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HAL GREGORY, Superintendent

www.oregoncityschools.org

1/10/20

<https://www.oregoncityschools.org/LevyInformation.aspx>

Dear OCS Community,

As we begin our levy campaign and present information to our community, many questions and editorial comments will surface both pro and con towards the reasoning behind the levy. Both the levy committee and myself will do our best to explain the reasoning behind the levy and invite our community to ask questions. Social media is not the best way to ask questions so please feel free to email me at hgregory@oregoncs.org or our levy committee at oregonschoolslevycommittee@gmail.com. You can also call my direct line at **419-698-6026**.

Information about our levy will flow in many ways. You will find information on our website at <https://www.oregoncityschools.org/LevyInformation.aspx>.

Reasoning behind the levy.

Oregon City Schools has been placing levies on the ballot since 1963. The reason we need levies is all Ohio public school districts are funded through a combination of state funds and local taxes. Oregon receives approximately 55% from State funds and 45% from locally generated funds. There has been a shift to more local funds and less state funding over the years and this reality has accelerated the need for local levies.

Beginning this school year, our district starts deficit spending which means we are spending more than we receive. This is unavoidable over time. Per state law, we do not receive any growth on our revenue. Revenues remains flat but expenses go up. This is and always has been the pattern of funding education.

Our five year forecast predicts we will run out of money by 2023 unless we generate new revenue or reduce costs. Operating levies are the primary way to increase revenue. Within the last ten years, Oregon has reduced and cut dozens of staff members and programs. Our district has very little left we can reduce to balance the budget.

The sooner a levy is placed on the ballot, the lower the amount of the levy is needed to carry the district forward. Our current levy is 4.95 mills. This is the amount we predict will allow our district to operate in the

The Oregon City School District adheres to Title VI, Title IX, ADA, and Section 504; thus, does not discriminate in educational programs and employment practices on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

black for up to five years out, along with focused reductions and efficiencies. New unfunded state mandates, state budget changes, and unknown expenditures all influence how long we can stay off the ballot for additional revenue.

Oregon City Schools has the lowest voted millage in Lucas County. This levy will **maintain** all current programs, services, and staff allowing for our students to thrive educationally and socially while at school. **Our students deserve what other districts have.** Any future educational reductions will devastate our students ability to compete and cause additional revenue to be lost as families choose to be educated elsewhere. The Oregon and Jerusalem communities have so much positive momentum right now and keeping our schools funded appropriately is vital.

“OCS Success” is not just a catch phrase but a way of life in Oregon City Schools and we prove that with each student’s ultimate goal of graduating. Clay HS graduate approximately 95% of students on a yearly basis. By the time graduation comes along, our students are ready for whatever lies ahead.

Our commitment to you is continued care for your children, improvement every day, and fiscal transparency.

Thank you for your continued support of Oregon City Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hal D. Gregory". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hal D. Gregory
Superintendent
Oregon City Schools - Go Eagles!