

David Douglas School District Measure 26-227

TITLE: Bonds to Increase Safety, Security; Repair, Update Schools; Vocational Education

QUESTION: Shall District increase safety, security, emergency communication; repair, update schools; construct career education center; issue \$140.32 million in bonds?

If the 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 of the Oregon Constitution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This measure authorizes \$140.32 million in bonds, which may be issued in multiple series with each series maturing 33 years from issuance. The estimated cost is \$0.88 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (AV). The owner of a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay approximately \$220 per year.

Note: assessed property 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 \$140.32 million to make health, safety, and security improvements for schools throughout the district. The improvements would include updating and repairing aging schools and security systems, constructing a new career-technical education building at David Douglas High School, creating a preschool center, and facility renovations or additions.

A “Yes” vote would also allow the District to receive an additional \$8 million from the State of Oregon in matching funds.

Probable Results of a NO VOTE:

The District would lack funding for health, safety, and security improvements; updating and repairing aging schools; constructing a career-technical education building; creating a preschool center; and facility renovations.

The District would not receive \$8 million in matching funds from the State of Oregon.

BACKGROUND:

David Douglas School District serves approximately 8,800 students in East Portland. The District includes nine elementary schools, three middle schools, one alternative high school and the David Douglas High School. A community aquatics center and community performing arts center are located on the high school campus. The aquatics center, which opened in 2014, was funded as part of a 2012 \$50 million bond measure, which was passed by almost 65 percent of voters. All nine elementary schools, two of three middle schools and most buildings of the high school are more than 50 years old.

In December 2021, after a series of five meetings, a committee of citizens, high school students and staff recommended a list of bond construction projects for the November 2022 election based on the needs and aspirations expressed in the District's 2020 Long Range Facility Plan (LRFP). The report prioritized secure entries, renovating aging heating and cooling systems, and providing flexible, updated learning environments. For example, according to the measure's explanatory statement, eleven schools in the District do not have secure entries. Further, the main buildings on the high school campus, built in 1954, do not meet the educational needs of current students, since space for career-technical education and STEM is inadequate. Demand for preschool has outpaced available spaces. Finally, for existing District schools, critical capital improvements are needed: renovations and deferred maintenance projects such as new roofs; upgraded HVAC systems; window replacements; remodeled educational spaces; and new sewer, plumbing, electrical and alarm systems.

SUMMARY:

If approved, bonds would fund the improvements below.

Improved health, safety and security in school buildings:

- Secure entries at 11 schools
- New emergency communication systems
- Emergency generators
- New fire safety systems,
- Removal of asbestos ceilings

Updates and repairs in aging schools:

- Electrical, roofing, flooring, lighting, plumbing improvements
- Exterior windows, sidings, lighting, and new track surfaces

Expanded student opportunities:

- A Future Careers Center, which would be a new career-technical education and STEM building at David Douglas High School
- Additional space for instruction

Investments in preschool and early learning:

- A preschool center in the North Powellhurst building on SE 135th Ave

The bonds would also fund additional capital costs, including site improvements, land acquisition, demolition, furnishings, equipment, accounting and bond issuance costs.

If approved, the District will establish a community oversight committee and require audits.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

- While the District works "to provide an excellent education to every student," many of its buildings need basic repair and students need "better spaces to learn and grow."
- Secure entries and updated communication and fire safety systems will help keep students and staff safe.
- Updated heating, ventilation and cooling systems will allow schools to be safe places for the community during heat and/or smoke emergencies.

There is no organized opposition to this measure.