

What *YOU* should know about the school tax levy



1. *Why is the Waynesville R-VI School District seeking a tax levy increase at this time?*

- The district is seeking a 20-cent school tax levy increase to meet the Federal Government's requirement for "reasonable" local support, which would allow us to keep \$8.5 million in B-2 Heavily Impacted Aid.
- \$8.5 million is about 12% of last year's budget for the district.
- The \$8.5 million in B-2 Heavily Impacted Aid goes into the district's Fund 4, which is used for capital projects, including air conditioning, heating, maintenance, upkeep, construction and remodeling.
- Basic Impact Aid is provided to the district in lieu of taxes not paid by Federal facilities and is not affected by the local tax levy. However, to be eligible for B-2 Heavily Impacted Aid, local taxpayers must make a "reasonable" local tax effort. In this situation, a 20-cent increase would meet that "reasonable" local tax effort requirement.

2. *If the tax levy passes, how will the revenue be used?*

- If the 20-cent tax levy passes, the district will keep current aid, and will receive \$600,000 in new revenue, which will go toward security and technology.

3. *If the tax levy does not pass, what will happen?*

- Without the B-2 Heavily Impacted Aid, the district will have higher pupil to teacher ratios and it will be necessary to eliminate some programs.

4. *What is the district's current tax levy rate, and how do the current levy and the proposed increase compare to other districts?*

- Waynesville's tax levy is \$2.75; the State of Missouri's average school tax levy is \$4.08.
- Waynesville has the state's minimum tax levy (\$2.75). Twenty-eight other school districts, out of more than 500 districts in Missouri, also have the minimum tax levy of \$2.75. This rate is also the lowest school tax levy in Pulaski County and in the Ozarks Conference.
- Waynesville R-VI School District spends less per pupil than the state average.
- The Knob Noster School District, located by Whiteman Air Force Base, approved a 75-cent increase in the school tax levy for the purpose of retaining that district's B-2 Federal Heavily Impacted Aid.

5. *How will this increase affect homeowners?*

- A 20-cent increase would cost the owner of a \$150,000 home \$57 a year – less than \$5 a month. Typically, real estate taxes are the single largest tax cost for property owners; however, personal property, which is assessed at one-third of its value, also would increase nominally, based on an individual's personal property. Patrons may contact the assessor's office to get the exact amount of their personal property increase.
- The Waynesville R-VI School District currently has no general obligation bonds, and therefore, property owners have no debt service costs in addition to the tax levy.