

YOU CAN VOTE... by mail or at the polls

The Technology Levy is both a mail and poll election, which means that registered voters who regularly vote by absentee ballot will receive their ballot in the mail the first week in May. Others will vote at their regular polling place on May 18, 2004.

Is there a tax break for seniors or disabled citizens?

Senior citizens may qualify for tax exemption from special levies based on household income. Exemptions may also be granted for individuals retired from regular gainful employment by reason of physical disability. For more information, contact the Clark County Assessor's Office at 397-2391.

Questions?

Call Tanis Knight, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, or Harvey Keene, Director of Operations, at 817-4400.

Learning.com teaches everything from computer basics to spreadsheets

Camas technology dollars also pay for software and licenses for on-line learning programs like Learning.com, a self-paced interactive program that teaches everything from computer basics and keyboarding, to data base and spreadsheet development. According to Ann Goss, Prune Hill media specialist, it's an effective instructional program, used primarily by students in grades K-3. Students frequently log on to the program in the computer lab at school, but also can continue their learning by accessing Learning.com at home.

"We continue to receive lots of positive feedback about Learning.com," said Goss.



Prune Hill kindergartner Jazmin Hedwall accesses Learning.com in the school's computer lab.

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CAMAS SCHOOL DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY LEVY Tuesday, May 18, 2004



TECHNOLOGY LEVY INFORMATION GUIDE

May 18, 2004 • Technology levy election: Keeping Camas on the leading edge of instructional technology

Why is the May 18 technology levy critical?

The district's enrollment has doubled, and three new buildings have been brought on-line since the district passed its first technology levy in 1995. More than 1,600 student and staff workstations are being supported with technology dollars. Without continued technology resources, the district would be unable to maintain its current technology standards – vital to instructional research and productivity.

Technology dollars pay for important programs that cover:

- **STUDENT LEARNING.** Examples include core curriculum resources used by students at every grade level; equipment, software and hardware; class presentations, video projects, and on-line curriculum; career and scholarship research; skill-building technology; test preparation; and phonics programs.
- **NECESSARY COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS.** Examples include mandatory network upgrades required to run state data-processing software; district, school and classroom-based web sites and teacher pages, email, phones and voice mail; increased bandwidth for more efficient and reliable access to the internet and other on-line resources. (The district is currently close to exceeding its bandwidth.)
- **INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY.** Examples include grade/assignment monitoring; classroom video conferencing; digital video distribution and streaming media; electronic grade reporting, student data, attendance, and assessment.

What does a technology levy pay for?

Of the \$750,000 that will be collected each year for three years, approximately \$100,000 is used for recurring subscriptions and expenses such as instructional software licenses; NovaNet, an on-line system that delivers standards-based, interactive curriculum, integrated assessment and student data management; and Internet filtering and databases.

About \$550,000 will be used to cover infrastructure costs such as system and network replacements and network upgrades. Investing in the infrastructure helps the district maintain necessary equipment for technology applications at all school buildings.

An estimated \$100,000 is earmarked for project-based initiatives in our schools. (See one example of such a project in the article at right.)

What will the technology levy cost taxpayers?

The technology levy will cost property owners an estimated .24 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation for three years (2005, 2006, and 2007). That equates to a cost of \$48 per year for the owner of a \$200,000 home. Due to projected increases in assessed valuation in Camas, it is also likely that the cost per \$1,000 will go down over the course of the three-year levy. Only one technology levy is in effect during any one year. The current technology levy of .14 cents per \$1,000 expires at the end of 2004. The increase in the price per \$1,000 valuation is necessary to keep pace with rising enrollment.

How much does the district spend per student on technology?

As enrollment increases, the amount available to spend per student declines. In 1995 for example, the levy amount was \$400,000, with \$152.61 per student spent on technology. Because of rising enrollment, in 2004, just \$89.53 was spent per student on technology-related learning.

Technology dollars at work – here's just one GREAT example!

There are roving reporters, assignment editors, producers, prop and camera crews, and news anchors. While the scene may sound



Senior Steve Johnson, technical director, and Scott Pousche spend many extra hours after class in the studio.

like one from a major television network, it's actually Kelly Williams' video production class at Camas High School on filming day. About 50 students are enrolled in two video production classes, an offering that has gained popularity at the new school. A professional recording studio is available for taping, and

sophisticated software is used for writing and editing video footage.

"We couldn't offer this program without funding from the technology levy," said Williams.

The student-produced show is played each Friday during the school's "advisory period." Each show generally features a news segment, spiced with a variety of student interest stories developed by the production team. The students write the scripts, develop story boards, outline camera shots, and present their ideas to get the green light from their teacher.

"This class is intense," said Williams. "Students are required to communicate, interact with me and their classmates, present ideas, and then do what it takes to help produce a show on a tight deadline."