



## Portland Public Schools School Facility Bond Measure January 2011

Voters will decide in the May 17, 2011, election on a bond measure that would allow Portland Public Schools to update, rebuild and increase safety at schools as well as retire debt.

### **47,000 students educated in aging buildings**

Portland Public Schools is the largest public school district in Oregon, with 95 school buildings and more than 47,000 students. PPS buildings average 65 years in age; most were built in the 1920s, 1940s and 1950s. Only two schools have been built in the last 30 years. A dozen schools have been closed in the last 10 years.

Years of tight budgets have forced Portland Public Schools to prioritize its spending, directing resources to teachers and learning materials and deferring major school repairs.

As a result, school buildings face multiple issues:

- ▶ Schools need updated plumbing, electrical wiring, heating and ventilation, fire alarms, lighting and more.
- ▶ Classrooms, science labs and libraries are out of date and cannot support modern educational programs.
- ▶ Buildings need additional earthquake safety, handicapped accessibility and safety in stage areas.
- ▶ School grounds, fields and exteriors need repair or replacement.

### **Upgrades for safety and education**

The proposed bond measure would fund capital projects for school and classroom needs:

- ▶ Increasing school safety.
- ▶ Renovating and updating school buildings, classrooms and grounds.
- ▶ Rebuilding or comprehensively renovating schools across Portland, where that is more cost effective.
- ▶ Retiring existing school project debt.

#### **Increasing safety**

- Provide safety updates such as fire and security systems; replace electrical wiring, plumbing and lighting; replace deteriorated outdoor play equipment; install exterior security; replace unsafe school stage rigging.

#### **Renovating and updating**

- Modernize heating systems with more efficient and lower-maintenance fuel source.
- Replace leaking roofing.

- Upgrade or create some science labs for grades 6-12 as needed to support a modern science program including equipment, sinks, outlets, lab furniture and more.
- Provide a mobile up-to-date, classroom teaching technology unit for every school.
- Provide outdoor learning environments.
- Refurbish school grounds, exteriors, and fields to reduce injury, and increase security and safety.

### **Rebuilding schools**

- Rebuild Roosevelt and Cleveland high schools; Rigler, Faubion, Laurelhurst, Marysville K-8 schools; Markham Elementary and East Sylvan on the West Sylvan Middle School campus.
- Conduct planning and design to prepare for rebuilding Lincoln High School in the next phase of modernization.
- Establish Middle College program open to all PPS students, with Portland Community College, at rebuilt Jefferson High.

### **Retiring debt**

- Pay off approximately \$33 million in school project debt including Rosa Parks Elementary School.

## **Financing, cost to property owners**

Citizen oversight and annual audits to review bond projects and spending under the \$548 million bond program are required. Most of the financing for the school facilities work would be in short-term bonds that mature in one, two or three years, saving interest payments of more than \$200 million compared to conventional 20-year bonds.

The estimated bond rate for six years is approximately \$2 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It then drops to an estimated 15 cents per \$1,000 for no more than 20 additional years. The median assessed home value in the school district is \$147,480.

## **More information available**

More information is on the Web site, at

[www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/schoolmodernization](http://www.pps.k12.or.us/departments/schoolmodernization):

- ▶ A list of upgrades to be made at every school in the district
- ▶ Answers to frequently asked questions
- ▶ More background on the public process, school building conditions and finances

You may also e-mail [schoolmodernization@pps.k12.or.us](mailto:schoolmodernization@pps.k12.or.us) or call the PPS Information Line at 503-916-2801.

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