

Notice of District Measure Election

26-122

SEL 803

rev 01/10, ORS 250.035,
250.041, 255.145, 255.345

District and Notice Information

Notice is hereby given on February 18, 2011, that a measure election will be held in Portland School District 1J
Name of District

located in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties **County, Oregon on** may 17, 2011.
Name of County or Counties Date of Election

The following shall be the ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters:

Caption 10 words

Portland Public Schools levy for teachers and educational programs.

(Also attached.)

Question 20 words

Shall schools protect class size, teaching positions; levy \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2011; require oversight?

This measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than three percent.

(Also attached.)

Summary 175 words

See attached.

2011 FEB 19 PM 2:45
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

The following authorized district official certifies that the above ballot title is true and complete.

[Redacted Signature]

02/18/11

Signature of Authorized District Official not required to be notarized

Date Signed mm/dd/yy

Carole Smith

Superintendent

Printed Name of Authorized District Official

Title

MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Required for all Measures Submitted with Multnomah County Elections

ELECTION DATE May 17, 2011	MEASURE NUMBER 26-122	
BALLOT TITLE CAPTION Portland Public Schools levy for teachers and educational programs.		
NAME OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT Carole Smith, Superintendent		
NAME OF JURISDICTION PERSON REPRESENTS Portland Public Schools (Portland School District 1J)		
E-MAIL csmith1@pps.k12.or.us	TELEPHONE NUMBER 503-916-3200	FAX NUMBER 503-916-3110

Please use space below or attach text on a separate sheet of paper.

See attached.

DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS
 2011 FEB 18 PM 2:45

WORD/NUMBER COUNT TOTAL (500 word/number limit) 451

SIGNATURE OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT

2.18.2011

DATE

RESOLUTION No. 4404

Call for Five-Year Serial Levy

(The recitals are not included in this copy of the resolution, only the ballot language.)

CAPTION

Portland Public Schools levy for teachers and educational programs.
(9 words)

QUESTION

Shall schools protect class size, teaching positions; levy \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2011; require oversight?

This measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than three percent.
(20 words)

SUMMARY

Portland Public Schools' voter-approved local option levy currently provides funding for retaining teachers and providing instructional programs that students need for a well-rounded education. As PPS responds to substantial cuts in state funding to local schools, continuing a local option will:

- Fund 600 teaching positions (some in every school), including 200 that would be lost in the coming school year due to state budget cuts without levy funds;
- Prevent substantial increases in class size so students receive more individual attention from teachers;
- Continue educational programs necessary for a well-rounded education.

Levy cost is \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed property value of which \$1.25 per \$1,000 assessed property value is currently being paid. Typical home currently pays \$15.36 per month which would be replaced by payment of \$24.45 a month for five years.

No levy funds go to administration. Independent citizen oversight will review expenditures so funds are used as approved by voters.

The levy will produce an estimated \$57 million in 2011-12; \$58 million in 2012-13; \$62 million in 2013-14; \$65 million in 2014-15; and \$66 million in 2015-16.

(154 words)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Portland Public Schools has growing enrollment, currently serving almost 47,000 students in 85 schools and other programs throughout the neighborhoods of Portland. PPS has set ambitious targets for student success, and academic achievement has increased on six of the seven critical Milestone measures in the last year.

However, Portland Public Schools counts on the State School Fund for three-quarters of its budget that pays for general school operations and teachers, and that level has dropped in recent years due to state budget shortfalls.

As a result, PPS has taken action to reduce costs and to ensure a full school year and strong academic programs for students, including the following over the last ten years;

- Closed schools and sold or leased unoccupied buildings and land;
- Negotiated agreements with employees to forgo cost-of-living increases or take pay freezes or furloughs during years of substantial budget cuts;
- Managed health coverage costs through plan design and contributions by all employees to their health premiums;
- Employees pay 6 percent of their salary toward their public retirement plans;
- Streamlined operations such as student transportation and reduced utility costs where possible through energy and water-saving retrofits; and
- Hired an independent auditor working for the Board of Education to complete several audits each year of school programs and services, which has identified efficiencies and further cost savings.

Currently PPS faces further reductions in the state budget projected to cut the equivalent of hundreds of teaching positions over the next two years.

To effectively serve all students in the face of continued state revenue cuts, the Portland Public School District has referred a new five-year local option levy to the voters that will fund teaching positions that would otherwise have been lost due to state budget cuts.

The local option levy will fund:

1. At least 600 teaching positions (roughly 20 percent of school staff working with students every day), of which 200 would be lost without passage of this local option.

- This includes teachers in every school, and will protect class sizes that permit more individual attention for students;
- Funds help to maintain a well-rounded core program, with enrichment for elementary and middle grades and electives in varied interest areas and disciplines for high school students.

2. Fiscal Accountability and Taxpayer Oversight:

This local option will mandate independent citizen oversight to ensure that tax dollars are used only for purposes approved by local voters as listed above.

No funds from this local option levy will be used for district administration.

This local option levy will replace the levy passed by voters in 2006, and the Portland Public Schools Board of Education will not collect the final year of the previous levy.

(451 words)