

Klamath Falls City Schools
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District Newsletter
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WHO'S AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLF?

Across the state, a big bad wolf is blowing down many school houses, or at least many referendums. This frightening creature is compression.

Compression is a concept unique to Oregon. Due to tax measures passed in the 1990's, educational taxes in a district cannot exceed \$5 per \$1,000 of property. Most districts in the state are very close to or over this mark.

Due to a historic circumstance, Klamath Falls City Schools is well below this point: \$3.11 per \$1,000. The time in which local tax rates were set statewide was a time of tremendous timber revenue in Klamath Falls. As a result, local educational taxes were low. It has continued at that rate since. As a result of this happy accident, Klamath Falls City Schools is probably the only district in the state that can increase property tax and have all the revenue of such an increase come right back to its schools. None of the additional revenue is sent to Salem and re-distributed before it comes back to us. Thus, every cent in the proposed .50 cent Instructional Levy will stay right in Klamath Falls where it will help not only our schools, but also the local economy.

It gets even better: Because our district's property valuation is on the low side in the state, an approved levy will bring more dollars for our schools from the state level. Thus, the .50 cent levy will raise \$890,000 locally for our schools. The state will increase this by an additional \$151,300. So the yearly amount the three-year levy brings to our educational system is \$1,041,300.

Does this sound like a deal too good to be true? Maybe it sounds like a deal too good to pass up!

Did You Know:

- The average home owner in Klamath Falls will pay an additional \$4.40 per month if the Instructional Levy passes. What can you buy for \$4.40 per month?
 - A twelve-pack of pop
 - A latte
 - A McDonald's value meal
 - A quart of ice cream
 - A bag of chips and a soda
 - Over \$1,100,000 for our kids' education

Which gives the bigger bang for the buck?