

PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure 26-144

BALLOT TITLE

PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT BONDS TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS

QUESTION: Is the Portland Public School District authorized to issue up to \$482 million of general obligation bonds to improve 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 sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

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

Replace leaking, worn or deteriorating school roofs,

Renovate or replace schools,

Strengthen schools against earthquakes,

Repay loans for capital costs, including 9 roof replacements, 47 boiler conversions, and the Rosa Parks School,

Increase access to schools for students, teachers and visitors with disabilities, and

Upgrade science classrooms at middle grade schools.

Citizen accountability and oversight and annual audits of bond projects and expenditures will be required.

The bonds may be issued in multiple series and each series may mature over no more than 21 years.

Most bonds will mature in eight years or less. Bond cost for eight years is estimated at about \$1.10 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed property value, then reducing to about thirty cents per \$1,000. For this measure, the cost for a house assessed at \$150,000 for property tax purposes would be about \$165 a year for eight years, then reducing to about \$45 per year.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Portland Public Schools is the largest school district in Oregon, with 78 schools and over 47 thousand students.

On average, Portland Public Schools' buildings are older than 65 years. Some were built over 100 years ago; more than half were built before 1940. Only two schools have been built in the last 30 years.

Years of budget reductions have deferred upgrades to school building operational and safety systems in order to direct funds to teachers and learning materials. Portland voters have not approved capital bond funds to upgrade school facilities since 1995. Portland Public School buildings are some of the most heavily used public buildings in Portland with thousands of school and non-school events each year.

During the past year, Portland Public Schools convened a Long Range Facility Plan Advisory Committee led by citizen volunteers. The Committee reviewed enrollment forecasts and assessments of facilities conditions including seismic safety and accessibility for schools. The facilities assessments were used to rate the school buildings most in need of major repair, complete upgrade or replacement.

The Long Range Facility Plan states that Portland Public Schools should create effective, accessible and inclusive learning environments that help all students achieve. The entire committee agreed that capital bonds would be required in order to renovate/replace facilities and meet enrollment requirements in the next 10 years.

Guided by the Advisory Committee's findings, the Board of Education proposes that bonds fund capital projects for school and classroom renovation, construction, and upgrades, including projects that:

- Replace leaking, worn or deteriorating school roofs,
- Renovate or replace schools,
- Strengthen schools against earthquakes,
- Repay loans for capital costs, including 9 roof replacements, 47 boiler conversions, and the Rosa Parks School,
- Increase access to schools for students, teachers and visitors with disabilities, and
- Upgrade science classrooms at middle grade schools.

This bond would renovate Franklin High School, Grant High School and Roosevelt High School, and would replace Faubion PreK-8 school. It would also begin planning for upgrade of all high schools in coming years.

Accountability for bond expenditures

- An independent group of citizens from the community will review quarterly reports and annual audits of how the bond dollars are being spent to provide accountability to the public until construction is complete.

The total principal amount of bonds authorized by the measure is limited to and cannot exceed \$482 million.

Bond cost is estimated at about \$1.10 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed property value for eight years, reducing to about thirty cents per \$1,000 for the remaining years. For a house with a taxable assessed value of \$150,000 the estimated property tax would be about \$165 a year for eight years, then reducing to about \$45 per year.

Submitted by

Gregory MacCrone

Deputy Clerk

Portland Public Schools

PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure 26-144

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We love Portland. It's a wonderful city for people of all ages, and we can't imagine living anywhere else. In order to keep it that way, we need to reinvest in our schools. Voting "yes" on the school bond is the first step you can take to create great learning environments and vibrant community spaces.

This bond focuses on physical improvements that would:

- Fix leaking roofs to protect our existing facilities.
- Strengthen buildings so they are safer during an earthquake.
- Increase accessibility to school spaces that are now difficult or impossible to reach for many students, teachers and visitors.
- Provide modern, rather than makeshift, science classrooms for middle school students.
- Fully modernize Franklin High School, Grant High School and Roosevelt High School, and replace Faubion PreK-8 school using design strategies that promote effective teaching.
- Reduce water and energy consumption in rebuilt schools, which saves money and helps the environment.

Place and Space matter for teaching and learning. Studies show that student achievement has improved by 10 -15 percent in buildings with better air quality, better natural light and better acoustics. Our kids and teachers deserve that. Measure 26-144 will begin this important work of rebuilding our schools.

And, our schools host thousands of non-school events every year. The school bond will strengthen connections to neighborhoods by making school spaces even more accessible for community use.

Our Portland, Our Schools, the community organization backing the bond, will remain a long-term partner with PPS. We will ensure that citizens are able to participate in planning, and together we will ensure that bond money is spent wisely.

It will take us thirty years and a series of bonds to transform our schools into the world-class environments that our students and teachers need in order to compete in today's global economy. Let's get started!

Join Our Portland, Our Schools in voting yes on Measure 26-144!

Learn more at www.ourportlandourschools.com and www.facebook.com/ourportlandourschools

(This information furnished by Scott Bailey, Portlanders for Schools)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We opposed the Portland Public Schools facilities bond in 2011. We strongly support this bond proposal and urge you to vote "yes" on Measure 26-144.

We never questioned the need for investment in school facilities; our schools obviously need modernization. But we thought the previous bond was too expensive and unfocused.

This time, things are different. PPS listened to community input and delivered a bond that is sensible, cost-effective, and exciting. We are convinced that the November 2012 bond is going to be great for Portland.

This is a leaner, smarter bond that impacts more kids and advances a strategic plan to modernize all our schools within 30 years. Focusing on seismic upgrades and complete remodeling of high schools means that over time, every student in the district will enjoy a safe and stimulating learning environment.

But this is about more than buildings. Through this bond, we have an opportunity to transform the education that happens in these buildings to better prepare our students and our city to thrive in the 21st century.

The reconstructed high schools will be designed from the inside out by whole communities – parents, teachers, students, neighborhoods, and local businesses – in order to build better spaces and develop new learning opportunities for students. PPS and Concordia University have already established a partnership to make Faubion PreK-8 a national model of collaboration between K-12 and higher education, creating resources that will benefit students across the district.

Our children spend their days in unsafe, overcrowded, antiquated, and distracting classrooms. These conditions make it hard for them to learn and even harder to believe that we care about their education. Our schools can't wait another year. And our children shouldn't have to.

Schools should be Portland's highest priority. They impact our kids, our economy, and our quality of life. **It is time to invest in our future. Vote "yes" on Measure 26-144.**

Stuart Emmons
Rita Moore

(This information furnished by Rita Moore)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

An important message from Governor Barbara Roberts:

At the foundation of every great city is a quality education system. As the 34th Governor of Oregon, I have seen the great things we can accomplish through commitment, innovation, and common purpose. Investing in our public school system is absolutely critical. Join me in voting “yes” on the school bond!

After 14 years as a school board member and community college board member, I worked my way up to state government leadership. As the first and only woman to serve as Governor of our great state, I then fought in Salem to invest in our schools because they are the true engines of an improved economic future. As Governor, I made decisions based on the knowledge that a great state must have great schools, and I am supporting this measure now because I know the same is true for Portland – great schools build a great city.

Oregonians are known throughout the nation as innovators. We are always working to keep up that reputation and take on new challenges. Here in Portland, we must demonstrate our commitment to innovation and leadership by voting yes on Measure 26-144. Let's take this opportunity to invest in our school buildings now as we strive to create a better future for our young people!

Measure 26-144 is a thoughtful blueprint for rebuilding and upgrading our schools. This targeted bond package will rebuild the worst of our aging school buildings, and renovate those in dire need of seismic and accessibility improvements.

This school bond is not only good for education; it's good for our city, our state, and our future.

I urge you to vote “yes” on measure 26-144. Yes for our community's children. Yes for a better Portland.

**Governor Barbara Roberts
Honorary Co-chair, Portland School Bond campaign**

(This information furnished by Lindsey O'Brien, Portlanders for Schools)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

An important message from Congressman Earl Blumenauer:

I am fighting hard to make the Federal Government a better partner in the vital effort to modernize our nation's schools; one that will jumpstart the economy, create jobs and improve American education.

Similarly, Governor Kitzhaber is working to save money, better our children's education, and improve the environment with his "Cool Schools" program. And both Portland Community College and Portland State University have helped boost the local economy and create long term savings with energy efficient construction and building repair.

As important as all of these steps are, there is no single vote that will have more of a positive impact on Portland's future than the approval of Measure 26-144 to revitalize our schools.

By voting "Yes," we will save millions of dollars towards educating our children, rather than literally sending money out the window or down the drain on inefficient heating, cooling and plumbing.

Our "Yes" vote on Measure 26-144, will also put millions of dollars to work by hiring our friends and neighbors in the building and construction trades back, putting money right back into our local businesses.

We can save money, energy, and water as our children receive a healthier, safer place to learn, all while creating local jobs. Please join me in approving Measure 26-144. Invest in a better future today.

**Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Honorary Co-chair, Portland School Bond Campaign**

(This information furnished by Earl Blumenauer)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Earthquake safety for Portland's schools is a priority in this bond measure. We are smart to take action to strengthen our schools now, so vote yes on this Measure #26-144!

Experts agree that an earthquake could shake the ground in Portland at any time. If we leave our aging schools as they are, they will be among the city's most dangerous places during a seismic event.

Fortunately, engineers, geologists, architects, and other experts have developed technology to strengthen buildings against the deadly shaking of an earthquake.

We cannot predict when an earthquake will strike, but we can protect ourselves against some of the most devastating damage.

The buildings most vulnerable to collapse in an earthquake are made of unreinforced masonry (URM), a structural type that has failed in earthquakes around the world. There are more than 1,000 URM buildings in Portland – apartments, offices, and schools.

The three high schools selected for full modernization – Roosevelt, Franklin, and Grant – account for more than half of all Portland district students who attend classes in URMs. Additional seismic retrofits and roof replacement at dozens of other district schools will increase the safety of many more students.

It is a smart step to replace our URM schools with buildings that are modern and safe. Rebuilt schools may even provide emergency shelter after a natural disaster, which would serve our city and set an example for the rest of the state.

We require children to attend school, and they have the right to learn in buildings that are safe from earthquakes.

This bond is cost-efficient, far-sighted, and sensible. It represents a strong first step toward a school district that is earthquake-safe and designed for twenty-first-century learning. Vote "yes" for safer, stronger schools!

**Structural Engineers Association of Oregon
Oregon Parents for Quake-Resistant Schools
Oregon/SW Washington Chapter of CEFPI (Council of Educational Facility Planners International)
The American Institute of Architects, Portland Chapter
American Society of Civil Engineers – Oregon Section Board**

(This information furnished by Edward C. Wolf, Oregon Parents for Quake-Resistant Schools)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Join Disability Rights Oregon and the Northwest Down Syndrome Association in voting yes on Measure 26-144 because our great city needs to welcome all of its children, teachers, and citizens into our schools.

We have seen many incredible changes in our country over the past 65 years. In our education system, one critical shift in the past six decades has been toward the greater inclusion of students with disabilities.

But in Portland, the average age of our public school buildings is 65 years old. And we all know that a lot has changed since 1947.

Sixty-five years ago, only 20 percent of children living with disabilities were attending schools. Many of them were labeled "uneducable." Now, many of those children are in our schools, learning how to read and write in our public schools.

As it stands, most of Portland's public school buildings were built with segregation in mind, when institutionalizing children with disabilities was the norm. Portland is in many ways a progressive city, but we continue to segregate our children. The outdated designs and architectural barriers in our schools make sections of the buildings impossible for many people to reach.

This bond will move us forward. Many of the critical needs of our community will be met, and steps will be taken to create accessibility and a welcoming environment for children of all abilities.

With this investment, we can finally make sure that all parents can visit their children and teachers at school, whether they get to the classroom on foot or in a wheelchair. We can make our school buildings true community centers, where seniors, volunteers, and teachers of all abilities are welcome.

It is time to stop living in the past. Join us in supporting buildings that are open to all citizens in our great city.

We at Disability Rights Oregon and NWDSA.org urge you to invest in access for all of our community. Vote "yes" on Measure 26-144.

(This information furnished by Angela Jarvis-Holland, Northwest Down Syndrome Association)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

The Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA), Neighborhood House, Latino Network, and Impact NW support reinvesting in Portland's schools with Bond Measure #26-144. We urge your support, too.

Our organizations work daily with individuals and families who have many talents and skills and also face a number of challenges. We are honored to work with people as they demonstrate courage, tenacity and an enduring drive to improve their lives and those of their children and youth.

Like our public school district, many human service agencies have also endured significant budget reductions in the past few years, so we understand how difficult it is to continue to provide quality and supportive services while having funding reduced. Thanks to the generosity of our partners and communities, we have continued to work with families as they achieve success.

We recognize that children are our future and that education is fundamental to their success. We will continue to partner with the district, and be critical when necessary, in order to ensure that our schools are serving our communities.

As the district continues to work toward succeeding with every student, it is important to update and upgrade the aging facilities. Individuals of all ages respond differently to space and place. The worn condition of school facilities sends a clear, and unfortunate message to our students about their value. Not only will updating the schools change the message of expectations to our students, but it will also allow parents and community partners to better support students and their families.

We understand the economic challenges facing many of our community members and we recommend voting "yes" on Measure 26-144.

**Gale Castillo, President, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber
Matt Morton, Executive Director, Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA)
Rick Nitti, Executive Director, Neighborhood House
Carmen Rubio, Executive Director, Latino Network
Susan I. Stoltenberg, Executive Director, Impact NW**

(This information furnished by Matt Morton, Native American Youth and Family Center)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Portland Council PTA says Vote "Yes" for our Schools!

Parent Teachers' Associations (PTAs) represent all of the elements of great schools: parent volunteers, dedicated teachers and a joint commitment to an education that builds successful futures for our students, good citizens and a strong community.

But great schools depend on all of us. The Portland Council PTA urges you to join us in voting "YES" on Measure 26-144.

This bond will begin a crucial reinvestment in our city's future through schools that provide safe, stimulating learning environments and serve as the heart of their neighborhoods.

The bond will fully modernize Franklin, Grant and Roosevelt High Schools, and replace Faubion PreK-8 using design strategies that promote effective teaching. It will also increase accessibility within the school for all children, upgrade science classrooms for 6th-8th grade in K-8 schools, and strengthen buildings so they are safer in the event of an earthquake.

Great schools build a great city.

We all have a stake in the success of our schools, whether or not we have children, grandchildren or neighbors in them right now. They protect property values, inspire young leaders, and promote healthy neighborhoods. They mean a stronger future for all of us.

**The Portland Council PTA enthusiastically endorses the school bond!
Please join the Portland Council PTA
Vote YES on Measure 26-144!**

(This information furnished by Sharon Meigh-Chang, Portland Council PTA, Pres.)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

As leaders of small and large businesses across our city, we agree that quality schools are a vital part of a strong local economy. Join us in supporting a “yes” vote on Portland Public School’s Bond Measure 26-144 because quality schools help create a quality workforce.

All great cities focus on building partnerships and making investments that will foster a great school system. We need strong schools and an educated work force in order to remain competitive in attracting new businesses to Portland.

Many studies show that the conditions in school buildings impact student achievement and teacher performance. By voting yes on the bond, we will provide students with 21st century learning environments that will reliably graduate productive, successful workers. Businesses that are already located here will find an educated workforce, and companies considering relocating can cite our public education system as a reason to choose Portland.

As our city and our country recover from years of recession, now is the time to invest in the vibrant economy we all want for Portland’s future. Voting “yes” will directly create hundreds of jobs for local construction workers, manufacturers, and companies selling new technologies, equipment and fixtures.

The ripple effect of this investment will also provide a boost to many industries throughout the region. The projects will include repairs that will significantly reduce annual energy and water costs and create new vendor relationships with the city’s green businesses.

Providing school buildings that are worthy of our great city will help prepare our students to compete in the ever-changing local, national and global economy. Make an investment that will help ensure a strong economic future for our city. Vote “yes” on this bond!

**Nik Blosser – President, Celilo Group Media
Samuel Brooks – Chair of the Board, Oregon
Association of Minority Entrepreneurs; CEO, Brooks
Staffing
Gregg Kantor – President & CEO NW Natural
Debbie Kitchin – Co-owner, InterWorks, LLC
Jim Piro – CEO, PGE
Mike Roach – Co-owner, Paloma Clothing**

(This information furnished by Mike Roach, Paloma Clothing)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We are a group of Portland Public School students from across the city urging you to vote “yes” on Measure 26-144! We met in August to talk about our schools, and some words that came to mind were: bleak, unsafe, stressful, outdated and inadequate. Instead of stopping with our current complaints, we went on to imagine better buildings and better opportunities for the students who follow us:

“I see outdated structures and facilities, plus entrances and pathways that create barriers to students and staff because they are not ADA accessible. I imagine strong, efficient, and safe school buildings that are welcoming to everyone.”
–Abby Pasion, Roosevelt High School

“I see crowded classrooms exceeding 40 students, many unable to sit at desks or participate in science experiments because of a lack of space and equipment. I can imagine a school district with classrooms that have space and excellent equipment for both teachers and students.”
–Alexia Garcia, Lincoln High School

“I see a bathroom that feels like a New York subway station. I imagine a sanitary place, where no black liquid drips from the ceiling.”
–Corey Friedman, Lincoln High School

“I see auditoriums without proper lighting equipment, awful acoustics and not nearly enough seating to house the entire school. I also see computers that don’t work and students having to sit for half the class before they can get anything done. I can imagine our students having the same technology as those in other districts.”
–Sierra Hosea, Franklin High School

“I see students who are distracted by uncomfortable temperatures in their classrooms. I can imagine schools with heating and cooling systems that work properly, where students and teachers are provided with the same level of comfort that people working in an average office building have come to expect.”
–Emma Rosen, Cleveland High School

Help us transform the inadequate conditions we see everyday into the high-quality schools we can only imagine. **Vote “yes” on the school bond!**

(This information furnished by Richard Gilliam, Portlanders for Schools)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure 26-144

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We are parents of students in schools across Portland. Some of our kids are about to graduate high school; others are just starting elementary. Whether our own children will experience better facilities or not, we are united in support of this school bond.

This bond is an exciting start toward the modern, high-quality schools that our children and city deserve. Regardless of whether you have children in Portland's public schools, we hope you agree that our schools are community assets that are worth our investment.

We love our neighborhood schools, but too often our kids come home with stories of uncomfortable classrooms and conditions so poor as to be distracting. As they get older, they realize that their school buildings aren't just inadequate; they are deteriorating.

We can testify that their complaints are justified. As parents, we also notice the safety issues: leaking roofs, overloaded electrical outlets, asbestos, extreme temperatures, and likely collapse in the event of an earthquake. Our schools should be accessible to all Portlanders, but many are not.

Students who were born the last time PPS passed a construction bond (1995) will graduate from high school in June. The bond before that was passed in 1945, the year World War II ended. No wonder the buildings are showing their age. It is every citizen's responsibility to get our priorities in order. We need to preserve the investment made by earlier generations and complete overdue improvements now.

We expect our school buildings to be safe, secure, and to have the highest quality learning environments. Let's build the schools that will make all of us proud.

Please join us - vote "yes" on Measure 26-144.

Susan Barrett – parent at Laurelhurst K-8
 Lisa Frack – parent at Buckman Elementary
 Monique McClean – Parent at Grant High School
 Jennifer Owen – Parent at Lincoln High School
 Moses Ross – Parent at Maplewood Elementary
 Trace Salmon – parent at King School
 Lisa Zuniga – Parent at Franklin High School

(This information furnished by Mary Schutten, Portlanders for Schools)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

As volunteer Portland Public School Board members – elected by you – our job is to ensure strong leadership; increase student achievement; steward school facilities; and develop annual budgets that prioritize and differentiate funds to support every child's success.

We know that great schools build a great city – it's what previous generations did for us. Now we must reinvest in our old and treasured school buildings to ensure they are safe and able to support today's teaching and learning.

Eighteen months ago, Portland voters overwhelmingly passed an operating levy to fund teaching positions, reaffirming our community's deep support for kids and schools. At the same time, a facilities bond was narrowly defeated. Since then, at hundreds of listening sessions with parents, students, education partners, business representatives and community members, we heard consensus that our buildings need to be renovated; improvements must be part of a focused, long-term plan; and the bond must be less costly.

With additional advice from a Long Range Facilities Committee and Bond Development Committee - we developed a less costly bond focused on safety (roof and seismic upgrades), accessibility, updated science labs, community partnerships, and full modernization of four schools. We prioritized high schools because modern learning environments have the most impact as students prepare for college and career. This bond represents the start of what we hope will be a 30-year reinvestment in safe, educationally-appropriate schools for our kids and community.

As your elected representatives, we will ensure that schools are built on time and on budget and support our educational vision of success for every child. A citizen accountability committee - reporting directly to us - will provide planning and project oversight and will report annually to the community.

Great schools depend on all of us. We ask for your support on Measure 26-144.

Portland School Board
 Ruth Adkins
 Greg Belisle
 Martin Gonzales
 Pamela Knowles
 Matt Morton
 Bobbie Regan
 Trudy Sargent
 Alexia Garcia (student rep elected by her peers)

(This information furnished by Bobbie Regan, Portland School Board)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

The League of Women Voters of Portland Urges a “YES” Vote on Measure 26-144

Strong schools are the heart of a livable city.

Portland residents value vibrant neighborhoods. At the core of every great city are schools that meet the needs of all of its residents – including students, teachers, staff, and community members of all ages and abilities. It’s up to all of us to make sure that Portland has the great schools our community deserves, and now it’s time to reinvest in our aging buildings. Join us in voting “yes” on Measure 26-144.

The investment in our school buildings is an investment that benefits our entire city. More than 4,500 non-school events took place in Portland schools last year. Our communities rely on these buildings, and we need to make sure they are safe and accessible.

Safe well-designed school facilities contribute to student success.

The League believes all schools should have adequate physical facilities that meet state and local safety and sanitation standards.

Measure 26-144 will put our tax dollars to use on the most significant projects throughout the district. Three high schools will be completely modernized and Faubion K-8 will be rebuilt. Leaking roofs will be repaired; seismic threats will be reduced; and obstacles that prevent students from moving easily throughout these old buildings will finally be removed.

Over 80 percent of Portland’s school-aged children attend public school. A “yes” vote will provide our students with schools that are safe and promote success.

Measure 26-144 is a prudent investment in Portland’s future.

A citizen oversight committee will monitor bond proceed expenditures and ensure that the money is spent as voters intended.

The future of our region depends on a quality educational system. A “yes” vote is the first step in a strategic, 30-year plan to transform the entire district into a world-class school system.

Join the League of Women Voters of Portland in voting “Yes” Vote on Measure 26-144.

(This information furnished by Mary McWilliams, League of Women Voters of Portland)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Important messages from Portland’s Mayoral candidates:

“The race for our schools is more important than the race for Mayor.

Since I graduated from Grant twenty years ago, the building has seen too few updates. The familiarity is comforting; the perilous auditorium seats are not...nor is the sense that so many of our school buildings could be safer and perform better. A study of retrofitted schools in Washington showed a 15 percent reduction in absenteeism. High performing school buildings produce higher performing students.

This is the right bond at the right time. The team focused on needs the community prioritized, like seismic safety and air quality. They worked with key folks opposed to the last measure and reduced the financial impact.

We need to pass this. We need a 30-year effort to retrofit all of our schools for greater performance and safety. We need this as not an end but a start. We need to vote yes.”

-Rep. Jefferson Smith, Mayoral Candidate

“Dear Fellow Portlander –

Everything we do in our city and our society depends on quality education for our children.

One of Portland’s great strengths is our excellent public schools that anchor our neighborhoods and communities. Having good schools depends on safe and up-to-date buildings. Right now, many Portland Public School buildings are at risk: they lack adequate safety protections for kids, and many lack the modern learning equipment kids need to succeed in the workplace or at college.

That’s why I’m voting YES for our PPS School Bond and I hope you’ll join me.

The school bond will increase seismic safety in schools, rebuild three of our high schools and update many science classrooms. There is built-in oversight for how funds are spent.

Let’s make this critical investment in our kids, our neighborhoods and our future. Let’s take pride in Portland. Let’s take pride in our great schools!”

Sincerely,
Charlie Hales, Mayoral Candidate

(This information furnished by Miguel Lopez, Portlanders for Schools)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

As local elected leaders, we are working hard to serve the community we love. Although our positions, backgrounds and opinions differ, we are all enthusiastic supporters of the school bond – Measure 26-144.

Portland is a great city, and we all agree that we must invest now in the modern school buildings that our thriving community needs and deserves. Great schools depend on support from all of us – elected officials and citizens alike. Join us in voting yes on this bond!

Measure 26-144 will make prudent improvements to our aging school buildings. It will fully modernize four schools and remedy the most urgent building deficiencies throughout the district. Let's make sure that the teachers and students who work in these buildings every day have safe and healthy environments.

Portland Public School buildings are also flourishing community centers. In fact, they are some of the most frequently used public buildings in the city. In addition to the daily traffic from young people, teachers, dedicated maintenance staff, principals and other district employees, more than 4,500 non-school events and meetings were held in public schools last year. It's the responsibility of every Portlander to make sure these shared spaces are safe and accessible.

By voting "yes" on Measure 26-144, we will invest in future generations while also impacting the city right now. The bond will pump millions of dollars into Portland's economy and create local jobs.

Please join us in voting "yes" on this bond – great schools build a great city!

Mayor Sam Adams
Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen
State Senate Majority Leader Diane Rosenbaum
Portland City Commissioner Nick Fish
Portland City Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Portland City Commissioner Dan Saltzman
State Representative Jules Bailey
State Representative Lew Fredrick
State Representative Mitch Greenlick
State Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer
State Representative Tina Kotek
State Representative nominee Jennifer Williamson
Multnomah County Commissioner Deborah Kafoury
Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith
Former State Senator Avel Gordly

(This information furnished by Jon Isaacs, Portlanders for Schools)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Restore Education Before Buildings

Vote **NO** on Portland Public Schools' Capital Construction Bond M-26-144

We are concerned citizens/parents who believe it vital for Portland Public Schools to thoroughly explore the root causes of its poor academic results.

Taxpayers must hold Portland Public Schools (PPS) and its board **accountable** to focus on essential learning criteria, and deliver a quality education in the most **fiscally responsible manner**.

PPS neglected maintenance of public school properties for years. **We do not believe rebuilding schools is the critical next step to improve students' education outcomes.**

Instead, research consistently highlights **three critical steps necessary for successful academic results.**

- **More teachers** trained and supported to deliver superior student outcomes. Average graduation rate at PPS is only 62%.
- **More instructional classroom days.** In 2012-2013 PPS students have approximately 169.5 days. **According to the Oregonian 8/8/12, the national norm is 180 days.**
- **More parent involvement.** Parents need to demand more from their children, more from schools and from themselves.

PPS must initiate an independent fiscal efficiency audit to:

- Identify which low-enrollment schools to **consolidate/close** so remaining schools become stronger with more teachers and more electives,
- Identify district management/administrative positions to eliminate; place top priority on **additional teachers**,
- Identify what works at high-achieving schools such as **Benson** and apply to all schools.

PPS is planning SEVEN more capital bonds over the next 32 years consuming about \$3 billion dollars.

Students are not getting academic results they need.

\$482 million construction dollars will not significantly improve education outcomes.

(This information furnished by Betty Soljaga, Committee to Restore Education Before Buildings)

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

PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure 26-144

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Vote No on Measure 26-144

Parents are often faced with having to say "No".

This is one of those times.

Portland Public Schools (PPS) has a costly construction plan but no successful education strategy. PPS has taken a piecemeal approach on issue after issue.

What WORKS is not supported.

- Benson has one of the highest graduation rates yet PPS restricted enrollment at Benson since 2010.
- PPS has hard choices to make in consolidating and closing campuses; yet refuses to take action.
- PPS must connect vocational programming to core curriculum and it responds by hurting Benson's program that works.

We must reach a graduation rate of 100%; the current inflated rate of 62% is unacceptable. Teachers must be supported to correct this; new buildings are no guarantee. Six PPS schools rank in the BOTTOM 5% of Title 1 schools. (*Portland Tribune 8/2/12*) Rosa Parks, at 45,147 sf. is one of these schools. This school was built in 2006 at \$239 a square foot (sf) ---40% above the norm at the time.

- Corvallis HS at 230,000 (total sf), built in 2003 with a total budget of \$46 million for \$200 a sf.
- Philomath HS, new for 2012, with a \$29.5 Million budget for 140,000 tsf or \$210 per sf.
- PPS wants you to open your wallet and pay **\$95 MILLION for Grant**, (274,489 sf) **\$85 Million for Franklin** (218,574 sf) and **\$70 Million for Roosevelt** (228,535).
- **These costs of \$306-389 per square foot are too high. What buildings are we getting while children receive a tarnished education?**

Do we trust PPS to spend money appropriately? The only oversight is PPS's word some "independent group will be appointed..." to review reports and audits". Who will appoint this group? What criteria qualify them to act in our best interests?

Please join me in Voting No on Measure 26-144.

Teresa McGuire
Parent, two Wilson Grads
Past Volunteer of the Year, Jackson MS

(This information furnished by Teresa McGuire)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Wrong Priorities

Troubling Facts:

Inadequate 62% high school graduation rate. 50% of graduates lack necessary skills to pass freshman college math, 45% are not reading adequately enough to earn C's (2012 ACT test scores).

Troubling Questions:

Does allocating 250 million dollars for only 3 high schools significantly improve student performance?

On the contrary, research consistently shows learning drastically improves with **more teachers** who receive training and support to assist students, parents and administration in academic **accountability. Human relationships guarantee success**, not buildings.

Recently, Alice Ott Middle school, David Douglas District, increased state standards from 50% to 80% with 73% of their students on the free or reduced lunch program. How? **The staff/teachers say consistent, positive, energetic staff produced powerful gains.** (*Oregonian 9/1/12*)

Why are we "repaying" a \$10.8 million dollar debt for Rosa Parks school? How was this school built without sufficient funds? If new buildings are PPS's answer to improved learning, then why is our **newest school** rated with "profound problems". (*New Ratings, Oregonian 8/4/12*)

Many citizens' resources are limited, what is the most cost effective way to improve safety and disability access?

No one argues the need to upgrade our science rooms, but with annual million dollar budget shortfalls, **how will these classrooms be staffed with trained science teachers?**

PPS must **lead** in adopting **innovative cost effective business, education and negotiation models.** Instead of the past "victim mentality" of never enough money, PPS needs to **work with all parties** (teachers, administrations, unions, legislators) to **reign in PERS.** Until this "elephant in the room" is resolved, our kids will never achieve an exemplary education. The monies are there. They need to be reallocated to classroom learning, not retirements.

Save money for more teachers, **support an efficiency audit** to consolidate/close more low performing schools, reexamine administration bureaucracy.

Vote No Hold our education leaders **accountable** for superior academic results.

Kelsey Green Grout, 15 year PPS parent & volunteer

(This information furnished by Kelsey Green Grout)

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PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure 26-144

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

NO on Measure 26-144

Apparently, members of the Portland School Board think most voters failed in math.

What else would explain their belief that their breathtakingly huge bond measure would add up for your approval?

How huge?

- If approved, taxpayers will have to pick up the additional cost of principle-and-interest on a whopping \$482 million!
- It will be the **largest local bond measure approved in Oregon history!**
- It is so big that the total request is nearly **greater than the total cost of all the other 15 local tax measures combined** on the entire Oregon ballot.
- Currently, the district is already **spending an incredible rate of \$13,000 per student**, per year, for classrooms that are open approximately two-thirds of a year.

Throughout the state and nation, it is generally agreed that public schools are in need of major overhaul and that more money is not the answer. In fact, this ridiculously extravagant bond measure indicates that the Portland School District desperately needs to be reformed.

Again, approval of this bond measure will only delay meaningful school reform and recklessly piles an even bigger burden on long-suffering taxpayers.

Vote No, absolutely, on Measure 26-144

For more information & news on your taxes go to OregonWatchdog.com

**Ballots can be
delivered to any
Official Drop Site
in Oregon.**

**Find an Official
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www.OregonVotes.gov

(This information furnished by Don McIntire, Taxpayer Association of Oregon)

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