

Essential Points

- **What is the difference between a levy and a bond?**
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=521HBBVD3OE>
 - A levy is ballot measure that asks voters to agree to a property tax over a set number of years and funds are generally used for operational costs or capital improvements. Levies help school districts to bridge the difference between state funding and the true cost of operating a school district. Examples of levies include: maintenance and operations levy, technology levy, or a transportation levy.
 - A bond is a ballot measure in which school districts ask voters for permission to finance building projects through the sale of municipal bonds and pay off the principal and interest with proceeds from property taxes. Bonds are generally used to build or purchase new buildings, renovate/modernize existing buildings, add or upgrade infrastructure systems, and purchase additional equipment.
 - A good rule of thumb is a **L**evy is for **L**earning and a **B**ond is for **B**uilding.
 - In the fall of 2009 Preston County Schools passed a levy and in the spring of 2010 voters passed a bond. The bond was nearly \$40 million dollars and resulted in renovation or new construction in all Preston County Schools (see bolded, italicized section below). However, in 2012, the excess levy failed and the BOE has been unable to pass a levy since that time.
 - The most recent levy was in November of 2016 lost by only 376 votes and the BOE is hopeful that our current student-centered levy will be approved by the voters of Preston County.
- **How will voters know that the money is being spent how it is supposed to be spent?**
 - The plan will be to provide quarterly reports on how the funding is spent with these reports being made readily available to the public.
 - By code, levy money can only be spent for purposes specifically spelled out in the levy call.
- **What kind of tax impact will passage of the levy have on Preston County voters?**
 - As a service to voters, PCS's will post a tax chart and calculator to assist voters in determining their additional tax liability pending the passage of the levy.
 - Example: A citizen with a house with an assessed value of \$150,000 and a car with an assessed value of \$9000 would pay an additional \$160.27 in property taxes (i.e. \$13.35 per month). While a person on homestead exemption in the same circumstance would pay \$124.02 (i.e. \$10.34 per month)

SUMMARY OF WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE PASSAGE OF THE 2010 SCHOOL BOND:

- Aurora Pre K-8 Our Investment \$1,547,750
Includes new platform stage, locker rooms, music and art and a technical lab.
- Bruceton Pre K-8 Our Investment - \$5,100,000
PHASE 1 - Includes new gym, locker rooms, four pre-k classrooms, new fire suppression system.
PHASE 2 - Includes new kitchen / dining area (* \$2,464,328) * Not funded by the Bond, dependent upon future local, state and federal funds.
PHASE 3 - New Middle School (* \$4,500,000) * Not funded by the Bond, dependent upon future local, state and federal funds.

- Fellowsville Pre K-5Our Investment - \$102,000
Includes New media / technology lab, art / music classrooms, replace aging modulars, new fire suppression system.
- Kingwood Elementary Pre K-4Our Investment - \$652,500
Includes New exterior classrooms, exterior walkway canopy and open classroom conversions.
- New Central Preston Middle School (5-8)Our Investment - \$7,555,636
New Central Preston Middle School with provisions for the accommodation of a PreK-4 school at a later date.
- New Tunnelton-Denver Elementary/South Preston Middle SchoolOur Investment - \$10,463,700
New school construction to replace Tunnelton-Denver and South Middle Schools, housing approximately 346 students for grades PreK - 8
- Rowlesburg Pre K-8Our Investment - \$100,000
Plumbing renovations and site improvements.
- Terra Alta East PrestonOur Investment - \$8,265,155
New middle school as well as renovations to provide for a new media and technology lab, administration area and expanded dining room.
Other improvements include new 4-5 grade classrooms and provisions for music / stage.
- Valley Elementary / West Preston Middle SchoolOur Investment - \$5,246,157
New middle school with safe school entry, two auto loops, gym, expanded dining room, media center, separate art, music / band room and sloped roofs.
- Preston HighOur Investment - \$500,000
Sports complex improvements and general school renovations.

With the significant new construction and refurbishment of buildings within Preston County Schools that has occurred as a result of the 2010 bond, it is imperative that we continue to provide proper maintenance on all of our buildings. The passage of this levy, which has a significant amount designated for building maintenance is a huge step in the right direction in providing the district with the resources necessary to provide thorough and adequate building upkeep. A good analogy is that the passage of the levy is like purchasing an extended warranty on the purchase of a new vehicle. While problems are not always envisioned with a new building or a new car, if you do continually monitor and provide adequate maintenance on either, the quality of both depreciate quickly.