

Levy Lid Lift Basics

Council Committee of the Whole
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What is a Levy Lid Lift

- A taxing jurisdiction that is collecting less than its maximum statutory levy rate may ask a simple majority of voters to “lift” the total levy amount collected from current assessed valuation by more than 1% ([RCW 84.55.050](#) – also see [WAC 458-19-045](#), which provides a better understanding of the process than the statute). The new levy rate cannot exceed the maximum statutory rate.
- The city’s maximum statutory rate in 2024 is \$2.81771 and the actual rate is \$0.80429. The city’s maximum rate is calculated as \$3.60 (maximum combined rate of all taxing authorities) minus 0.25810 (library) minus 0.52419 (fire).

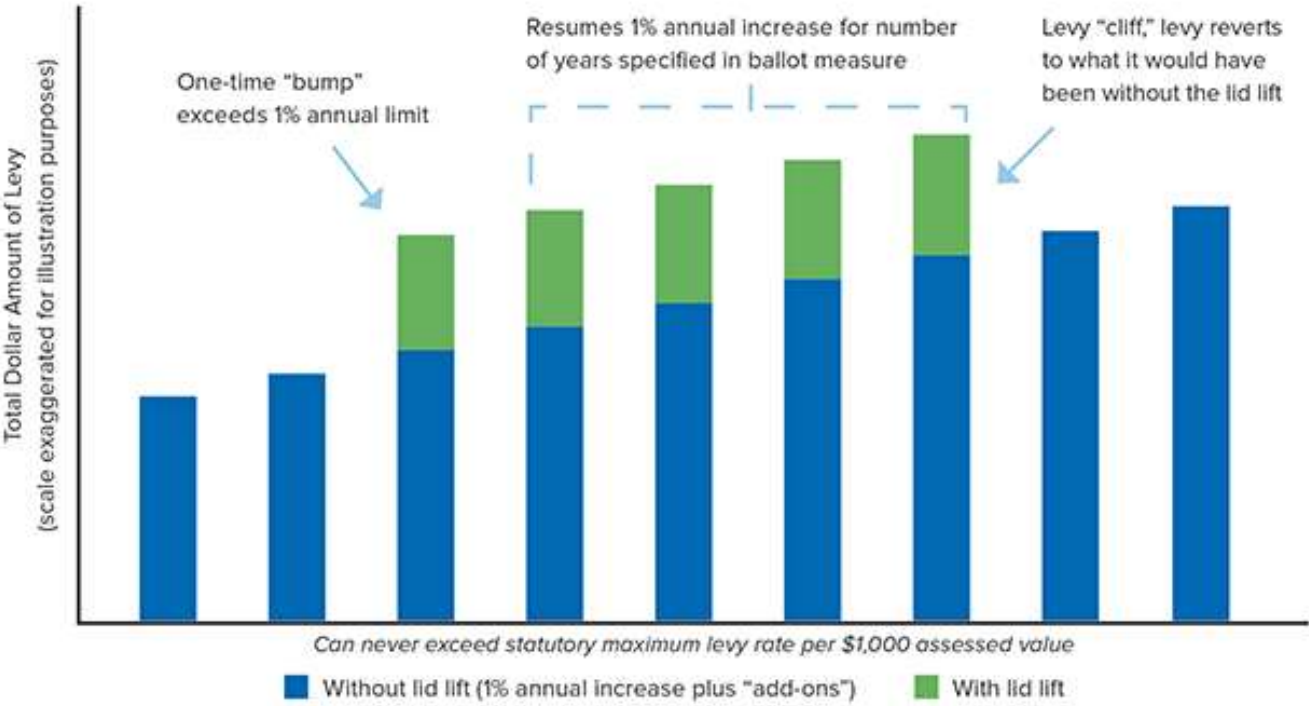


Levy Lid Lift Process

- Council determines it appropriate to explore a levy lid lift with the community.
- Administration secures a consultant following city procurement policy.
- Consultant, Council and Administration engage residents over the course of several months and based on feedback the Council determines the type of lift and amount, and costs/programs covered by the new revenue.
- A nonbiased explanatory statement of the levy's purpose is created for the voters' pamphlet.
- Council must formally appoint a pro and con committee each no more than three members. Statements are included in the local voters' pamphlet.
- Council votes at a regular meeting to place the levy on a general election ballot. This deadline is the same date as that of the primary election.
- Measure is placed on the November ballot. Passing a levy lid lift requires a simple majority (50% plus one).



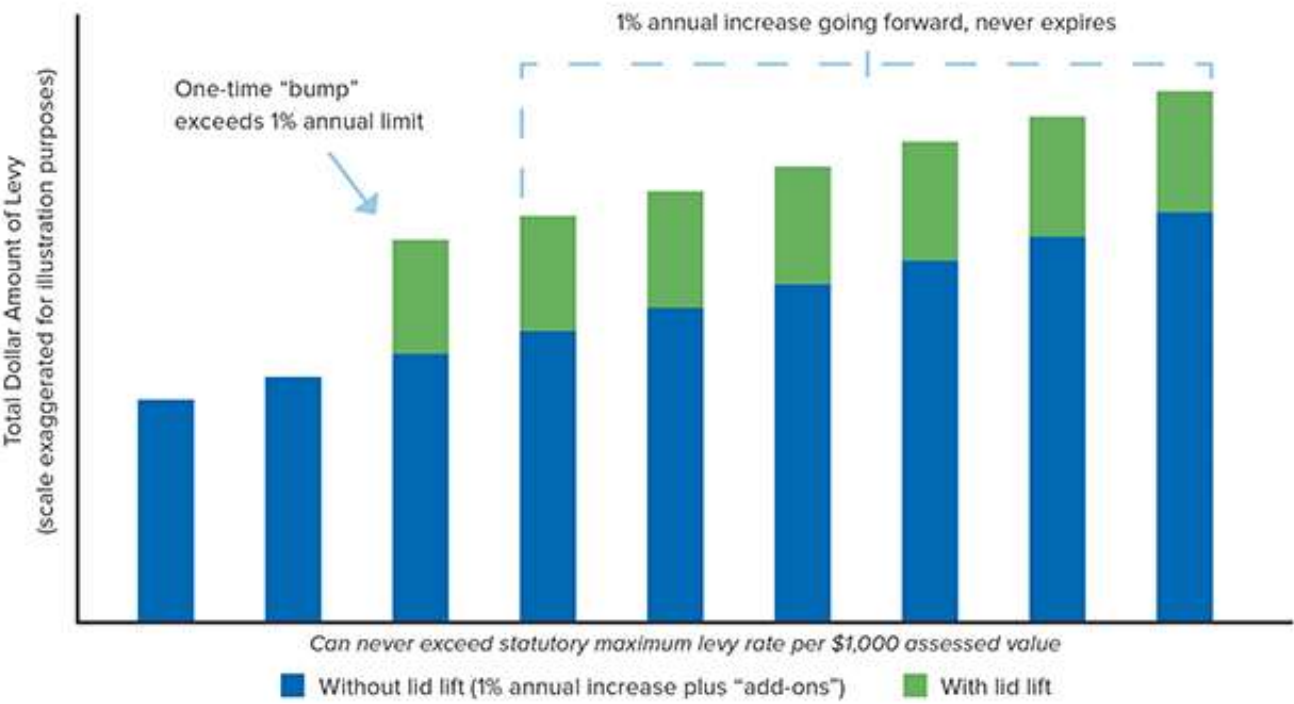
SINGLE-YEAR TEMPORARY LEVY LID LIFT



Single-Year Temporary Levy Lid Lift



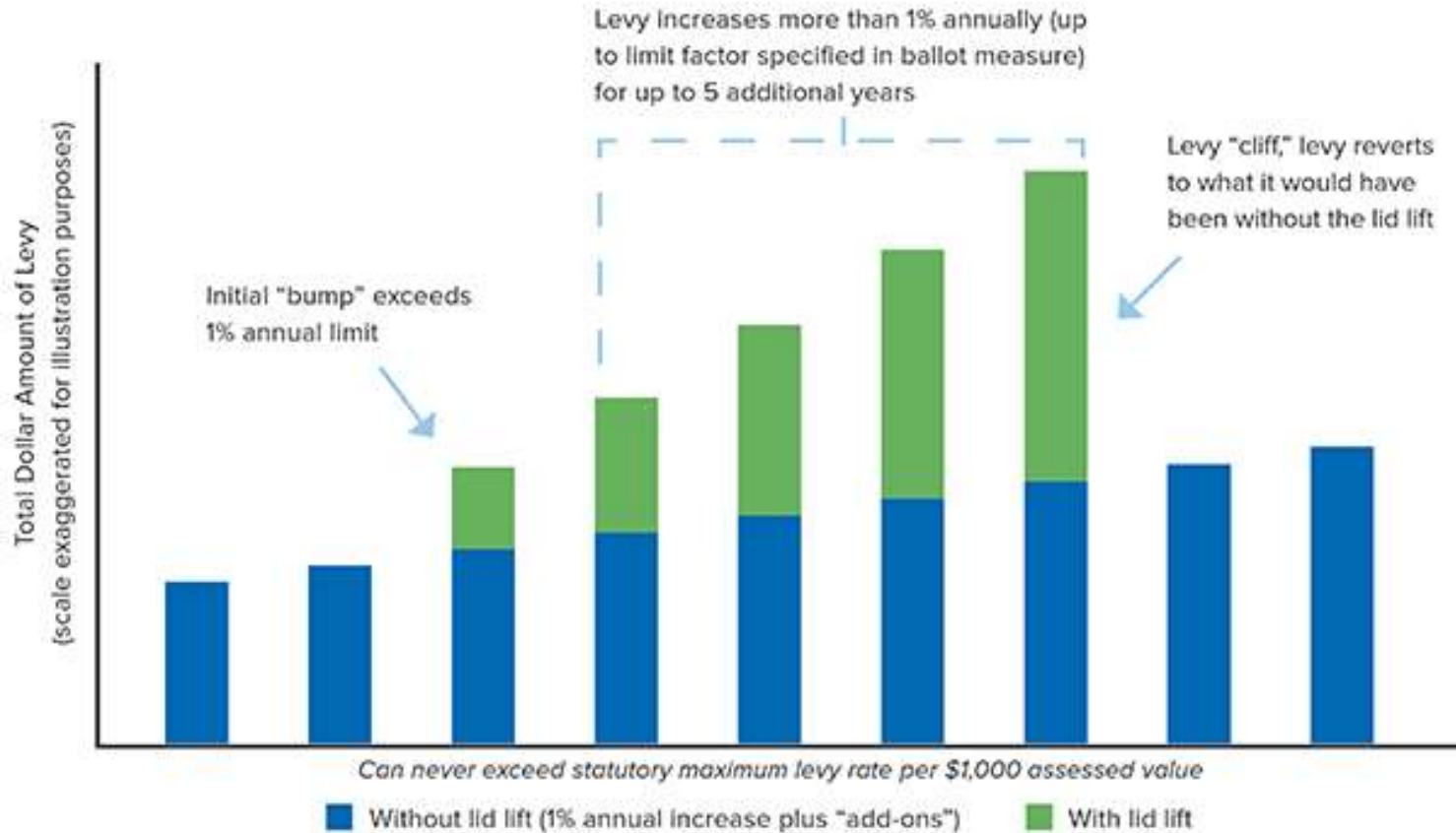
SINGLE-YEAR PERMANENT LEVY LID LIFT



Single-Year Permanent Levy Lid Lift



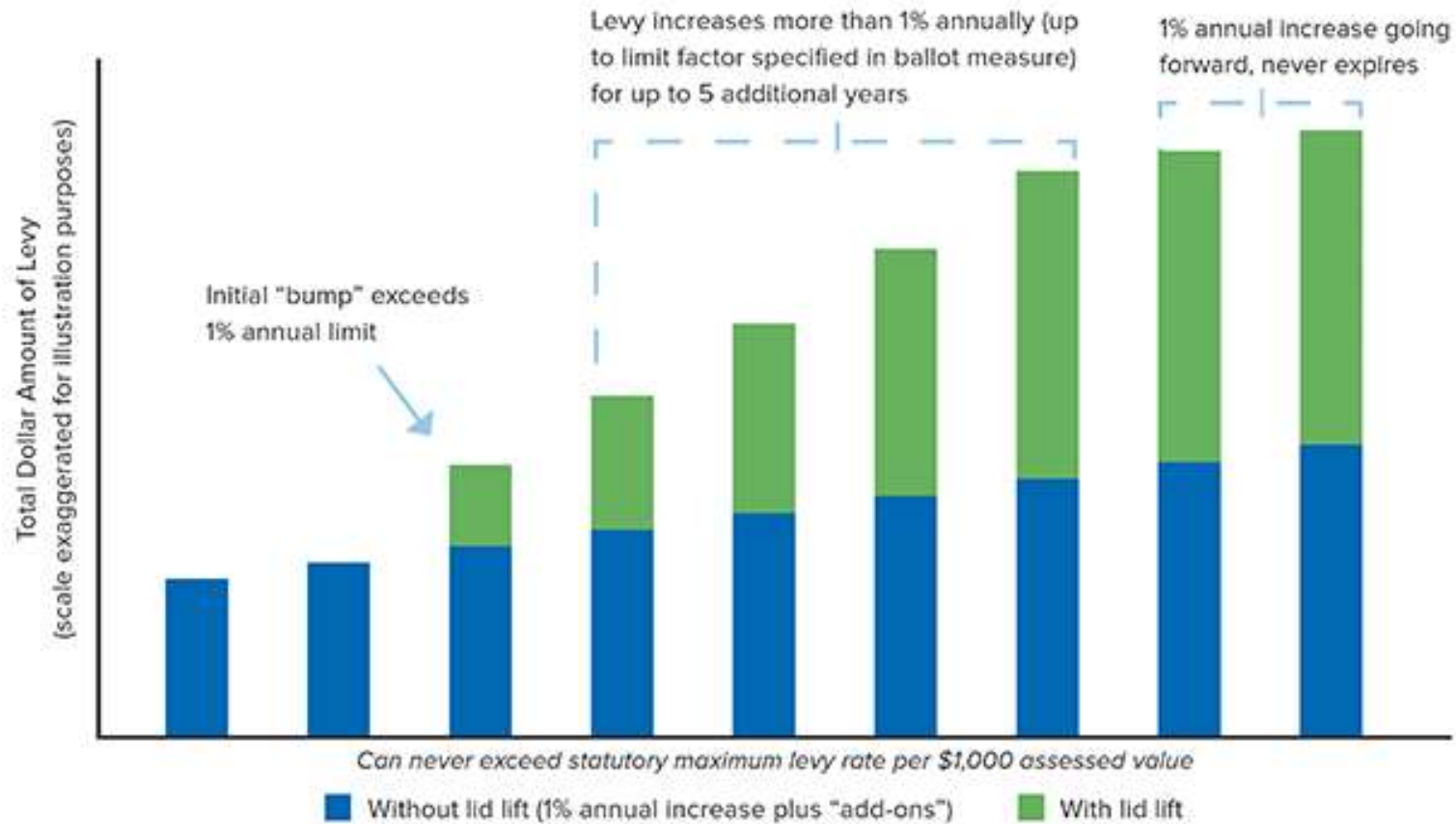
MULTI-YEAR TEMPORARY LEVY LID LIFT



Multi-Year Temporary Levy Lid Lift



MULTI-YEAR PERMANENT LEVY LID LIFT



**Multi-Year
Permanent Levy Lid
Lift**



A single-year lid lift ballot measure must:

- State the *maximum tax rate* to be imposed in the first year (for instance, \$1.50 per \$1,000 AV).
- If temporary, state the total duration of the levy (number of years).
- If permanent, state that it is permanent or that the dollar amount of the levy will be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies.
- State the exemption for senior citizens and persons with disabilities under [RCW 84.36.381](#), if the jurisdiction wishes to exempt these individuals (*cities and counties only*)

The ballot measure does not have to state:

- The purpose, although doing so is a good idea
- The *increase* in the levy rate (for instance, an increase of \$0.20 per \$1,000 AV), although some jurisdictions do so
- The maximum total levy *amount* (for instance, a total levy amount of \$300,000)

Single-Year Levy Lid Lift



A multi-year lid lift ballot measure must:

- State the total levy duration (number of years)
- If permanent, state that it is permanent or that the dollar amount of the levy will be used for the purpose of computing the limitations for subsequent levies.
- State the maximum tax *rate* to be collected in the first year (for instance, \$1.50 per \$1,000 AV)
- State the *limit factor* to be used for all subsequent years (stated as an annual percent increase or inflation index). The amounts do not need to be the same for each year.
- State the exemption for senior citizens and persons with disabilities under [RCW 84.36.381](#), if the jurisdiction wishes to exempt these individuals (*cities and counties only*)

The ballot measure *cannot* state the maximum levy *rate* for subsequent years after the first year.

Multi-Year Levy Lid Lift



HB2044 – Effective June 6, 2024

- King County cities are now allowed to use voter approved levy funds to supplant existing funding.

**2024 Legislative
Changes**



- Ballot Measures: <https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/elections/local-elections/ballot-measures>
- Levy Lid-Lifts: <https://mrsc.org/explore-topics/finance/revenues/levy-lid-lifts>

Resources



Questions?

