

LWV Portland Recommends a “Yes” Vote on Measure 26-259 School Building Improvement Bond for Portland Public Schools

The Portland Public Schools May 20 bond measure would authorize up to \$1.83 billion in general obligations bonds for facilities and education investments. Bond proceeds would be used to:

- Renovate or replace Ida B. Wells, Cleveland, and Jefferson High Schools. Design work on Jefferson started under the previous bond.
- Replace or repair roofs, mechanical systems, in elementary and middle schools
- Update security systems, fencing, and make seismic upgrades
- Purchase curriculum materials, provide tablets for students, update technology
- Upgrade athletic facilities including at Roosevelt, Lincoln, Franklin, and Grant, among others

Most schools in the district were built before WW II and many are over 100 years old. This measure is one of a series of bond measures passed in 2012, 2017, and 2020 aimed at improving, updating, modernizing school buildings. The work on a number of the high schools has been completed. This bond would renovate or replace the three remaining high schools. Due to declining debt service, the measure is not expected to increase the bond tax rate above \$2.50/\$1,000 assessed value, the rate that has been targeted since the 2017 bond.

An independent community group will review audits and quarterly reports to provide accountability to the public.

**Ballot measure [text](#)
Portland Public Schools bond [information](#)**

The League’s recommendation for a “yes” vote is based on local and national League member-adopted positions calling for well-maintained educational facilities with buildings and facilities meeting state and local standards.