

CAPTION (10 words)

Bonds to Improve Health, Safety, Learning by Modernizing, Repairing Schools

QUESTION (20 words + required language)

Shall Portland Public Schools repair, modernize schools; replace technology, curriculum; by issuing bonds estimated to maintain current tax rate?

If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

SUMMARY (175 words)

Measure authorizes up to \$1.208 billion in principal amount of general obligation bonds for facilities and education investments. Measure is not expected to increase tax rates above previous targets, because debt service is scheduled to decline.

If approved, this measure would finance capital costs, including projects that:

- Provide curriculum materials, technology, accessibility improvements;
- Repair/replace roofs, mechanical systems;
- Renovate/replace schools, including Jefferson, Benson, a facility for alternative school programs; design renovation/replacement of Cleveland and Wilson; plan and design additional capacity;
- Develop a culturally-responsive community plan, make targeted investments in facilities in North/Northeast Portland;
- Strengthen building security; seismic safety.

Requires citizen accountability/oversight; independent audits of projects and expenditures.

Bonds may be issued in one or more series, with each series maturing in 30 years or less.

Due to declining debt service, measure is not expected to increase PPS's bond tax rate above \$2.50/\$1,000 of assessed value, the same rate that has been targeted since the 2017 bond issue. Actual rates may differ based on interest rates and changes in assessed value.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (500 words)

In 2012 and 2017, voters approved capital bonds that funded improvements to many of Portland Public Schools' aging buildings, creating modern, safer places for students to learn. Over the past eight years:

- Roosevelt, Franklin, and Grant High Schools were modernized, Faubion PK-8 rebuilt, full plans for Benson High School's modernization was completed; and

- Madison High School’s modernization and rebuilds of Lincoln High School and Kellogg Middle School are underway.

In addition, the bond program has addressed infrastructure needs at every school throughout district:

- Replacing plumbing to remove lead, improve water quality;
- Removing or encapsulating exposed lead paint and asbestos;
- Upgrading fire alarm and sprinkler systems;
- Repairing or replacing leaking or deteriorating roofs, with improved seismically strengthened roofs;
- Seismic retrofitting;
- Improving accessibility for people with disabilities;
- Mitigating radon exposure;
- Strengthening school safety and security; and
- Upgrading science labs.

The proposed bonds would fund additional health, safety, and learning needs in schools across the district, while continuing PPS’s plan to comprehensively address facility needs by modernizing all of our schools over the long term. These priorities are informed by the recently released Facilities Condition Assessment and community engagement.

If approved, this measure would finance capital costs, including projects that address COVID-related needs.

If approved by voters, this measure is not expected to increase tax rates above the level targeted by the 2017 bond.

What would the bonds fund?

Educational Investments

- Replace outdated, incomplete textbooks and curriculum materials with comprehensive, culturally relevant, and current curriculum materials across core and supplemental subject areas;
- Replace or provide student tablets and laptops to provide equitable access and to support classroom and distance learning, and update classroom and district technology; and
- Provide flexible, adaptive special education learning spaces and technology tools.

Health & Safety Investments

- Remove barriers to accessibility in schools across the district;
- Repair or replace leaking or deteriorating school roofs;
- Seismically retrofit up to three schools;
- Repair or replace high-priority mechanical systems (heating, cooling and ventilation); and
- Update classroom door locks, install security camera systems, and upgrade or replace intrusion alarm systems to strengthen security.

School Modernizations & Rebuilds

- Modernize Jefferson High School; master plan and design toward a Center for Black Student Excellence community vision; and fund initial focused investments in neighborhood schools and facilities in North and Northeast Portland aligned with the plan;
- Design and complete pre-construction work to modernize Cleveland and Wilson High Schools; plan and design for additional capacity, including at Roosevelt High School; and;
- Complete Benson Polytechnic High School and construct an alternative school programs building on Benson's campus.

What would the bonds cost?

Because the tax rate on existing bonds are scheduled to decline, PPS's bond tax rate is not expected to exceed \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the same level previously targeted in the 2017 bond.

The total principal amount of bonds authorized by this measure cannot exceed \$1.208 billion.

Oversight and Accountability

A group of community members will review reports and independent audits of bond expenditures to provide accountability to the public.

Submitted by

