

## **MEASURE 26-220 - Corbett School District Bonds**

**Ballot Title:** Bonds to Construct, Renovate, and Improve District Facilities

**Question:** Shall Corbett School District issue \$4,000,000 in bonds and receive State grant to construct and renovate schools? If bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI I of the Oregon Constitution.

**Financial Impact:** The measure authorizes \$4,000,000 in bonds. The estimated cost is \$1.02 per \$1000 of assessed property value. Owners of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$204 per year.

If the measure passes, the District would receive an additional \$3,878,367 grant from the State and is on the waitlist to receive an additional \$121,633. If the measure does not pass, the District would not receive the grant.

*Note: assessed value (AV) is the value used to calculate property tax. It is shown on the property tax statement. It is NOT the same as real market value (RMV), which is the market price of the home.*

**Probable Results of a Yes Vote:** A “Yes” vote would allow the District to raise \$4,000,000 to finance relocation of the middle school and district offices, renovate facilities, and purchase furniture and equipment.

A “Yes” vote also would allow the District to receive \$3,878,367 from the State of Oregon and may allow it to receive an additional \$121,633.

**Probable Results of a No Vote:** The District would lack funding for relocation, renovation and repairs. The District would not receive the \$3,878,367 State grant, and it would not remain on the waitlist for the \$121,633.

**Background:** In its four schools, the Corbett School District provides instruction for more than 1100 students. Its last bond measure was approved in 1994; since then, it has been unable to pass bond measures in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

According to the District, it faces long-term capital improvement needs of about \$28 million. This measure would allow the District to address safety concerns in its middle school by relocating it to a property purchased from the Reynolds School District at 31600 E. Woodard Road in Troutdale; since administrative offices are currently located in the middle school, they would also be relocated. In addition to renovations and repairs, the District would be able to furnish and equip its schools so that they are more accessible to people with disabilities and compliant with Title IX, which mandates gender equity in facilities. Finally, it could make capital improvements to enhance career-technical education (CTE) offerings.

The District notes that if its proposal to use its Woodard property is not approved, then it would use bond funding to house the middle school and administrative offices at its main campus.

**Summary of Measure:** If approved, most significantly the bond measure would:

- Enable the District to relocate its middle school and administrative offices to its Woodard property;
- Renovate the high school;
- Repair the roof at the grade school;
- Perform seismic upgrades to its multi-purpose building;
- Purchase furniture and equipment to make facilities ADA and Title IX compliant and to enhance CTE programs.

If approved, the District will establish a citizen oversight committee, which would report to the School Board.

**Supporters Say:**

- Safety concerns keep students from using parts of the middle school; according to a 2019 Oregon Public Broadcasting interview with a former superintendent, the building is seismically unsafe, and there is “asbestos in the basement, and lead paint ‘almost everywhere.’”
- If voters approve the bond, the District would receive an additional \$3.9 million State grant toward relocation and facility improvements. The grant nearly doubles the amount of money the District could spend.

**Opponents Say:**

- A series of failed bond measures may indicate a lack of trust between some members of the community and the District. Consultant Ron Saxton, hired by the District to assess the relationship between the District and the community, noted in 2019, “The need or desire to pass a sizeable bond is [a] source of divergence for Corbett citizens.”
- Relocation efforts depend on approval from Multnomah County, among other agencies; if this approval is denied, costs to accommodate the middle school and administrative offices could increase.