

Measure 15-213 Rogue River School District 35

Ballot Title

15-213

Bonds for Safety Improvements, School Facilities Preservation, Renovations, and Construction.

QUESTION: Shall Rogue River School District improve safety, construct and renovate schools and classrooms by issuing \$4,465,000 in general obligation bonds? 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: Due to the retirement of existing bonds, approval of this bond measure is expected to maintain the current tax rate, rather than increase it. If bonds are approved, the State will provide a \$4,000,000 matching grant. Approval will help support safe, healthy teaching and learning environments by:

- Making district-wide safety upgrades, including creating single campus entry points for the elementary campuses.
- Protecting community investments in schools through repairs, maintenance and preservation of existing buildings district-wide, including upgrades or replacement of plumbing, kitchen, and electrical system components.
- Constructing a new building at the high school (campus) to create a separate space for junior high students, including classrooms, locker rooms, and common space.
- Additional capital costs, including site improvements, demolition, furnishings, equipment, and bond issuance costs.

Actual levy rate may differ due to final interest rates and changes in assessed value. Bonds may be issued in multiple series; each maturing within 9 years from issuance.

Explanatory Statement

The Rogue River School District has referred a measure for the issuance of an aggregate principal amount of \$4,465,000 in general obligation bonds to preserve the existing buildings of the school district by replacing or upgrading aging plumbing and electrical systems, to upgrade the security district wide, and to build a separate building for junior high students. If voters pass this bond, the District would receive an additional \$4 million from the State. This bond would serve as a replacement for the bond expiring in June 2023 and is currently not estimated to increase property taxes compared to what the property owners are currently paying.

A large portion of the buildings in use by the school district were built in or prior to the 1970's. Rogue River High School is nearing its 50th year of service, and even though the building has been well maintained, portions of the plumbing system and electrical systems have reached the end of their useful life and are beginning to fail. The bond is expected to pay for replacements or upgrades to these systems. The bond is also expected to pay for plumbing and electrical upgrades at the elementary campuses.

Both Elementary East and West are in need of security updates. Bond proceeds are expected to allow the District to modify the fences and entry points of each campus to create a single point of entry where visitors will need to check in with the office before entering the campus. Currently, the campuses are very open to entry. The District intends to incorporate into the design a way for the community to still easily access the

outdoor spaces of both campuses during non-school hours. Currently, junior high students attend school in a single hall of the high school. The bond is intended to pay for a new building on the high school grounds that would be dedicated to junior high students. The new building would contain classrooms, bathrooms, locker rooms, and common areas that are exclusively for the use of junior high students. Currently, junior high students share bathrooms, locker rooms, and common spaces with the high school students. Building the additional space for junior high students on the high school grounds will allow the District to utilize and share existing staff from the current junior/senior high school to staff the new building. If the District were to place junior high students somewhere other than the high school grounds, the District would need to hire additional staffing for the new junior high location.

(This information furnished by Rogue River School District 35.)

Argument in Favor

How Will This Affect My Taxes?

This bond will go into effect after the current bond expires in July. It is designed to be a **replacement bond**. **It will keep your local school tax rate at current levels. It will not raise your taxes beyond what they currently are.**

State \$4 Million Matching Grant

If voters pass this bond, the state will provide an extra \$4 million dollars on top of the \$4.465 million raised from local taxes. **The total revenue from this bond will be \$8.465 million if voted in. This is a win-win for our schools!**

Safety and Security

#1 priority for the Bond Proceeds would be creating single points of access for the elementary schools. This would increase security and reduce public access to our children during the school day. **Every day there is a school safety incident in the news-we need this!**

Plumbing and electrical upgrades

The recent facilities condition assessment identified critical needs for plumbing and electrical upgrades throughout district buildings. Some portions of the plumbing are already starting to leak. Electrical service at the high school is outdated and inadequate. **These are safety issues in our buildings that need correcting.**

Junior High Annex

The district has received significant community interest in separating the Junior High from the High School students that currently share the same building. It would be financially detrimental to relocate the junior high students back to the middle school location. This allows teaching and administrative staff to be shared between the grade levels reducing year to year costs. **I agree that the 7-9th graders need their own space separate from tile 10-12th graders!**

(This information furnished by Dee Copley.)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Jackson, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.