

MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 549C

**Measure No. 15-73**

**BALLOT TITLE**

**15-73 MEDFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AUTHORIZATION**

**QUESTION:** Shall Medford School District issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$188,980,000 to renovate, improve and expand District schools? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of Section 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

**SUMMARY:** This measure provides funds to preserve and improve all District schools, which on average are 63 years old. Bond proceeds will be used to:

- Protect aging infrastructure by renovating/replacing roofs, plumbing, electrical and mechanical systems;
- Improve operational efficiencies through heating, cooling, and ventilation systems, and lighting upgrades;
- Improve health, safety, and security by removing asbestos flooring, upgrading water systems, increasing access for the disabled, enhancing security systems, and strengthening earthquake resistance;
- Significantly renovate North Medford High School, Oak Grove, Jackson and Roosevelt Elementary Schools;
- Build new Lone Pine Elementary School on existing site;
- Build new South Medford High School on a larger site;
- Renovate existing South Medford High School for transitional use during construction and to consolidate support services to improve efficiencies;
- Prepare surplus property for sale or lease to fund future maintenance program;
- Refinance existing obligations and pay bond issuance costs.

Bonds will mature not more than 26 years from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series.

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

**The Medford School District is requesting voter approval of a \$188.98 million bond to construct and renovate school district buildings.**

**Purpose**

For the past decade, the Medford School District has postponed major facilities projects in order to preserve as much funding as possible for teachers and classroom instruction. The proceeds from this bond will allow the District to improve aging infrastructure and preserve the community's investment by renovating deteriorated building systems and constructing replacement facilities to make the schools more operationally efficient, educationally effective, and to improve the health and safety of students. Additional delays could result in further building deterioration and increased construction costs.

**Facilities Planning Committee's Recommendations**

A committee of local citizens and School District staff recommended this measure after a comprehensive year-long review of all district buildings. Proceeds from the bond would support the following:

- North Medford High School, built in 1967, has many structural, efficiency and safety issues. The building would be substantially rebuilt with one large main building while preserving portions of the existing facility.

- South Medford High School, built in 1931, would be rebuilt on a new, larger site to increase learning spaces, improve efficiencies, and better promote the health and safety of students.
- Lone Pine Elementary School, originally built in 1926, would be rebuilt on the existing site, while preserving newer portions of the facility.
- Oak Grove, Jackson, and Roosevelt Elementary Schools, all at or near 100 years old, would be substantially rebuilt on existing sites to improve operational efficiencies and improve safety and learning spaces for students.
- All other schools would receive minor to significant upgrades and renovations based on the results of the facilities study. Funds would be used to improve health, safety and security by removing asbestos flooring, upgrading water systems, increasing access for the disabled, enhancing security systems, and strengthening earthquake resistance. Proceeds would also be used to improve operational efficiencies through heating, cooling, and ventilation systems and lighting upgrades.
- The existing South Medford High School would receive significant renovations to preserve the community's investment, to prepare the building to house students displaced due to construction projects and for future district use.
- District surplus property would be prepared for sale or lease to fund future maintenance programs.

The District has prepared more detailed proposed project lists with estimated costs for all school district buildings.

**Financial Impact**

The principal amount of the bond will not exceed \$188.98 million. Bonds will mature not more than 26 years from their date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series.

The maximum expected levy increase for this measure is \$1.84 per \$1,000 of assessed value. However, due to continued community growth and the participation of future tax payers, the average impact during the term of this bond is estimated to be \$1.36 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay an average increase of \$272 per year or \$22.67 per month.

*(Information furnished by Philip G. Long, Superintendent, Medford School District 549C)*

**MEASURE 15-73 ARGUMENTS**  
*Begin on Next Page*