

CAPTION: Bonds to construct job training space, improve classrooms, safety, technology.

QUESTION: Shall Portland Community College construct, expand, modernize facilities; estimated to maintain current tax rate by issuing \$185 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.

SUMMARY: Projects expected to be financed with bond funds include:

- Construction and improvements to provide students with up-to-date job training spaces;
- Acquisition of modern technology and equipment;
- Improvements to transit and disability access;
- Projects to increase facility lifespan and efficiency through energy efficiency, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, electrical, plumbing, and sustainability improvements;
- Site improvements, demolition, furnishing, equipping, acquiring or purchasing land, bond issuance costs;
- Modernizing the Portland Metropolitan Workforce Training Center;
- Improving the Sylvania Campus Health Technology Building and Health Inter-Professional Training Facility;
- Constructing child care facility on Rock Creek campus;
- Upgrading Cascade Public Safety Building and enhancing safety and security district wide.

If bonds approved, matching state funds of \$8 million would be available to reduce overall cost to taxpayers.

PCC will conduct, issue annual audits to ensure funds used as intended.

Bonds would mature in not to exceed 16 years from issuance. Bond cost estimated to maintain fiscal year 2017 rate of 40 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. Actual rates may differ and depend on interest rates incurred and assessed value growth.

Explanatory Statement:

Portland Community College (PCC) is the largest post-secondary institution in Oregon. It assists 78,000 full and part-time students in Multnomah, Washington, Yamhill, Clackamas and Columbia counties to obtain career training and further their education.

PCC is conducting a district wide examination of its physical infrastructure and academic program needs, to strategically plan for the future. PCC's strategic plan (the "Plan") adopted by the Board focuses on three essential goals which have led to this bond request:

1. **Improve workforce training programs to better align with current and future jobs:** Expanded facilities and updated technology for students will help develop skills for the jobs of tomorrow, with the goal of securing higher paying jobs to meet the growing cost of living in the metro area.
2. **Invest in training for Health and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) programs:** Students studying these disciplines require access to the latest technology and adequate facilities to enter the workforce career ready.
3. **Invest in meeting safety and security needs, and provide disability access:** PCC goals include investing in safety, security and accessibility, so students are safe and invited to learn.

If approved, bond proceeds are expected to include the following investments:

- Improvements to the Portland Metropolitan Workforce Training Center to provide students with up-to-date job training spaces by rebuilding two outdated buildings and combining programs into one multi-story facility.
- Sylvania campus Health Technology Building renovation: including updates to science and biology labs, nursing education suites and faculty workspace for health-related career fields. Seismic, safety and accessibility needs will also be addressed.
- Development and redesign of spaces used for health inter-professional training.
- Safety, security, longevity, and accessibility upgrades.
- Long range planning to align overall facilities and academic plans. A comprehensive approach is expected to increase coordination and efficiency, reducing long term costs.

What would the bond cost?

Because of expiring bonds, the PCC bond measure is estimated to maintain current tax rates for local homeowners. If voters approve the bond it is expected to maintain the fiscal year 2017 rate of \$0.40 per \$1,000 for 16 years. For a house assessed at \$200,000 the cost is estimated at \$80 per year, or \$6.66 per month. The total principal amount of bonds authorized will not exceed \$185 million. Actual levy rates may differ depending on interest rates incurred and growth in assessed value.

Accountability

Funds from the bond would go directly to the projects that are expected to help achieve the goals outlined above. PCC would emphasize openness and transparency so that the public can track how funds from the bonds are spent.

Submitted by:

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