

Newsletter/website story for schools

2018 Proposed Bond On May 15 Ballot

The School Board has finished its work on a bond package and has referred it to the May 15 ballot for the community to consider.

Before finalizing the bond, the Board heard feedback through a community survey, through the Community Facilities Task Force and through listening sessions with staff and community members held in every high school neighborhood. The Board twice asked staff to revise the bond package to make sure it aligned with the feedback they received and still addressed the needs of facilities.

Highlights of the proposed bond include:

- Increasing safety and security, including seismic safety of schools
- Adding/expanding space to relieve crowding and prepare for future enrollment, including general education classrooms and space for music programs
- Adding/expanding space for career-technical (vocational) education at all six traditional high schools as well as Roberts High School
- Adding/renovating science labs at middle and high schools

The proposed bond package totals \$619.7 million and if passed by voters in May, is estimated to increase the current property tax levy rate by \$1.24 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the bond does not pass, the additional tax would not be levied and the listed projects would not be completed. The Community Facilities Task Force reviewed all funding methods available to the district and recommended the School Board place a general obligation bond on the ballot for voters to consider. The district would receive an \$8 million grant from the state if the bond passes.

To be eligible to vote in the May election, you must be a registered voter and reside in the district. To register or to update your voter registration, please visit the Oregon Secretary of State's website: <http://sos.oregon.gov/voting/Pages/registration.aspx?lang=en>

You must be registered by April 24. Ballots will be mailed to voters on April 25. For more information about the proposed bond measure, please visit www.bondinfo.salemkeizer.org.