valuations. Property owners pay a set amount for each \$1,000 of their assessed property value. Once approved, levy amounts cannot be increased.

The amount per \$1,000 may decrease, however, when community property values increase. The state and federal government currently supplies approximately 84 percent of the general fund revenues in the Mount Vernon School District. Approximately 16% of the District's funding comes from levy dollars.

### What is a Maintenance and Operations Levy?

A maintenance and operations levy is a tax paid by property owners for the maintenance and operation of the District. Levy funds are used to supplement programs that are not fully funded by state or federal dollars.

### What is a Technology Levy?

A technology levy is a revenue source available to school districts for the sole purpose of purchasing and

installing technology equipment in classrooms and providing the necessary teacher training to ensure that it is used wisely.

### Why are the levies needed?

The **maintenance and operations levy** will help to support funding for teaching staff, textbooks, gifted and special education programs, student activities and athletics, building maintenance and upkeep, school buses, and staff development and training.

The **technology levy** will help to support funding for replacement of aging computer equipment and staff training.

### Are the February 9 levies new taxes?

No. The **maintenance and operations levy and the technology levy** are not new or additional taxes. They are *replacements* of expiring levies approved by voters two years ago. Similar to a magazine subscription, the levy payment expires at the end of a set amount of time, and community members are asked to renew their support for schools.

### How will the levies affect my property taxes?

The Mount Vernon School Board is committed to a **zero percent increase** in tax rates during these

difficult economic times. As a result, the combined rate per \$1,000 for the 2011 and 2012 replacement levies is estimated to **remain the same** as the combined rate for the current 2010 levies. Please see the table below for specific dollar amounts.

### Can senior or disabled citizens receive a tax exemption?

Yes. If you are 61 years of age or older or legally disabled, and if your household income is less than \$35,000 and you own and occupy your property, you could be eligible for an exemption from all or part of the property tax. Contact the Skagit County Assessor's Office at (360) 336-9370 for more information.

### What if I don't receive my ballot?

Ballots will be mailed on January 20, 2010. If your ballot does not arrive within one week of this date, please visit or call the Skagit County Auditor's Office at (360) 336-9305 for a replacement. Ballots must be returned by February 9, 2010.

## More Questions?

Please contact:

### Carl Bruner, MVSD Superintendent:

School 428-6181  
Home 428-3848

### Jennifer Larson, MVSD Finance Director

School 428-6110

### School Board Members:

Laura Cailloux 848-6706  
Robert Coffey 428-6915  
T.J. Larrick 848-0352  
LuAnne Burkhardt 421-2896  
Charles Guildner 416-0292

| Levy                     | Current Levy Amount |                     | Replacement Levy Dollars Requested |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
|                          | Year 2010           | Year 2011           | Year 2011                          | Year 2012           |
| Maintenance & Operations | \$10,434,289        | \$11,110,584        | \$11,110,584                       | \$11,676,713        |
| Technology               | \$1,250,000         | \$573,705           | \$573,705                          | \$353,882           |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$11,684,289</b> | <b>\$11,684,289</b> | <b>\$11,684,289</b>                | <b>\$12,030,595</b> |