

Marvista PTSA – Levy Cliff – Call to Action

February 9, 2017

BACKGROUND

If the state legislature does not act, on January 1, 2018, many districts will go over the “levy cliff”. If this happens, Highline School District will lose approximately \$7.5 million of local tax revenue. The school district must actively plan for this scenario and will need to start sending out RIF (layoff) notices in May of this year. Even if the legislature acts to fully fund education, the levy cliff is causing uncertainty and unease for our teachers, staff, and administrators who should be focused solely on our children’s education.

The Marvista PTSA Board passed a resolution urging the legislature to act immediately to extend the levy cliff.

The State House of Representatives has passed HB 1059, extending the levy cliff for 1 year. The bill is currently stuck in the Senate Ways & Means committee. We ask you to please help by contacting your state senators and urge them to pass this bill. Here is what you can do:

STEP 1

Find your district. You can use the district finding tool here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder>

- Marvista, Normandy Park, Des Moines, Kent Valley is in District 33: [Sen. Karen Kaiser](#)
- Burien is in District 34: [Sen. Sharon Nelson](#)

STEP 2

Call or email your Senator. The Senator’s names link to their contact info. Phone calls are the most effective, but you can email by clicking the “Email” link below the Senator’s name. Be sure to fill out contact info, click “Verify District”, enter “1059” in the Bill Number (click “Find Bill”), and select “Support”. Feel free to write your own message or use the following script:

Suggested Email or Phone Script

Subject: Please take immediate action to delay levy cliff

“I urge you to support SHB 1059 - delaying implementation of revisions to the school levy lid. Both the Senate and House education funding bills include provisions to extend the levy cliff, but without immediate action our schools must spend scarce resources on developing contingency plans, including layoffs. These layoff notices will start going out in a few short months. Please end the uncertainty by passing SHB 1059 while you continue to work toward the full funding of education.”

STEP 3

Possibly the most important step is to ask any friends or family members that live in the following districts to contact the listed Senator. These are districts with State Senators on the Senate Ways & Means committee that have the most power to bring this bill forward. Scan the list of cities and if you have friends or families in these areas, please ask them to help!

Questions? Contact Marvista PTSA Legislative Co-Chair Mike Steffen: mdsteffen@gmail.com

Senate Ways & Means Committee Members – Priority List

District 2 (Yelm, Eatonville, La Grande, Graham): [Sen. Randi Becker](#)

District 4 (Spokane Valley): [Sen. Mike Padden](#)

District 8 (Richland, Kennewick): [Sen. Sharon Brown](#)

District 9 (Pullman, West Pasco): [Sen. Mark Schoesler](#)

District 10 (Whidbey Island, La Conner, Conway): [Sen. Barbara Bailey](#)

District 13 (Ellensburg, Cle Elem, Moses Lake, Ephrata): [Sen. Judy Warnick](#)

District 15 (Selah, East Yakima, Union Gap, Zillah, Sunnyside): [Sen. Jim Honeyford](#)

District 18 (Battle Ground, La Center, Ridgefield, Camas): [Sen. Ann Rivers](#)

District 20 (Centralia, Chehalis, Castle Rock, Mossyrock) : [Sen. John Braun](#)

District 25 (Puyallup, Fife, East Parkland, South Hill): [Sen. Hans Zeiger](#)

District 30 (Federal Way, Lakeland, Milton, Algona, Pacific): [Sen. Mark Miloscia](#)

District 45 (Totem Lake, Kingsgate, Woodinville, Cottage Lake, Duval, Sammamish): [Sen. Dino Rossi](#)

District 47 (Kent East Hill, North Auburn, Covington): [Sen. Joe Fain](#)