

Notice of District Measure Election

26-161

SEL 803

rev 1/12: ORS 250.035, 250.041, 256.146, 256.345

District end Notice Information

Notice is hereby given on August, 2014, that a measure election will be held in Portland School District 1J

located in Multnomah, Clackamas & Washington Counties Name of District County, Oregon on November 4, 2014 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 renewal for schools and educational programs.

(Also attached.)

Question 20 words

Shall district support schools; redirect funds from urban renewal; levy \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2015?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

(Also attached.)

Summary 175 words

See attached.

RECEIVED
14 AUG 26 PM 3:38
TIM SCOTT
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

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

Signature redacted

8/26/14

Signature or Authorized District Official not required to be notarized

Date Signed mm/dd/yy

Carole Smith

Superintendent

Printed Name of Authorized District Official

Title

CAPTION (10 word limit):

**PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS LEVY RENEWAL FOR SCHOOLS AND
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**

QUESTION (20 word limit):

Shall district support schools; redirect funds from urban renewal; levy \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2015?

This measure renews current local option taxes.

SUMMARY (175 word limit):

PPS' current local option levy was approved by voters in 2011 to provide funding for schools over 5 years. In 2013, the Oregon Legislature ended the diversion of some local option levy revenues to certain urban renewal districts for levies passed after January 2013. Renewal of local option levy will direct approximately \$4 million more to the approved purpose of supporting education, without increasing taxes. The renewed levy will provide \$64.3 million, equivalent to 640 teaching positions.

This renewed local option levy would:

- Continue to fund teaching positions;
- Help to maintain or reduce class size;
- Support programs for a comprehensive education.

Levy cost remains \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed property value, the same as the 2011 levy.

Funds will be placed in a sub-account, and independent citizen oversight will review expenditures to verify that funds are used as approved by voters. This measure would replace the 2011 levy.

The levy will produce an estimated \$64.3 million in 2015-2016; \$66.2 million in 2016-2017; \$68.2 million in 2017-2018; \$70.2 million in 2018-2019; and \$72.3 million in 2019-2020.

MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Required for all Measures Submitted with Multnomah County Elections

ELECTION DATE November 4, 2014	MEASURE NUMBER 26-161	
BALLOT TITLE CAPTION Portland Public Schools levy renewal for schools and educational programs.		
NAME OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT Carole Smith, Superintendent		
NAME OF JURISDICTION PERSON REPRESENTS Portland Public Schools		
E-MAIL carolesmith@pps.net	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.

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14 AUG 26 PM 3:38
TIM SCOTT
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

WORD/NUMBER COUNT TOTAL (500 word/number limit) 490

Signature redacted

TITLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT

8/26/14
DATE

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT (500 word limit)

Portland Public Schools currently serves over 48,000 students in 85 schools and other programs throughout the neighborhoods of Portland. PPS has set ambitious targets for student success, and, despite years of budget cuts, academic achievement has increased on six of the seven critical milestone measures in the past three years. PPS' overall high school graduation rate has increased 14% in the past four years. PPS enrollment is projected to grow by over 5,000 students in the next decade.

In serving the students of Portland, the district continuously strives to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer resources. Through many years of budget cuts, the district and school board have worked to preserve classroom education. At the same time, PPS has advocated for a greater level of state investment by the Legislature and worked to ensure that all dollars raised are spent well by the district and used for educational services for students.

The legislature has recently increased its investment in K-12 education, but state funding for schools remains well short of the minimum necessary to fulfill the Quality Education Model. More investments are needed to continue to lower class size, rebuild programs, and add school days for students. In the meantime, funds raised by this local option levy will help to close the funding gap.

When it was learned that a state law was allowing local urban renewal districts to siphon off a portion of local option levy funds intended for schools, PPS and other school districts joined with teachers and supporters of social services to advocate for a change. In 2013, the Legislature unanimously approved legislation ending the diversion of funds, ensuring that all revenues from future local option levies will go to support schools as the voters intended. Replacing the existing levy now will allow PPS students to benefit from this change in the law.

The renewed local option levy will:

1. Fund teaching positions.

- This will help maintain & lower class sizes that permit more individual attention for students;
- Funds help to support a well-rounded program, with enrichments for elementary and middle grades and electives in varied interest areas and disciplines for high school students.
- If approved, levy will provide funding equivalent to 640 teaching positions.

2. Continue to provide fiscal accountability and taxpayer oversight:

- This renewal maintains the existing local option levy rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value and ensures that all funds raised are directed to the voter-approved purpose of supporting schools.

- This renewal provides approximately \$4 million more to schools each year without increasing taxes.
- This local option requires independent citizen oversight to ensure that tax dollars are used only for purposes approved by local voters.
- Funds will be placed in an sub-account to ensure their correct use and accurate reporting.

Since this local option levy replaces the one passed by voters in 2011, Portland Public Schools Board of Education will not collect the final year of the current levy, maintaining the existing tax rate.