

# GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Measure 26-153

### BALLOT TITLE

#### **Gresham-Barlow Schools to Increase Safety; Update, Expand, Rebuild Schools**

**Question:** Shall district improve safety, technology and renovate and expand existing schools; issue \$210 million general obligation bonds with citizen oversight. 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 of the Oregon Constitution.

**Summary:** If approved, this measure would finance capital costs, including projects that:

- Update student learning environments, including technology and textbooks;
- Increase safety and security at existing schools;
- Add capacity for growth at Elementary/Middle schools by expanding existing buildings; remove aged portable classrooms for safety and security;
- Renovate existing schools including; replacing aging roofs and windows, enhance earthquake protection; upgrading classroom lighting and HVAC systems, plumbing, flooring, exterior walls; renovation of grounds, fields and playgrounds;
- Construct site improvements, furnish and equip all projects, purchase land;
- Rebuild Gresham High School and renovate Sam Barlow High School – Phase I, build technology support facilities; and
- Pay bond issuance costs.

Establish independent citizen oversight committee to ensure funds are used as intended.

The projected incremental cost over the existing property tax rate is \$1.56 per \$1,000 assessed property value. A home with an assessed value of \$167,350 is estimated to pay an additional \$22 a month. Each bond series may mature over no more than 25 years.

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Gresham-Barlow School District serves 12,000 students in 19 schools.

School buildings average 40 years in age. Some are close to 100 years old.

Gresham-Barlow voters have not approved capital bond funds to upgrade facilities since 2000.

A bond measure planning committee made up of local citizens has reported the following issues:

- Student learning environments are out of date, particularly in current technology so that modern educational programs and techniques cannot be used by every teacher and student;
- Portable classrooms at elementary schools – sited away from main buildings – are aged and unsafe;
- Capacity at several schools would require expansion to fit more students;

- Building systems, including electrical wiring, heating, plumbing, roofs, windows, and more are in substandard condition;
- Schools are not in compliance with earthquake protection, handicapped accessibility and fire safety standards; and
- Grounds, parking lots, fields, and exteriors all require repair or replacement to maintain assets.

The proposed Gresham-Barlow School bond measure would fund capital projects for school facilities and classrooms, including:

- Rebuilding one school at existing location;
- Renovating school buildings to update systems;
- Updating classroom teaching technology for every school;
- Build updated technology support facility;
- Refurbishing school grounds, parking lots, fields, and repair exteriors; and
- Paying bond issuance costs.

Specifically, the school bond would:

- Rebuild Gresham High School (which is close to 100 years old) at current location;
- Renovate Sam Barlow High School (Phase 1);
- Renovate building systems at 17 schools including repairing exterior walls, repairing or replacing roofs, floors, ceilings, interior walls; replacing windows, doors, and updating heating systems to achieve more energy savings, updating lighting and furniture;
- Upgrade student learning environments and materials including technological systems and textbooks;
- Renovate Deep Creek Elementary to serve as a K-8 school;
- Add capacity at 12 schools for additional students instead of building new schools. Eliminate aged portable classrooms around elementary schools located at a distance from main building and most of student population;
- Update building safety including increased earthquake and fire safety systems; and
- Refurbish grounds, fields to reduce injury; update parking lots, furnish and equip projects, site improvements and buy land.

The Board of Directors would establish independent citizen oversight committee to ensure bond funds are used as approved by voters.

Bonds can only be used for bond projects.

The projected incremental cost over existing property tax rate is \$1.56 per \$1,000 assessed property value. As community grows, payments are applied to new properties. The bonds may be issued in multiple series and each series may mature over no more than 25 years.

Bond's principal amount cannot exceed \$210 million and can only be used for costs associated with completing projects listed on this ballot.

The county reports that the median assessed home value in Multnomah County is \$167,350. Property taxes would increase by about \$22 a month for the homeowner in the district, with a median assessed value of \$167,350

Submitted by  
Jim Schlachter, Gresham-Barlow School District

**No arguments FOR or AGAINST this measure were filed.**