LAKE OSWEGO SCHOOL DISTRICT

Measure 3-434

BALLOT TITLE

Five-Year Local Option Levy Renewal For School Educational Programs

Question: Shall District levy $1.39 per $1,000 of assessed value for operations; protect programs, class sizes for five years beginning 2015-16? This measure renews current local option taxes.

Summary: This measure is a local option levy renewal for the Lake Oswego School District. The renewal would continue at the same tax rate as the current levy.

The local option school levy was first approved by voters in 2000, and was renewed in 2004 and 2008. It provides approximately 10% of the District's annual operating resources.

The levy renewal would continue to help local schools by supplementing insufficient state funding and providing resources that would continue to be used for the following:

Supporting the level and breadth of high quality educational programs expected by the community;

Protecting teaching positions and class sizes provided by the current levy.

All District resources, including levy funds, are subject to annual audits and School Board oversight.

This measure would renew the school levy at the same maximum rate of $1.39 per $1,000 of assessed value. The levy is estimated to raise $7,000,000 per fiscal year beginning with the 2015-16 fiscal year and concluding with the 2019-20 fiscal year, for a total of $35,000,000 over five years.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This levy would renew at the same rate the five-year local option school operating levy approved by voters in November 2008. The levy renewal would continue to provide the Lake Oswego School District with approximately 10% of its annual operating resources supporting instruction, program offerings, teaching positions, and class sizes. All revenue generated by the levy renewal would be used to support Lake Oswego School District schools.

Cost

Beginning in July 2015, property owners would continue to pay the same rate as the current local option levy of $1.39 or less per $1,000 of assessed value. The owner of a home assessed at $350,000 would continue to pay a maximum of approximately $40 per month or $486 per year for the local option levy. Each property's total education tax will not exceed the Measure 5 limit of $5 per $1000 of real market value.

Background

State law gives individual communities the ability to supplement state funding for their local schools. The Lake Oswego School District local option levy was first approved in 2000 and renewed in 2004 and 2008. The current local option school levy provides approximately 1 0% of the district's operating budget for instructional programs, teaching positions and educational services.

What the School Levy Provides

When the first local option school levy was approved in 2000, it allowed the district to add back some of the educational opportunities previously eliminated and to upgrade both instruction and program offerings. This included adding teaching positions, lowering class sizes, and enhancing extensive college prep curricula and electives.

The current local option school levy continues to support these improvements, and provides the means for the school district to provide a level of program offerings, teaching positions, and class sizes that would not be possible if the district were to rely on state school support as its sole source of revenue.

Renewal of the local option school levy would provide resources to sustain the level of programs and services provided by the current local option school levy, assuming that state school support levels did not decrease. If the local option school levy were not renewed, reductions in school district programs and operations of approximately $7 million would be made beginning in 2015-16.

Accountability

All school district finances and expenditures are subject to accountability measures, including annual audits and School Board oversight, to ensure funds are used as intended.

Submitted by
Patti Zebrowski, School Board Chair
Lake Oswego School District No. 7J

No arguments FOR or AGAINST this measure were filed.