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**Klamath Falls City Schools
District Newsletter
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Last year's school budget season was a painful time. The Klamath Falls City School District had to make very tough decisions in order to balance their finances. Two of the most difficult choices they had to make were raising class sizes and eliminating elective opportunities for students. It is sad to see this statewide trend continue for the 2012-13 school year.

Because of this, the two main areas the May 15th local option levy proposes addressing are lowering elementary class sizes and adding elective classes to Ponderosa and Klamath Union High School. Should the levy pass in May, elementary class sizes in lower elementary grades will reduce by an average of five students and go from the current average of 30 down to about 25.

For the grades 7-12, a positive levy vote will add class options for students in Culinary Arts, Art and Visual Communications, Child Development, Human Development, Multimedia, and Engineering 1 and 2. Adding these electives would allow Ponderosa to also provide more tutorial time for struggling students. This would help decrease the failure rate and set more students up for high school graduation.

Adding these electives to KU would allow them to go back to a seven-period day. This not only allows students to take more classes in their career and interest areas, it also gives students more credits that would help many accumulate enough credits to graduate.

One more area of support the three-year levy would provide is updated textbooks at KU. This is a very important investment because many of the high school texts have become outdated. For example, high school history texts have 1990's copyrights. It is also important because the school does not currently have enough textbooks for each student. Thus, it is difficult for students to take books home for study or homework. Having an adequate supply of up-to-date learning materials will be particularly important as new learning standards are required by the state. This would help KFCS students successfully compete with students across Oregon.

A successful levy vote would bring in over \$1,100,000 yearly for three years. Of that, \$151,300 would be matching state funds. This would be used to undo the worst consequences of the recent budget reductions.

Did you know?

- None of the levy funds would go to increasing employee salary or benefits
- A successful levy vote would return some of the Klamath Falls' state income tax back to our community
- Even if the levy \$.50 per \$1,000 levy passes, the KFCS tax rate would be the lowest in the state for districts with 2,000 or more students