

SALEM-KEIZER PUBLIC SCHOOLS GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (500 word limit)

Salem-Keizer Public Schools serves more than 42,000 students in 65 schools. In the last 10 years, enrollment has grown by nearly 2,000 students. One thousand more students are expected in less than five years – the approximate enrollment of two elementary schools. Five of the district's six traditional high schools are currently at or over capacity.

A long-range facilities planning process identified building needs to support enrollment growth and educational programs. A community facilities task force reviewed the plan and recommended the School Board place a general obligation bond on the ballot for voters to consider. Highlights include:

- Additional space to address projected enrollment and relieve overcrowding.
- Expanded career-technical/vocational education opportunities.
- Upgraded/additional science spaces at secondary schools, which would allow the district to offer a full year of science at middle schools.
- Enhanced safety and security across the district, including seismic strengthening.
- Savings in maintenance costs by removing worn-out portable buildings.
- Protection of community's investment in district facilities by addressing future maintenance needs.

After hearing from the task force, from the community through a third-party phone survey, and from staff and community members through listening sessions, the School Board has authorized a \$619.7 million general obligation capital construction bond measure expected to:

- Construct and expand two career-technical/vocational education spaces at traditional high schools and one at Roberts High School.
- Construct additional space to relieve overcrowding and prepare for future enrollment; construct and expand cafeteria, gymnasium, and library space at the elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- Construct and renovate science labs at middle and high schools.
- Expand and construct additional space at the district's traditional/comprehensive high schools to increase capacity from approximately 1,750 students to accommodate between 2,100 and 2,200 students.
- Make seismic upgrades to structures rated highest risk of collapse in a major earthquake; upgrade the design standard of additions constructed under this bond to the immediate re-occupancy standard, which provides that buildings can be used as shelters.
- Make safety and security improvements district-wide such as replacing old electronic badge access systems and enhancing visibility at school front offices for better access control.
- Add space for special education programs at the high schools so students can attend their neighborhood school.
- Maintain existing facilities by addressing future needs such as painting and sealing walls, making roof and HVAC replacements, etc.
- Make technology infrastructure upgrades to expand wireless networks and relocate the district data center out of a flood plain.
- Add storage space for music programs.

The School Board will establish a community oversight committee to ensure bond funds are used as approved by voters.

Cost: If passed by voters, the \$619.7 million bond is estimated to increase the current property tax levy rate by \$1.24 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, or approximately \$248 per year on a home valued at \$200,000. Bonds would be issued in more than one series.

An \$8,000,000 state grant was awarded provided the bond is approved.

Marion Co. - Counter

MAR 19 2018

Submitted by:
Christy Perry, Superintendent
Salem-Keizer School District

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