

# Multnomah County Voters' Pamphlet – November 8, 2011 Special Election

## BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Measure 34-193

#### BALLOT TITLE

##### BEAVERTON SCHOOLS LOCAL OPTION LEVY FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

**QUESTION:** Shall District protect class size, teaching positions; levy \$1.00 per \$1,000 assessed value for five years beginning 2012; require oversight?

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

**SUMMARY:** The recession has caused the Oregon Legislature to reduce basic operating funds for K-12 schools. In the last four years, the Beaverton School District has reduced its budget by \$105 million.

The Local Option Levy would help to:

- Preserve basic academic programs
- Protect class sizes and teaching positions

The Local Option Levy could raise approximately \$14 million per year. Over a five-year period, the levy could generate an estimated \$70 million for the Beaverton School District. This Measure authorizes Beaverton School District in Washington and Multnomah Counties, Oregon to levy a property tax in the amount of \$1.00 per \$1000 of assessed value each year for five years.

An estimate of the total amount to be raised each fiscal year is:

2012-2013	\$ 14,000,000
2013-2014	\$ 13,000,000
2014-2015	\$ 12,500,000
2015-2016	\$ 13,000,000
2016-2017	\$ 14,000,000

100% of levy proceeds would be spent in classrooms for teachers and programs. An independent audit committee would review expenditures so funds are used as approved by voters.

#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Beaverton School District Board is proposing a 5-year Local Option Levy that could provide the District with additional operating funds to help offset teacher and educational program reductions. The Local Option Levy could raise approximately \$14 million per year, generating an estimated \$70 million over five years. 100% percent of levy proceeds would be spent in classrooms for teachers and programs.

The recession has caused the Oregon Legislature to reduce the State School Fund that provides operating funds for K-12 schools statewide. In the last four years, the Beaverton School District has reduced its budget by \$105 million, raising class sizes, and cutting educational programs.

For the 2012-13 school year, the District is projecting a funding shortfall of approximately \$24-37 million, the equivalent of at least 300 teachers, or 24 school days. The Beaverton School District is anticipating that there will be several more years of state revenue shortfalls.

The Beaverton community has helped to create an education system that prepares students for college and careers and consistently achieves academic excellence. Beaverton students outperform their Oregon peers on several measures including statewide tests, SAT and ACT exams. The Local Option Levy would provide revenue to maintain teaching positions and basic educational programs.

##### Fiscal Accountability

The Beaverton School District has reduced costs and become more efficient by:

- Negotiating agreements with employees to forgo cost-of-living increases, take pay freezes and several unpaid furlough days;
- Managing employee health care costs through plan management, negotiations with carriers, maintaining a cap on the District's contribution that has not changed in three years; and in the 2010-11 fiscal year, the District's costs were \$5.6 million less expensive than the state run health insurance pool;
- Employees paying 6% of their salary toward their public employee retirement plans; and
- Reducing utility costs through energy conservation and facility retrofits. Beaverton's energy performance is among the top 11% nationally of all school districts as rated by the Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Leader Award.

After voters passed a three-year local option levy in 2003 to pay for teachers and to prevent lay-offs, the District received more money than expected due to an improving economy. Instead of spending the money, the District returned it to local taxpayers, canceling the second year of the tax.

##### Taxpayer Oversight

An independent audit committee would review expenditures so funds are used as approved by voters.

##### What is a Local Option Levy?

Funding for schools in Oregon is primarily controlled by the state Legislature. In 1999, the Oregon Legislature signed into law the local option, a funding mechanism that allows communities to make some local funding decisions for their schools. All local option funds would stay in the Beaverton School District, none go to Salem.

##### Calculate Your Costs

The authorized levy would be \$1.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value per year for five years. The actual property taxes collected would vary from property to property. To estimate your tax, please go to [www.beaverton.k12.or.us](http://www.beaverton.k12.or.us) and click on Local Option Levy.

Submitted by  
Jeff Rose  
Superintendent  
Beaverton School District

**No arguments AGAINST this measure were filed.**

# BEAVERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Measure No. 34-193

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### Protect a Quality Education in Beaverton's Public Schools Vote Yes on the Local Option Levy

Our public schools are the best investment for our future. Good schools:

- Ensure students graduate ready for college and a career, so they can compete in a worldwide economy;
- Are the foundation of our local economy and give us the ability to create jobs;
- Create a better quality of life in our community.

#### Our Schools Face a Serious Financial Shortfall

Over the last 4 years, the Beaverton School District has reduced its budget by \$105 million. Because of the recession, state funding for our local schools has been cut even further, with a projected shortfall of approximately \$24-37 million. That is the equivalent of at least 300 teachers, or 24 school days.

#### Protect Class sizes, Academic Programs and Retain Quality Teachers

The Beaverton Schools Local Option Levy will help protect the basics of a quality education:

- Prevent significant increases in class sizes;
- Preserve academic programs;
- Retain qualified teachers.

#### Accountability and Oversight

100% of levy proceeds will be spent in the classroom to provide students with a well-rounded education. No money will be spent on administration and no money is sent to Salem. An independent audit committee will review all expenditures of levy funds to ensure they are used as voters approved.

Vote YES for our Local Schools  
It's the best investment for our future.

Learn more at [www.supportbeavertonschools.org](http://www.supportbeavertonschools.org) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SupportBeavertonSchools](http://www.facebook.com/SupportBeavertonSchools)

*(This information furnished by Karen Cunningham, Citizens for School Support)*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A message from our local classroom teachers

#### Measure 34-193 Protects Reasonable Class Sizes and Access to a Strong Basic Education

As teachers, we spend every day in the classroom with one goal – to give our students the education they need to become successful adults and productive citizens. There are many elements in a good education, but two of them are absolutely indispensable: reasonable class sizes and a strong basic education.

**Measure 34-193 saves the most important parts of a good education.**

#### CLASS SIZES AND INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION

For us, a basic quality education requires that teachers spend individual time with their students in the classroom. Students need attention at every part of the educational spectrum, whether they need extra help because they are struggling or they want to forge ahead towards further challenges.

When class sizes become so large that teaching becomes an exercise in traffic control, it is impossible to give children the attention they need to learn. Measure 34-193 will protect current class sizes.

#### PROTECTING A BASIC EDUCATION

Students only get one chance at a good education, meaning they need access to a variety of courses that will serve them in college and the workplace. Without basic funding, courses that our students need – like PE, art, music, and even some of the advanced core classes like Advanced Placement classes – are cancelled or eliminated. Measure 34-193 provides funds for teaching positions that will allow basic and advanced courses to remain accessible to our students across the district.

**Strong schools support students, our neighborhoods, and our economy by protecting the basics of a sound education. So will Measure 34-193.**

PLEASE VOTE YES ON MEASURE 34-193!

Andy Whitten, Meadow Park Middle School Teacher  
Vince Jones, Health & Science School Teacher  
Michael Hellis, Elmonica Elementary School Teacher  
Rebecca Hall, Rachel Carson Environmental Middle School Teacher  
Jon Gottshall, Arts & Communication Magnet Academy Teacher

*(This information furnished by Karen Cunningham, Citizens for School Support)*

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