



CABELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 446 • Huntington, WV 25709
2850 Fifth Avenue • Huntington, WV 25702
304-528-5000 • Fax 304-528-5080

Cabell County Residents and Families,

After reading the recent statement by the Cabell County Public Library and Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District, it is our hope that the community sees the funding offered by Cabell County Schools as a significant foundation from which they can build resources to support their services and programming. Although we would love to provide the libraries and parks the additional funding they have requested, our current and future budgetary priorities would not allow us to do so.

It is very important to put into perspective that the school district's excess levy is already at 100% capacity. We cannot increase the amount of the levy to accommodate the libraries' and parks' requests without reducing funds for other essential services integral to the operation of the school system.

Funding for Libraries and Parks

Considering all of our school district priorities, our board chose to include \$1,373,771 for the Cabell County Library and \$200,000 for the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District in the excess levy that will be brought before voters on May 14. This funding comes with no strings attached and is to be used at the discretion of the libraries and parks to continue the important work they offer to our community. Should voters approve the levy in May, this funding is guaranteed to both entities for five years. Should the levy fail in May, it would be detrimental to all three organizations.

Programs Funded by the Excess Levy

It's important to note that the proposed excess levy is a continuation of an existing levy and will result in NO increase in taxes for residents. In addition to providing substantial funding to the parks and libraries, the Cabell County Schools Excess Levy also funds essential programs and resources including:

- school safety initiatives, like school resource officers and security guards who protect our students each day.
- salary supplements and benefits that allow us to offer competitive salaries to care for our incredible faculty and staff.
- career and technical education that allows us to meet the changing demands of our local workforce and give students the skills they need to find high-paying jobs right here at home.
- cybersafety and device security, as part of our commitment to providing students and staff with the best, and safest technology to support their learning.
- instructional support and school libraries because we know that books open up the whole world to our students.
- school playgrounds and outdoor learning spaces because we believe that some of the most impactful learning sometimes happens outside the classroom.
- athletic programs that support competitive award-winning teams and varied athletic interests for all students.
- facilities maintenance and equipment, so we can be good stewards of our existing buildings through careful maintenance and upkeep.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS: Ryan S. Saxe, Ed.D.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS:

Justin Boggs, District Operations and Support Division • Kelly Watts, Instruction and Leadership Division

BOARD MEMBERS: Rhonda Smalley, President • Mary L. Neely, Vice-President • Alyssa A. Bond • Coy Miller • Josh Pauley

Park and Library Support in West Virginia

Despite the West Virginia Supreme Court’s ruling that it is *unconstitutional* to *require* school districts to divert any portion of their excess levies to outside entities, our board chose to allocate nearly \$1.6 million to our community partners.

Should the voters approve the levy in May, our school district will be proud to be the most significant contributor to a local park system and offer an amount in line with the highest percentage of excess levy revenue given to a local library system, putting us first in contributions of districts our size and second in all districts in the state of West Virginia as evidenced in Charts 1 and 2.

Should the libraries and parks be interested in compensated services to the school system, we would welcome those discussions to determine if there are ways we can further support their efforts to raise funds.

To learn more about how the Cabell County Schools Excess Levy supports the Cabell County Public Library, the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District, and the many important initiatives for the students and staff of Cabell County Schools, please visit: <https://www.cabellschools.com/Page/1477> and Chart 3 below.

Chart 1: School District Support of Parks

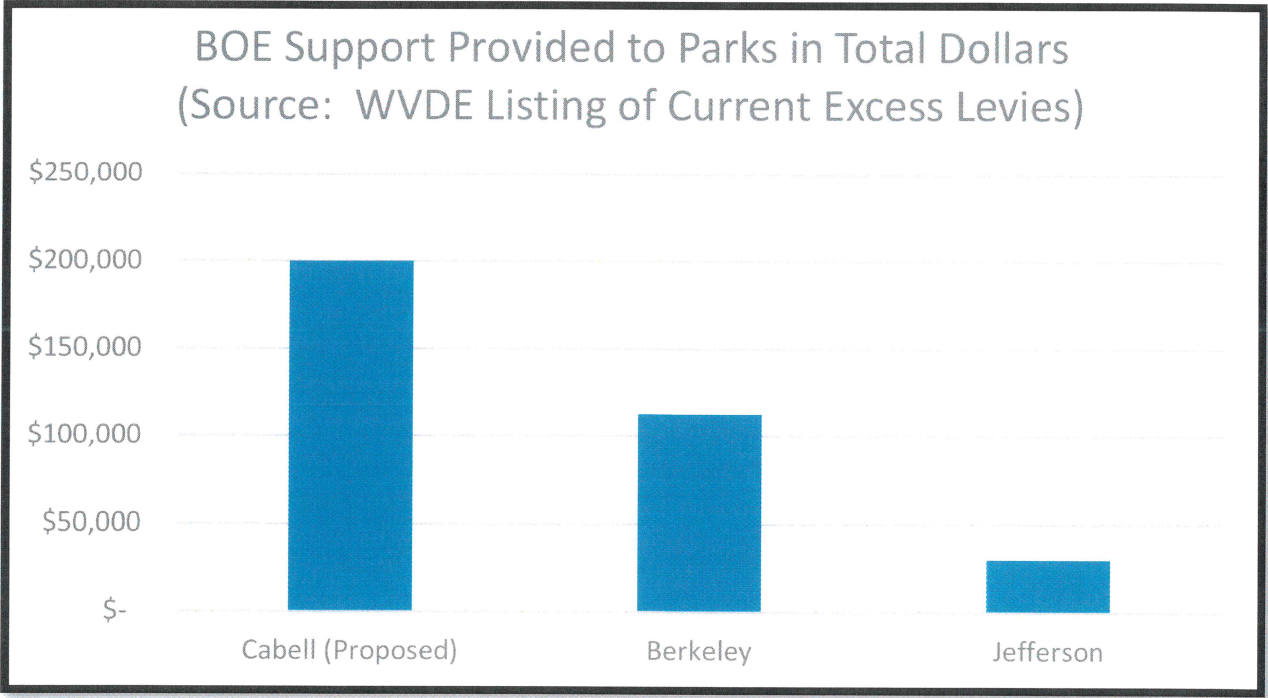
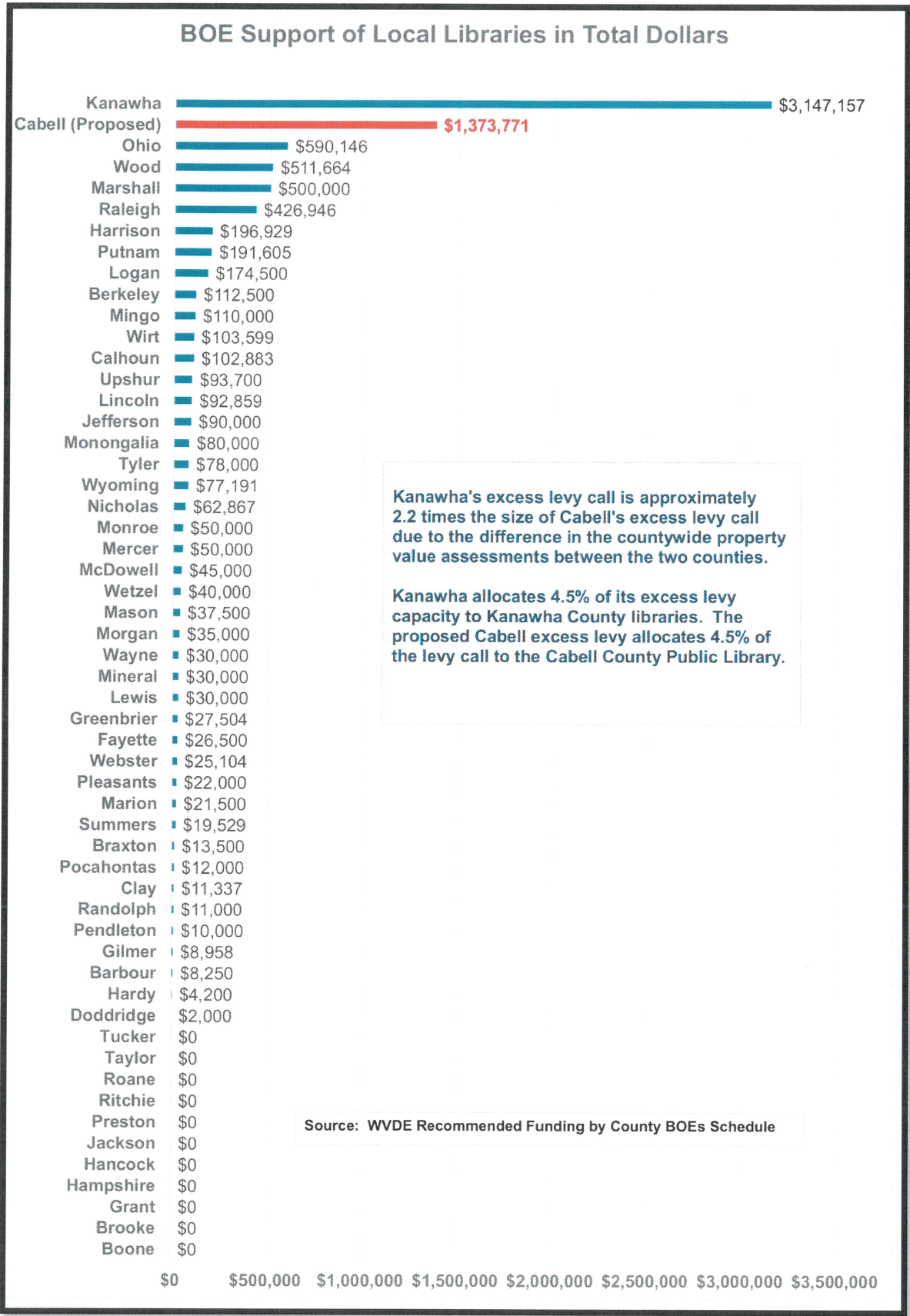


Chart 2: School District Support of Libraries



Future Opportunities for Funding and Partnerships

Proposed Excess Levy Call For the Fiscal Years of 2026 - 2030

No.	Provision Description	Amount
1	School Safety – Including, but not limited to, school resource officers; school security guards; security cameras; security alarm systems; fire alarm systems; emergency communications; and emergency planning and preparedness.	542,112
2	Employee Salaries and Benefits – Including, but not limited to, salaries of personnel in excess of 200 days; salaries for staff in excess of state funding formula; local salary supplements above the state minimum pay schedule; substitute personnel; and employee benefits, including, but not limited to taxes, retirement contributions, insurance benefits, unemployment compensation, and workers compensation.	16,794,470
3	Career & Technical Education and Workforce Development – Including, but not limited to, staff, equipment, supplies, and travel expenses for CTE programs.	3,120,530
4	Cybersafety and Device Security – Including, but not limited to, technology support and cybersecurity.	200,000
5	Instructional Support and School Libraries – Including, but not limited to, library books; library software; textbooks; instructional software; instructional supplies; postage; postage supplies and equipment; support for instrumental music programs including equipment, music, and supplies, equipment repair, and supplies; art supplies; and student and staff travel.	2,082,924
6	Summer Programs – Including, but not limited to, staff, student transportation, supplies, and field trips for summer programs.	551,375
7	School Playgrounds and Outdoor Learning Spaces – Including, but not limited to, new playground equipment; playground equipment replacement; outdoor classrooms; repair and maintenance of playgrounds and school grounds; landscaping; and playground mulch.	215,500
8	Athletics – Including, but not limited to, salaries for coaches; intramural activities; and other costs associated with athletic programs.	836,808
9	Facilities Maintenance and Equipment – Including, but not limited to, construction; building repair; roof replacement; asbestos abatement; equipment repair; new equipment; equipment replacement; new furniture; furniture replacement; paving; new vehicles; vehicle replacement; custodial supplies; property insurance; liability insurance; and flood insurance.	4,610,744
10	Cabell County Public Library – Funds to support the operation of the Cabell County Public Library.	1,373,771
11	Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District – Funds to support the operation of the Greater Huntington Park and Recreation District for the purpose of providing services to parks in Cabell County.	200,000
Total Budgeted Expenditures		30,528,234

Dr. Ryan S. Saxe

Superintendent