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#### DON'T DRINK THE SCHOOL BOND KOOL-AID

It's not about the students. It's about abusing your concern for them to generate **kickbacks to crony contractors.** 

PPS facilities are overbuilt and underused, and this is more of the same insanity.

This bond will mortgage our childrens' future by making the cost of living and future housing ever-more unaffordable for 30 years. It's classic racketeering by the School Bond Mafia.

PPS has spent billions in the past two decades on facility "upgrades." What did we get for it?--Bloated teacher pension debt and the worst educational performance in the country. Schools don't need to be palaces. All they need are good books, good leadership, good standards, and a love of learning.

Proponents will exploit your desire to be a "good person" by using misleading and warped equity rhetoric that has nothing to do with diversity or inclusion. If PPS knew what it was doing, its students of color would have seen improvements from the last several giant bonds. Why haven't they? Because it's not about helping students. It's really about wealth transfer from the middle class to politically-connected contractors, covered up by a wet-noodle "oversight" committee packed with corrupt insiders.

We have to be grown ups and reject this cash grab. Students will benefit the most when we let PPS know they have to identify actual solutions to the problems they face.

#### Vote NO!

Libertarian Party of Multnomah County

multnomahlibertarians.com

@multcoliberty on X

### Joint County Voters' Pamphlet

Measure Argument Important! Read all instructions before completing this form. Please note that each county produces a separate County Voters' Pamphlet. If the jurisdiction/district is located in more than one county, a separate JCVP-03 form must be filed with the appropriate fee or certified petition (JCVP-04) to each county where the Measure Argument is to be printed. 1. Filing Information May Primary 2025 Amended Statement **Election Date:** Argument in Favor ✓ Argument in Opposition (MAIU) Order# 2. Filer Checklist for Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet (VP) Typewritten & signed JCVP-03 form and attached Measure Argument for County VP. Fee or JCVP-04 certified petition (Petition ID # (If applicable) JCVP-02 Statement of Endorsement(s) #:\_\_\_\_ Word Count (325 MAX). 3. Argument paid for or petition provided by Phone: 503-603-9009 Taxpayers Association of Oregon Name of person/organization paying or submitting petition for Measure Argument Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com 4. Contact information for authorized changes Jason Williams Phone: 503-603-9009 Name of person authorized to make changes to Measure Argument Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com 5. "This information furnished by" (as it should appear in the Voters' Pamphlet) Name of person required ORS 251.355(2) Organization Name: Name of person: Jason Williams Taxpayers Association of Oregon (required) (if applicable) 6. Attestation By signing this document, I (we) hereby state I (we) am (are) responsible for the content of this argument, (ORS 251.415) Jason Williams Organization name person(s) is (are) author Jason Williams 3/20/25 Printed name of person furnishing argument hing argument (must match Section 5) Printed name of person furnishing argument Signature of person furnishing argument Date (if applicable) (if applicable) Note: If this argument is not being filed by a registered Oregon Political Committee, you may be required to register as a political committee with the Secretary of State. Refer to the Campaign Finance Manual for further details. For Office Use Only: Required Info? Yes No County: Word Count (325 max) O Yes O No Providing digital copy? O Yes O No Payment Method: Endorsements? O Yes # \_\_\_\_ O No Received digital copy? O Yes O No

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### TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF OREGON URGES VOTE NO ON 6-259

#### DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE BOND BOONDOGGLE

Portland taxpayers, don't be fooled by PPS's massive \$1.83 billion construction bond.

#### THIS MEASURE IS A BLANK CHECK WITH VIRTUALLY NO ACCOUNTABILITY.

Incredibly, the school board still has no clear idea what projects will be included, how much they will cost, or when they'll be completed.

Go to the PPS website, and you'll see ... The bond budget does not show individual school budgets. It simply shows a single number—\$1.15 billion—for the three high schools, plus unnamed elementary and middle Schools.

Will your kid's school get repaired? You don't know, and PPS won't tell you.

PPS has a terrible track record with your money.

The 2020 bond included \$311 million for Jefferson High School, but costs ballooned to \$491 million without a single shovel put in the ground.

Think about it ... **PPS wants you to pay <u>twice</u> for Jefferson**. First, with the 2020 bond. Now, with this bond.

An audit of the 2017 bond revealed that PPS presented public cost estimates that were \$100 million lower than their own staff said it would cost!

PPS learned their lesson. This time, they're not showing us the cost estimates!

### The truth is simple: **PPS WANTS YOUR MONEY WITH ALMOST NO ACCOUNTABILITY**.

They're planning to build massive high schools while enrollment is dropping and will continue to drop.

Don't reward mismanagement and wasteful spending.

#### **VOTE NO AND DEMAND A BETTER PLAN WITH REAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

For more information, follow us at OregonWatchdog.com

The Taxpayers Association of Oregon has been fighting for lower taxes and less government waste for 25 years.

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#### Taxpayers Association of Oregon

#### urges a No vote on 26-259

### PPS construction costs are wildly out of line with neighboring districts.

School construction Cost per square foot:

Portland

\$1,340 to \$1,570

Seattle

\$1,200

Bend

\$1,150

Beaverton

\$874

Source: The Oregonian 1/19/25

Portland construction costs are nearly **DOUBLE** what other school districts pay.

The School District needs to come back with a normal tax bond that is not wasteful and one that is affordable.

For more information, follow us at OregonWatchdog.com

The Taxpayers Association of Oregon has been fighting for lower taxes and less government waste for 25 years.

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## Oregon Small Business Association Opposes Measure 26-259

Higher property taxes make it impossible to run a business in Portland.

"Downtown Portland's rate of vacant office space is highest in the US" KGW-TV 3/28/24

7 big reasons why property taxes are too high already

- **#1. U.S. Bank left their own U.S. Bank Tower (Big Pink) for Gresham** ... where property taxes are much lower.
- **#2. REI left Portland and moved next door to Beaverton** ... where property taxes are much lower.
- **#3.** Umpqua Bank left their own Umpqua Bank Plaza and moved next door to Lake Oswego ... where property taxes are much lower.
- **#4.** Oregon's largest privately owned company, Hoffman Construction, left Portland and moved next door to Clackamas County ... where property taxes are much lower.
- **#5. KinderCare's headquarters left Portland and moved next door to Lake Oswego** ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #6. Local small business success story, Tamale Boy, moved its headquarters from Portland to next door Tigard ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #7. The iconic McCormick & Schmick restaurant (founded in Portland) has left the city for a dozen other states ... where taxes are much lower.

Measure 26-259 will make property taxes unbearable for small business.

Vote NO

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#### Reasons to Vote Against the PPS Bond

### Debt service is too high

• PPS plans to borrow \$1.83 billion, with interest payments of **\$1.7 billion over 32 years**. The total request is for **\$3.5 billion in NEW TAXES**.

#### PPS can't be trusted

- The 2020 bond promised that Jefferson HS would be rebuilt for \$311 million. The school has not been built (or even started), and the budget is now \$491 million.
- The 2020 bond also set aside \$60 million for a Center for Black Student Excellence. None of the \$60 million has been spent, and there is no building.
- In 2022 PPS received \$120 million from the state legislature to move Harriett Tubman Middle School. PPS later concluded that there are no feasible sites to move the school. The District kept the money, but has stopped working on the project.

#### PPS is overbuilding

Forecasts show that high school enrollment is likely to be around 11,000 a decade from now. PPS is building for 17,000.

The new Benson HS seats 1,700 students but only has 869. Jefferson is also planned for 1,700 students, but currently has 459.

#### PPS board members know the Bond is flawed. In their own words:

Andrew Scott, 12/2/24 Board meeting, 0:03: "If we build high schools for more than \$450 million each, they will not only be the most expensive schools ever built in Oregon, but would probably be the most expensive schools ever built in the country. That is **not an award we want to win**."

Julia Brim-Edwards, 2/4/25 Board meeting, 2:41: "I've been involved with six PPS bonds. This is the bond with the least amount of public comment, the least information, and **no community stakeholder group**. We can't keep shutting down discussion."

Patte Sullivan, 12/2/24 Board meeting, 1:20: "Technology and curriculum updates should be paid for out of the general fund, not a construction bond."

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## NO MORE BROKEN PROMISES VOTE NO ON THE \$1.83 BILLION PPS BOND MEASURE

It's time to hit the brakes on Portland Public Schools' runaway spending.

The school board wants you to approve a <u>staggering \$1.83 billion</u> construction bond this May, but there are serious problems they don't want you to know about.

First, this isn't just \$1.83 billion – with interest, you'll be paying \$3.5 billion over 32 years!

- Almost half of every dollar goes straight to bondholders, not our schools.
- This **debt is already devouring our education budget**, with interest payments skyrocketing from \$1.8 million in 2006 to \$67 million today.

Second, **PPS keeps breaking promises**.

- The 2020 bond included \$311 million for Jefferson High School, but the cost ballooned to \$491 million without a single brick being laid.
- PPS also promised a \$60 million Center for Black Student Excellence that was never built.

Third, even school board members say this bond is incredibly wasteful.

- Former board member Scott Bailey revealed that PPS is building high schools for 17,000 students when enrollment projections show only 11,000 students in ten years "a huge overbuild that will waste hundreds of millions of dollars." (PPS Board Meeting, 3/4/2025)
- While still on the board, Andrew Scott admitted these would be "the **most expensive schools ever** built in the country." (PPS Board Meeting, 12/3/2024)
- Current board member Julia Brim-Edwards complained this bond had "the least information and no community stakeholder group." (PPS Board Meeting, 2/4/2025)

The truth is simple: PPS wants a blank check with vague promises.

PPS is building palaces when <u>enrollment is dropping</u> and <u>cutting classroom budgets</u> at the same time. This isn't responsible stewardship of our tax dollars.

Send a clear message to PPS: We support students, but not wasteful spending.

<u>Vote NO</u> on this bond and demand a better plan that puts students before excessive construction costs.

**VOTE NO ON 26-259** 

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