

Q. WHAT IS THE PORT PROPOSING?

A. The Port is considering whether to allow its Industrial Development District (IDD) levy to expire and increase its regular tax levy by the same amount.

Q. WHAT IS A TAX LEVY?

A. In Washington State, special-purpose districts such as ports, hospitals, cemeteries, and others are funded through a tax levied on the assessed value of the property owned within the boundaries of the district. The tax rate is expressed in cents per thousand dollars of assessed value (e.g. 20 cents per \$1,000). At a rate of 10 cents per \$1,000, property worth \$200,000 would pay \$20 for that year. In 2011, the Port received a total of \$225,812 in regular taxes.

Q. WHAT IS AN INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (IDD) LEVY?

A. An IDD levy is intended to be a temporary funding mechanism, not a replacement for a port's regular tax levy or a long-term source of funds. The Port Commission established the IDD levy in 2007 to help service existing Port debt and fund additional projects desired by the public (including the construction of a building for lease to Insitu). In 2011, the Port received a total of \$482,667 in IDD taxes.

Q. HOW MUCH TAX DO I PAY TO THE PORT NOW?

A. The Port's regular tax levy for 2012 is 16.614895 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value and its IDD levy for 2012 is 35.513941 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Combined, they equal 52.128836 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. This means property with an assessed value of \$250,000 located in the Port District will be taxed a total of \$130.32 in port tax this year.

Q. HOW DOES THAT COMPARE TO OTHER DISTRICTS?

A. The levy rate for some districts is lower while for others it is higher. In general, the Port's total combined tax rate ranks at or below the lowest quartile rate with only four other districts (Library, Fire No. 1, Fire No. 14, and Cemetery) having a lower rate.

Q. WOULD I HAVE TO PAY MORE THAN I DID LAST YEAR?

A. **No.** In fact, residents would pay a little less. If you own property located in the Port District with an assessed value of \$250,000, your total Port tax for 2012 will be approximately \$130.32. Under the Port's proposal, your total Port tax for 2013 would be approximately \$126.25.

Q. WHERE DO MY PORT TAX DOLLARS GO?

A. All tax dollars received by the Port are used to build new infrastructure, facilities, and amenities and to maintain, repair, and improve those already constructed. Most recently, these funds have been used to prepare industrial property for development, make improvements to older buildings, conduct a cleanup, and construct nearly 40,000 square feet of industrial space.

Q. WHY DID THE PORT PUBLISH A NOTICE TO RENEW THE IDD LEVY?

A. If voters do not approve the levy lid lift, the Port Commission will renew the current IDD levy.

Q. WHAT IF THE LEVY LID LIFT FAILS?

A. The Port Commission will renew the IDD levy and use those funds to complete as many strategic capital projects as possible. Once the IDD levy funds have been fully utilized, future and uncompleted projects will have to be scaled back, delayed, or postponed indefinitely to accommodate the nearly one-half million dollar per year reduction in funding.