

HILLSBORO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure 34-206

BALLOT TITLE

Hillsboro School District Capital Construction Maintenance Bond

Question: Shall Hillsboro School District No. 1J be authorized to issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$25,000,000 with citizen oversight? 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 provide funds for capital costs and bond issuance costs. Specifically, bond proceeds would be used to fund the:

- purchase, design and construction of facilities and maintenance upgrades to District facilities;
- replacement and improvements to roofs, safety, security and seismic integrity to District facilities;
- upgrades, improvements and purchase of technology hardware, software and infrastructure; and
- pay bond issuance costs.

Bonds would mature in five (5) years or less from issuance date and may be issued in one or more series.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

Hillsboro School District serves more than 20,000 students in 36 schools; it is the fourth largest school district in Oregon.

Since the economic recession began in 2008, the District has reduced nearly \$70 million from its General Fund budget due to annual gaps between revenue and expenditures.

In an effort to retain as many staff members as possible at the school level, and due to the exhaustion of other funds (from bond interest, federal grants, etc.), investments in technology, safety and facilities have been reduced.

Especially in situations where funding does not allow large infusions of additional staff members, the use of technology assists in the education of students. In addition, the District is charged with keeping students safe, which means both implementing safety measures and ensuring that structures are sound.

USE OF FUNDS AND OVERSIGHT

If the bond is approved, the following amounts are expected to be spent over the next five years (school years 2014-15 through 2018-19): approximately \$17 million for instructional technology purchases (e.g. student devices, student and staff computers, projection equipment, etc.), approximately \$4 million for safety enhancements at school sites (e.g. security cameras, line of sight improvements, interior locking doors, card key access, etc.), and approximately \$4 million for facility maintenance projects (e.g. seismic upgrades, roof replacements, etc.).

Additional staff will not be funded by this bond for two reasons:

1) Money collected from the sale of general obligation bonds cannot be used to fund personnel or any item with a useful life of less than one year; 2) The District and Board believe that funding for personnel should be sustainable. Money received from a bond or levy is short-term, which means that additional bonds or levies would have to be approved in the future for funding to continue.

If the bond is approved, the District will invite patrons to participate on a Bond Oversight Committee, similar to the one that formed after the passage of the 2006 construction bond.

COST OF BOND

The bond would be repaid by property owners over five years at a cost of approximately \$0.42/\$1,000 of assessed value per year. The repayment would begin with the property tax collection in November 2014 and would continue through the property tax collection in November 2018. The actual cost may change due to fluctuations in Total Assessed Value, Assessed Value Growth Percentage, and/or the Tax Collection Rate in the District, as well as the interest rate at the time the bonds are sold.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information on the bond, including a calculator that will estimate an individual's payment obligation based on their 2012-13 property tax statement, is available on the District's website at www.hsd.k12.or.us/2013bond.

Submitted by
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Hillsboro School District

No arguments FOR or AGAINST this measure were filed.