

Portland Community College Bond Measure 26-224

Ballot Title: Bonds to construct job training space, improve classrooms, safety, technology

Question: Shall Portland Community College renovate and modernize facilities, estimated to maintain current tax rate by issuing \$450 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 section 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

Financial Impact: The measure authorizes up to \$450 million of general obligation bonds for equipment and facilities. Because outstanding debt is not expected to increase, bond cost is estimated to maintain the fiscal year 2022 rate of \$.38 per \$1000 of assessed value. For a home assessed at \$250,000, the cost would be \$95 per year.

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

Probable Results of "Yes" Vote: If approved, this measure would finance district-wide site/facility improvements, enhance campus accessibility, update equipment, and expand career technical education programs, including flexible hybrid learning options. The current tax rate is not expected to increase.

Probable Results of "No" vote: Without modernized classrooms and technical facilities, improved campus safety, and updated programs, students' educational opportunities may be compromised. Additionally, without bond funding, the College would need to cover the cost of deferred maintenance as well as IT and safety and security upgrades from its general fund. However, the current tax rate would decline.

Background: PCC is the largest post--secondary institution in Oregon with leadership and educational responsibilities across a growing district and the state. In 2017 Portland Community College proposed and passed a \$185 million, 15-year bond measure that targeted specific projects, such as

- updating the Health Technology Building at the Sylvania campus, which houses health and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) programs
- building a new Portland Metropolitan Workforce Training Center to expand workforce training programs
- continuing to upgrade career technology and safety and security infrastructure
- improving accessibility District-wide

Summary of Measure: If approved, Bond Measure 26-224 will fund specific projects across three general PCC infrastructure needs: improved facilities, expanded program development, and updated community services. As in the past, PCC will modernize and improve classrooms, instructional laboratories, and career training spaces with an emphasis on renovating facilities at Rock Creek and Sylvania, and look to expand career technical education in Washington County. Similarly, PCC will promote flexible hybrid learning options, increase career technical education programs, and enhance instructional opportunities for students to graduate with the skills needed to compete in today's economy.

Finally, PCC will update campus community services with:

- advancements in accessibility for people with disabilities
- expanded health and safety improvements
- a more concentrated effort to address the needs of all students in the district who desire a college education, especially students from traditionally marginalized communities.

Supporters say:

- Portland Community College is not only Oregon's largest post-secondary institution, but an educational leader with significant responsibilities across Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill, Clackamas, and Columbia counties. The 2022 Bond measure is designed to address and meet these growing responsibilities.
- PCC's bond renewal will build on past success in educating a skilled workforce, helping students to transfer to four-year institutions and making sure that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed.

Opponents Say:

- The proposal is vague and funds projects that the College could address through its budgeting process.
- PCC is experiencing declining enrollment and currently needs no expanded facilities, at the same time that homeowners and renters face rising inflation and interest rates.