

*****A proposal to increase the Voted PPEL by \$.67 will be on the special election ballot September 12th from 7:00 a.m until 8:00 p.m., along with Board Elections.***

What is the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)?

The Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) comprises two levies--the regular Physical Plant and Equipment Levy and the voter approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy. The maximum for the regular PPEL is 33 cents per \$1,000 taxable assessed valuation, and the maximum for the voter approved PPEL is \$1.34 per \$1,000 taxable assessed valuation, for a combined maximum of \$1.67 per \$1,000 taxable assessed valuation. Tri-Center currently has a voter approved PPEL in the amount of 67 cents. The district is asking for the authority for the full amount of voter approved PPEL which would mean an additional 67 cents per \$1,000 taxable assessed valuation.

How does PPEL fit into the district's goals?

The Tri-Center Community School District has relied on the board-approved and voter approved portion of the PPEL which has been \$1.00 which generates approximately \$250,000 each year to provide important maintenance and transportation funding which helps to:

- ❖ Purchase transportation vehicles like buses and vans
- ❖ Support classroom technology including our 1:1 Laptop program
- ❖ Repair/replace HVAC, playgrounds, sidewalks, etc.

Well-maintained school buildings, vehicles, and grounds are an essential part of our school community. However, the current level of PPEL generated funds will not be enough to maintain our aging roofs, purchase buses and have long-term sustainability for our technology needs.

How does the passage of the Voted PPEL affect me?

It is important to know that the voter approved PPEL will come from property taxes. The district has flexibility in adjusting other rates (such as debt service and management) to minimize the effect on the voter approved PPEL.

No one likes to pay more taxes, but we do not anticipate the additional \$.67 of voted PPEL to increase your tax rate next year.

Tri-Center tax rate has gradually decreased over the past seven years:



What are some examples of how the PPEL revenues can be used?

- ❖ PPEL funds can be used for technology such as computer purchase and replacement;
- ❖ Equipment purchase or replacement such as musical instruments;
- ❖ Building maintenance such as masonry, concrete/asphalt repairs and replacements, roof replacement, energy conservation improvements;
- ❖ Maintaining and improving school grounds, classrooms, athletic fields and the track;
- ❖ Purchasing school transportation vehicles like buses and vans.

What happens if the PPEL vote does not pass?

Some projects and purchases still need to be completed and would have to be funded by other revenue sources, such as the General Fund or SAVE Funds. Our district would struggle to meet the maintenance requirements for our facilities without the approved PPEL funds in place.

This would result in:

- deferred repairs on school facilities
- technology purchases placed on hold
- any emergency repairs would put extreme strain on the district budget
- district athletic fields and grounds deterioration
- decreased ability to make timely safety and security improvements
- replacement of aging buses and support vehicles placed on hold
- rerunning the PPEL election at the next possible election date which would cost the district additional funds.

We believe our students deserve a facility that is well-maintained and of which they can be proud.

Your taxes will not increase, but the school can continue to improve.

****Dr. Huseman will be available to answer questions regarding this topic at the Open House on August 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Cafetorium.**