

WCED-VP2 **WASHINGTON COUNTY MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT** ORS 251.345
 (Rev 011713) **FOR COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET**

ELECTION DATE: May 21, 2013 Ballot Measure #: 34- 204

Ballot Title Caption:
Beaverton Schools Local Option Levy Preventing Classroom,

Name of Person responsible for content of 'Explanatory Statement':
Maureen Wheeler TEACHING POSITION CUTS

Name of Jurisdiction/Organization Person is authorized to represent:
Beaverton School District

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Please use the space below or attach separate paper (500 word/number limit)

all attached

Maureen Wheeler
 Signature of Person responsible for content of 'Explanatory Statement'

3-20-13
 Date Signed

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY Page word count total (500 word/number limit):

Beaverton School District 5 - Year Local Option Levy

Explanatory Statement

34-204

Beaverton Schools serve 40,000 students in 51 buildings over 57 square miles. The great majority of funds for Beaverton's public schools come from the state of Oregon.

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Budget Cuts

Over the last five years, substantial state funding shortfalls have caused the Beaverton Schools to cut its budget by over \$142 million.

That has meant reductions in student services, including:

- Elimination of 640 teaching positions, raising class sizes at every level;
- Cancelling 16 days of school from the school year;
- Reduced guidance counseling, library and media center services, building maintenance, and reduced administration; and
- Cuts to educational programs like art, music, physical education, and more.

At the same time, student enrollment in Beaverton Schools is increasing

Over the last five years, enrollment has grown by 4.5%. This also serves to increase class sizes.

Cost Savings by Schools

At the same time, the Beaverton Schools have instituted major cost savings in other areas including:

- Beaverton is one of the few Oregon school districts that do not pay the 6% employee portion of PERS. Additionally, the Beaverton School Board adopted a Legislative Agenda that included advocacy to reform the PERS system;
- Beaverton SD spends the lowest amount of any district in the state in central administration expenses per student;
- Beaverton SD has saved \$25 million in health insurance costs, over 5 years, by staying out of the state health insurance program. Beaverton SD is also projected to save \$1.2 million in insurance premiums in the future by being self-insured;
- School Resource Officers in Beaverton's public schools are funded by Washington County Sheriff's Office and Beaverton Police Department; and
- Beaverton SD has an agreement with Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District for community use of fields and gyms.

Why a Local Option and What it Funds for Beaverton Schools

The new state funding proposal would require additional cuts to the Beaverton School Budget.

If approved by voters, the Local Option Levy for the Beaverton Schools would fund:

94-204

- 150 teaching positions to prevent cuts that would further increase class size; and
- Lower the very largest class sizes by restoring some teaching positions that were previously eliminated.

Cost of Levy

The Local Option Levy rate is \$1.25 per \$1,000 assessed property value. The median home in Beaverton is assessed at \$233,000 (½ are more and ½ are less). The median home would pay an additional \$24 a month.

Accountability

The levy would raise approximately \$15 million a year. 100% of money goes to fund teaching positions. None goes to administration. All funds stay in the Beaverton Schools. None goes to Salem. Annual reports to the public will be made to ensure they are used as intended.

Submitted by:



Signature of Authorized Representative

3/20/13

Date