



Dear Friends,

Just four years ago you may have joined us at about this same time to discuss the ritual that we all face in Washington State regarding the replacement of an expiring Maintenance & Operations Local Levy. State Law requires our regular renewal of this important funding source that makes up over 20% of the district's total funding for its educational and co-curricular program. Whether you are new to University Place or someone who has worked with us before, this is an early message to give you important information.

In 2006, our community came together to strongly support the M&O levy, as well as a bond measure that built the new University Place Primary, the new Curtis Junior High School, the new Curtis High School gym and pool remodels, and the planned improvements to the theater. Additionally there are many critical smaller projects, such as roof replacements and fire suppression systems currently under way. I know we're all enormously proud of these great new facilities – delivered on time and within budget!

As the district continues to absorb and adjust to on-going cuts in State funding for our schools, our work between now and **February 9th** is essential to ensuring the district stays strong, and can continue to provide quality educational and extensive co-curricular programs that reflect our community's priorities. It's important that you have the facts, so we'll give them to you here and also invite you to the information channels we have established to keep you informed as the work of "Citizens for U. P. Schools" moves forward.

Just the facts:

- ***This is a replacement levy that takes effect after the 2006-2010 levy expires.***
- ***This levy does • not • increase school district spending and only supports key existing programs and initiatives that are not funded by state dollars.***
- ***While this levy does • not • increase funding to the school district, the rate increases slightly to make-up for proposed state funding cuts being discussed in the legislature right now. If the state continues to provide these funds, the levy will automatically adjusted downward to lower rates. There is • no • new money for the district in this proposal.***

Detailed information regarding rates and the proposal have been posted on Citizens for U. P. Schools website. Please join us to get any other details and to ask any questions that you may have.

<http://www.citizensforupschools.org>

You'll also find links at the website for our Facebook page and our Twitter feed.

We need your help. We hope to have a resounding vote in favor of this modest proposal and we hope that you will join us with both your “YES” vote and your support. We have many opportunities for involvement that includes yard signs, bumper stickers, phone calling, and donations.

Please feel free to contact us by return email and we’ll add you to future committee newsletters. We have meeting dates and times posted on the website as well. Join us if you are able.

While we are aware that economic times dictate caution, we are all convinced that schooling and education remain in our hearts as critical to the future of our kids and our community. Many of us are long time residents of University Place and while children may have grown and moved on to college and beyond, there are many generations to follow.

Please join us in assuring their continued success!

Sincerely,

Gary Gilchrist
Committee Co-Chair

Bob Lucy
Committee Co-Chair