



# CLACKAMAS C O U N T Y

## VOTERS' PAMPHLET

**NOVEMBER 5, 2013**

## CITY OF DAMASCUS/ GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT

## SPECIAL ELECTION

Clackamas County  
Elections Division  
1710 Red Soils Ct., Ste. 100  
Oregon City, OR 97045

[www.clackamas.us/elections](http://www.clackamas.us/elections)

**503.655.8510**

**SHERRY HALL,  
County Clerk**

All information contained in this pamphlet has been assembled and printed by Clackamas County's Elections Division.

You may not vote on everything in this pamphlet, only those measures appearing on the Official Ballot in your Vote-By-Mail packet.

Measure Text, Explanatory Statements and Arguments are printed as filed – no spelling or grammatical corrections are made.

Your voted ballot must be received in our office, or in an official ballot drop box, by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, **November 5, 2013.**

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### BALLOT DROP SITES

Your voted ballot may be dropped off at any of the following locations. Outdoor drop boxes are locked at 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.

#### **Damascus City Hall**

19920 S.E. Hwy 212, Damascus  
Phone: 503.658.8545

Mon - Fri 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Election Day 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

#### **Lake Oswego Library (indoor)**

706 4th St., Lake Oswego  
Phone: 503.636.7628

Mon - Thurs 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Fri, Sat 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sun 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

#### **West Linn City Hall (outdoor)**

22500 Salamo Rd., West Linn  
Phone: 503.657.0331

#### **West Linn Library (indoor)**

1595 Burns St., West Linn  
Phone: 503.656.7853

Mon - Wed 10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Thu, Fri 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Sat, Sun 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

#### **Clackamas County Elections**

(indoor & outdoor)  
1710 Red Soils Ct., Ste. 100  
Oregon City, OR 97045



# CLACKAMAS COUNTY

Office of the County Clerk

SHERRY HALL

CLERK  
1710 RED SOILS CT, SUITE 100  
OREGON CITY, OR 97045  
503.650.5686  
FAX 503.650.5687

Dear Clackamas County Voter:

This Voters' Pamphlet contains information designed to assist you in voting: ballot titles, explanatory statements and arguments pertaining to local measures which appear on the November 5, 2013 Special Election ballot in Clackamas County. Please remember, in order to vote on a measure, you must be an active registered voter of the jurisdiction or district placing the measure on the ballot.

Your voted ballot must be received at an official ballot drop site or at the Elections Office, 1710 Red Soils Ct., Ste. 100, in Oregon City by 8:00 p.m. on election night in order to be tallied. Remember, the postmark on a mailed ballot does NOT count.

Results are available on the County Clerk's election webpage after 8:00 p.m. on election night. The link is [www.clackamas.us/elections/results.html](http://www.clackamas.us/elections/results.html).

Official ballot drop sites are listed on the front cover of this pamphlet. Indoor drop boxes will be available during regular business hours (and outdoor drop boxes are available 24 hours a day) beginning Friday, October 18 until 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

Ballots will be delivered to households between Friday, October 18 and Tuesday, October 22. Please contact us if you have not received a ballot by October 22.

If a ballot was delivered to your residence for someone who should no longer be receiving ballots at your address, please write "RETURN" on the envelope and place it back in your mailbox. If a ballot was sent to someone who has passed away, please write "DECEASED" on the envelope and place it back in your mailbox.

If you need assistance voting or have any questions about this particular election or the election process, please call the Elections Division at 503.655.8510.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Sherry Hall in cursive script.

Sherry Hall  
Clackamas County Clerk

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## VOTER INFORMATION

YOU MAY REGISTER TO VOTE IF:

1. You are a resident of Oregon;
2. You are at least 17 years of age (though you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday), and
3. You are a United States citizen.

YOU MUST UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION IF:

1. Your residence or mailing address changes;
2. Your name changes, or
3. You wish to change political affiliation.

To be eligible to vote, you must be registered by the close of business on the 21st day before an election (October 15, 2013).

If you make a mistake or damage your ballot in any way and need a replacement, or if you have questions on registration or updating your registration, contact the Elections Division by calling 503.655.8510.

If a ballot was delivered to your residence for someone who should no longer be receiving ballots at that address, please write "RETURN" on the unopened envelope and put it back in your mailbox.

If a ballot was sent to someone at your address who has passed away, please write DECEASED on the unopened envelope and place it in your mailbox to be returned to Elections.

Your voted ballot must be received in any county Elections office or ballot drop site by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2013.

If you return your ballot by mail, remember: the postmark does not count.

If, instead of mailing your ballot, you'd prefer to take it to an Official Ballot Drop Site, the addresses can be found elsewhere in this pamphlet.

Measure Text and Arguments (if any) are printed as filed; no spelling or grammatical corrections are made.

# Measure 3-433

## **CAPTION: VOTE TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO DISINCORPORATE THE CITY OF DAMASCUS.**

**QUESTION:** Shall the City of Damascus be Disincorporated?

**SUMMARY:** A “yes” vote on this measure will disincorporate the City of Damascus. Under Oregon law, a city must not be liable for any debt or other obligation before disincorporation is permitted.

If disincorporation is approved by a majority of electors, the City of Damascus must surrender its charter and will cease to exist after 60 days without any further or other formal action. If disincorporation is approved, the City of Damascus must transfer all its property, real and personal, and property rights, to Clackamas County for the benefit and use of the county. At the end of the 60 days the records of the City of Damascus shall be deposited in the office of the Clackamas County clerk.

City taxes and fees will be eliminated, as will services currently provided by the city, including city law enforcement services provided under contract by the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office. Damascus will revert to an unincorporated area, governed by Clackamas County.

A “no” vote retains the status quo. Damascus will remain an independent city operating under home rule.

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

A “yes” vote on this measure will disincorporate the City of Damascus. Under Oregon law, a city must not be liable for any debt or other obligation before disincorporation is permitted.

If disincorporation is approved by a majority of electors, the City of Damascus must surrender its charter and will cease to exist after 60 days without any further or other formal action. If disincorporation is approved, the City of Damascus must transfer all its property, real and personal, and property rights, to Clackamas County for the benefit and use of the county. At the end of the 60 days the records of the City of Damascus shall be deposited in the office of the Clackamas County clerk.

City taxes and fees will be eliminated, as will services currently provided by the city, including city law enforcement services provided under contract by the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office. Damascus will revert to an unincorporated area, governed by Clackamas County.

A “no” vote retains the status quo. Damascus will remain an independent city operating under home rule.

Submitted by  
Timothy V. Ramis  
City of Damascus

# Measure 3-433

## **ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**

The Citizens Committee for Disincorporation began meeting in 2012 to talk about how to address the issues Damascus has struggled with since incorporation. We considered many options, but only one seemed to offer a real solution to heal this **community**: Disincorporation. We debated this idea for months before filing a petition to Disincorporate the city government.

Since December 2012, we have fought a legal challenge to our citizens’ petition, gathered signatures, offered information, collected funds from Damascus residents and property owners, and placed the future of the **Damascus Community** before you. We have committed to offering our friends and neighbors an opportunity to rethink the decision made to incorporate in 2002.

We knew what we knew then. We faced a staggering decision with very little knowledge of what the future held. Today, if the last 9 years have provided nothing else, they have given us far more knowledge and experience into what being a city means.

We were told we needed to manage growth, or we would be swallowed whole by other cities. Today we know there has been no growth, and those cities struggle to provide services to the residents they have.

We know far more now. We have lived through the process and seen what it has done to us. We are far more informed than we were. **What is our decision today?**

The statements that follow are from your neighbors, your friends, fellow church members, people you see at the store. They tell how they came to support Disincorporation. Some supported incorporation. Others did not. The common theme that runs through them is a concern for Damascus and the people who live here.

Please read what these people have to say. Consider where their journey has taken them. Think about what you want for your **Damascus Community**. Then please vote.

**We hope you will join us in Voting ‘Yes’ on Measure 3-433.**

**Thank you,**  
**Citizens Committee for Disincorporation**

*(This information furnished by Chris Hawes, Citizens Committee for Disincorporation)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Clackamas County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.*

## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Damascus incorporated with the idea we could develop the city the way citizens wanted. Local Control it was called. But Oregon land use laws in effect for 40 years mean that inside an Urban Growth Boundary, an urbanization plan is required. Whether a city, or the county develops that plan, state laws must be followed.

Nine years of involvement and serving on committees to develop that plan for Damascus and watching the slow descent into a dysfunctional city lead me to file for Disincorporation. The changes to the city charter have reduced the city council to an advisory capacity and lead to a combination of direct democracy and representative government that isn't working.

Bringing Damascus into the UGB was to create a 20-year supply of buildable land. Eleven years later, nine of those paying city taxes, and nothing has happened! Metro's recent population numbers reveal the present city of Damascus has enough land for at least 40 or 50 years!

The City Council has failed to meet the State deadline to approve a plan and charter tampering has resulted in no funding to implement a plan. It appears any plan will meet with opposition, more chaos, and no consensus.

If this continues, the courts will decide the fate of Damascus, wasting more time and taxpayers' money.

#### Would the citizen of Damascus benefit from Disincorporation?

**Yes!** The lay of the land makes providing public sewers difficult and will mean a massive cost. With the charter amendments limiting where the money can come from, the present citizens will pay for infrastructure, and get little benefit. Disincorporation will mean an end to paying taxes for nothing. Disincorporating the city along with it's dysfunctional charter would return the Damascus Community to being a rural area of the county with a high probability of Metro removing a large part of Damascus from the UGB.

#### Stop the Waste! Disincorporate! Vote 'YES' on M3-433!

Wally Bothum  
Chief Petitioner for Disincorporation.

*(This information furnished by CCD-Wally Bothum)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

For 23 years we lived in unincorporated Damascus. As a land use planner, I always believed that cities are better at deploying public services: an elected council hires staff, appoints commissions and committees, and the staff runs city daily affairs. Simple, assuming a functional government is in place. It was not that simple in Damascus.

In January of 2005 the newly elected council met for the first time. Among those present was a very competent planner, ostensibly hired to help guide the comprehensive plan process. A good omen, I thought. The council was sworn in and proceeded to discuss the anticipated work on the comprehensive plan. When I asked a question that the planning consultant began to answer, he was interrupted by one of the councilors, who went on to provide quite a garbled response. A bad omen: a very knowledgeable professional was not being listened to.

Two years later, I was appointed to a 23-member Community Coordinating Committee (C3) and began sensing flaws in the process. My attempts to raise red flags were ignored. Another bad omen. When my attempts to influence the process in a positive way fell on deaf ears, I resigned my position on the C3, pointing out that I no longer wished to serve in a process that was doomed to fail. And fail it did. Recent efforts to revive it were too late to save it and finally succumbed to political gridlock.

Dysfunction has been a hallmark of this government. The financial costs to taxpayers, the time spent on a fruitless pursuit of a City on a Hill, and our maligned reputation as a community is staggering. Therefore, I do not see any reason for it to exist any longer. It has inflicted its share of lasting damage on our **beloved community**.

#### Disincorporation is our best way out of this mess.

#### Stop the waste! Disincorporate! Vote YES on M3-433!

George Samaan,  
Retired Land Use Planner and Chief Petitioner

*(This information furnished by CCD-George Samaan)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Damascus residents deserve this opportunity to vote whether we should continue down the path of wasted taxpayer money, or simply end the contention, drama, and dysfunction and return to being the “**Community of Damascus**”.

Many citizens were sold on the “local control” aspect of being a city. I was one of them. If I knew then what I know now, I would not vote to incorporate. Damascus is held to the same standards as all other cities in the region and state and we must abide by the same rules.

Our city government was established for these purposes: develop a Comprehensive Plan within state law, re-zone our properties, administer development permits, and manage public facilities. We did not incorporate to waste time at city council meetings where important decisions have not been made after 10 years.

The poorly written and badly constructed charter amendments prevent the city from doing the one thing it’s supposed to do. They only contribute to the monumental waste of our money and become a great reason to Disincorporate.

Our taxpayer money is also funding continual personal agendas from our elected officials, who don’t like playing by the rules. I refuse to pay for someone else’s battles. Elected officials who can’t accomplish anything or compromise to move our city forward are holding our property values hostage. Enough is enough.

I urge each of you to take out your Clackamas County tax bills. Find the line item: City of Damascus. **What have you gotten for those dollars over the past 10 years?** Clackamas County still provides all of our services, under contract with the city. We have police, fire, water, utilities, and garbage service. **The city provides none of those services.** We have No Comprehensive Plan, No Zoning, and No Future.

**Should we continue until we have No Community?**

**Stop the Waste. Save our Community. Vote ‘YES’ on M3-433.**

Diana Helm  
Owner, Terra Casa  
Former City Councilor

*(This information furnished by CCD-Diana Helm)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Nine years ago, the citizens of the community of Damascus voted to become a city. The battle cry of this vote was Local Control, with the promise of preventing adjoining cities from gobbling us up.

My membership on citizen involvement committees in Gresham, and the Chamber of Commerce, provided a unique perspective of what being a city meant, and showed me that complete Local Control was not reality.

Becoming a city meant a new set of rules we would be required to follow, from the State, the County, and Metro. Local Control was great in theory, but not a reality. Thus I voted no on incorporation.

Fast-forward nine years. Nine years of paying Damascus city taxes, and the better part of them for this past 2 ½ years going to lawyers, to deal with dysfunction and infighting in our City Council.

I served 4 years as a City Councilor, and while we may not have always been correct, we at least worked together, and we listened to the citizens. We were moving forward. That cannot be said today.

These past few years have shown us what a monumental task it is to become a city. Actions by some on Council have drawn lines in the sand, and turned neighbor against neighbor, and friend against friend.

**Our community** is at risk, a community that came together over a little girl struck by a car to help her and her family. I was proud of that community. With what has happened in this “city” over the past 2 years, I wonder if we can get back to that “**community**”.

We have wasted millions of dollars, created anger, and sown division in our **community**. All due to the fact that frankly we went in over our heads, and didn’t truly understand the task at hand.

**Stop the Waste, Save our Community, Vote ‘Yes’ on M3-433.**

David R. Jochen  
Former City Councilor  
Damascus Citizen

*(This information furnished by CCD-David Jochen)*

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# Measure 3-433

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Fellow Damascus Residents,

We, the residents of West Damascus and members of the Foster-Troge-Vogel Neighborhood Group named below, are United in our support for disincorporation. We encourage your YES vote in ending the City and lowering our taxes on November 5th.

After thousands of hours and millions of dollars over 8 years, its official; Damascus will not have a Comprehensive Plan on the November ballot. Our City leaders have failed. Our city hall is in a state of disarray. Councilors have resigned. Multiple City Managers have resigned. Volunteers have resigned. Committee members have resigned. It will not end until we disincorporate, period.

The city has spent Millions of our tax dollars since 2004 and we have absolutely nothing to show for it. When you receive your property tax statement in October, look closely at your Damascus tax line item that you will pay. A YES vote will end that payment forever and lower your taxes. We have other options so don't listen to the scare tactics. Happy Valley is an excellent option. Staying unincorporated is an option. Reincorporating in the future may be an option.

We must get over 50% of the voters to actually vote YES so voting is crucial! Together if we fail, the waste will continue. Please VOTE YES for Disincorporation.

Steven Kent	James Karn	Carol Evans
Jennifer Kent	Teresa Karn	Tavin Miller
Anna Farwell-Leischner	Thomas Rich	Warren Evans
Dennis Leischner	Roger Roth	Jerome Hoemberg
Priscilla Benitez	Steve Deters	Candi Hoemberg
Samuel Benitez	Suzanne Deters	Laura Deters
Shane Deters	Kerry Owen	Arnold Deters Jr
Fred McFall	James Syring	Lisa Jacobs
Karen McFall	Evelyn Syring	David Jacobs
Cheryl Reimche	Steven Hickethier	

Citizens of West Damascus and the Foster-Troge-Vogel Neighborhood Group

*(This information furnished by CCD - Jim Syring)*

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# Measure 3-433

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

To my Damascus Neighbors:

My wife and I moved to Damascus in 1992 to take advantage of the rural character, while still being within commuting distance to nearby services. And I suspect many of you did likewise.

We weren't pleased in 2002 when Metro included us in the Urban Growth Boundary, but it seemed reasonable to try to determine our destiny, if we now had to prepare to urbanize. I was honored to serve with Dee Wescott on The Committee for the Future of Damascus as we advocated for incorporation as a way to control preparation of a comprehensive plan, our tax rate, and the services we wanted from our city, and in 2004 we successfully incorporated Damascus.

Since then, I have volunteered on the Citizen Coordinating Committee, The original Charter Committee, and served 5 years as chair of the Development Code team. The development code we recently delivered to the planning commission and city council would have been the implementation tool for the comprehensive plan.

In the 9 years since incorporation, we have burned through seven city managers and eight annual city budgets of millions of dollars, and we still have no plan. The state requires new cities to complete and adopt a plan within four years of incorporation. We have had nine years, and we still have no plan. I have paid over \$7,500 in property taxes to the city, and have nothing to show for it.

Many people, including myself, have volunteered thousands of hours trying to make Damascus a functioning city. We are not. It appears that people moved here to escape the very things being a city means. It is time to accept reality, end the collection of the city property tax, return the planning process to Clackamas County, and go back to being a rural community.

**I urge you to vote YES on Measure 3-433.**

Ernie Platt  
Former Chair,  
Development Code Topic Specific Team

*(This information furnished by CCD - Ernie Platt)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

16 years ago, my wife and I decided to move out of East Portland. We were looking for a rural community where we could raise our two-year old son; a place where neighbor helped neighbor; a place where you might see deer grazing in the fields or hear coyotes yelping. We found these things in the **Damascus Community**.

Nine years ago, I voted for incorporation out of Fear and Hope. **I was afraid** that the community of Damascus would be taken over by Happy Valley and/or Gresham. **I was afraid** that Metro would come in and destroy our rural way of life. **I was hopeful** that incorporation would better protect my interests.

Since incorporation, here is what I have **learned, experienced, and observed**:

**I have learned**...Annexation of property occurs in one of four ways. By far the two most typical are:

An existing city invites property owners to annex and the people vote.

Property owners **ask** a city to be annexed.

In either of these two scenarios, **a community is not forced** into annexation.

**I have learned**...Metro is here to stay. If your property is within the urban growth boundary, property development must comply with Metro's minimums.

**I have experienced**...significant tax increases. The return on my investment is dismal. Some believe we have gone too far to stop now. As a person who manages money, I believe that we need to stop investing good money after bad.

**I have observed**...Damascus become the battleground for Oregon's land use law. The extremists on either side will never allow the other to govern. After thousands of volunteer hours and millions of dollars spent, our city council chose not to refer a comprehensive plan to the ballot.

**What is the solution? Vote YES ON MEASURE 3-433.**

Let's start over. Those who want to live in unincorporated Clackamas County could. Those who may want to reincorporate could. But first, **Let's save our Damascus Community**.

Brian Gosney

*(This information furnished by CCD-Brian Gosney)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**Are you better off now than you were nine years ago?**

Ronald Reagan's famous campaign question sums up the situation for Damascus residents as we consider Disincorporation. Nine years of haggling and infighting, millions spent on consultants and public meetings, changes in City Council members until deadlock exists, and we still do not have a Comprehensive Plan. Meanwhile we pay taxes to fund the planning efforts and set up reserves for the day when we could build a city hall, parks, greenways, and other amenities of a small rural city. That day is nowhere in sight.

**It is time for the bickering and waste to end.**

Opponents of the measure will tell you that Disincorporation will make a multi-million dollar gift of our tax dollars to Clackamas County. This is unfortunately true. Those same persons were on the last Budget Committee and voted down my motions for a one-year city tax rate of \$0 per thousand until this Disincorporation measure was decided. That reduction would have allowed us to fund city operations with reserves, reducing the amount transferred to Clackamas County on Disincorporation. Every City Council member voted against the reduction.

Opponents say that Disincorporation will put us under Metro and Clackamas County control. What they do not say is that by state law we have always been under Metro and Clackamas County control. Whatever Comprehensive Plan we adopt must follow State land use laws, administered by Metro and Clackamas County. Becoming a city did not magically remove us from their control. It simply added another layer of expensive government to the layers already weighing us down.

Our dream was to create a city with rural character. We have seen that dream, and our community, shattered.

It is time to stop the waste. **Vote "YES" on M3-433.**

John Fromwiller, CPA  
Former Budget Committee member (nine years), Former Treasurer - Committee to Incorporate Damascus, Former Treasurer - Committee for the Future of Damascus

*(This information furnished by CCD - John Fromwiller)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Damascus Friends and Neighbors,

I have lived in Damascus for 51 years. I was born in Damascus and I will be buried in Damascus at the Pioneer Cemetery. Damascus has been my life. I have worked here, I have volunteered here, and I have served on City committees and planning groups.

We have reached a critical point in our history that we must end now. It has become our duty to end the chaos, the waste of our tax dollars, and look for other options.

The United States Declaration of Independence (Thomas Jefferson, July 4, 1776) states:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, **That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government**, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness”.

Damascus Citizens, please read this passage slowly and carefully. The declaration speaks for itself. When you insert the name “City of Damascus” into the phrase “Any Form Of Government” it is the right of the people to abolish it and institute new government. Please help the people by enacting our god given right handed to us by our forefathers and vote **Yes on Disincorporation**.

James Syring

51 year Resident of Damascus

*(This information furnished by CCD - Jim Syring)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We are in favor of Disincorporation of the City of Damascus. Many promises have been made to protect our “property rights”. In reality our property rights have been ignored in favor of those who wish to develop on steep and unstable slopes to benefit their own pocket books. The most vocal of the “property rights” advocates really mean “their property rights”, and to heck with their neighbors.

Our city is deadlocked, dysfunctional, and is incapable of constructive compromise. If we continue as a city we will only see more erosion of “property rights” in a quest for the almighty dollar. This quest will cost us taxpayers dearly. It has been 9 years with no comprehensive plan; do we really want to continue to fund this city for another 9 years? We have received no services or benefits for the \$600.00 per year that we have paid in property taxes. We can’t even get them to mail us a city newsletter!

Incorporation was “sold” to Damascus citizens as a way to protect us from big, bad, Metro. The reality is that Damascus, as well as all cities, must follow state law. We don’t need to be a city to follow state law; the county can accomplish this.

Development can’t occur in Damascus without costly infrastructure and our city charter prohibits Damascus from charging developers for the infrastructure. Why be a city? Citizens shouldn’t be paying for new services for developers.

Those who want to stay a city are still trying to scare us so they can “protect us” from big, bad Metro. They are also “scaring” us with the claim that Clackamas County will make Damascus an industrial wasteland. Industry goes where transportation and services are established, not to rural areas with no infrastructure.

Disincorporation will stop the scare tactics and we can go back to being a community.

**Please Vote ‘Yes’ on M3-433.**

Sincerely,  
Randy & Kathy Russell  
Damascus

*(This information furnished by CCD - Randy and Kathy Russell)*

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**Measure 3-433****ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**

I have been a resident in the Damascus area since early 1993. I did not vote to incorporate the city, but as the majority of my neighbors did, I decided to support that decision. Three years ago the City Council presented a map that changed my zoning from residential to employment. I tried to talk to City Staff and appeared in front of the Council to ask that they explain why they chose to do this. No answers were given.

At that time, I realized I needed to get involved with the City and applied to join the Committee for Citizen Involvement. I served on the Committee, eventually becoming Vice Chair. I enjoyed serving with the CCI as we held a series of Town Halls over the last several years, but the more informed I became with City politics the more disturbed I found myself. My taxes continue to go up and no city services are provided. The City Council is totally dysfunctional, self-serving, and in no way represent the citizens they were elected to serve.

The choice to fire our seventh City Manger in nine years, with no reason stated, no public input, and behind closed doors, moved me to resign from the CCI. I could no longer represent the citizens with integrity. We are a wonderful Community and I will continue to work to bring the Community together serving as Vice Chair for our local non-profit. **But the city must go.**

I urge you to vote for the Disincorporation of the City of Damascus. The terrible waste of our tax dollars by the City is unacceptable. With Disincorporation, our city property taxes will be eliminated, we will return to being in Clackamas County, and we can get back to being a strong, quiet, rural community.

Please join me in ending the nightmare the **Damascus city government** has become.

**Vote 'YES' on M3-433!**

**Sharon Huffman**

**Former Vice Chair-Committee for Citizen Involvement**

*(This information furnished by CCD-Sharon Huffman)*

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**Measure 3-433****ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**

When I was young, my community was finally "growing up" – things were being built, improvements were being installed, "dead" areas were being renovated and (much like here), the new freeway had finally cleared all the hurdles and we were finally going to be connected to the places we needed to go.

But there was one guy who fought it all. He didn't like the improvements, he didn't like being connected to anything, he didn't like change. He refused to sell his lot for any price, showed up to argue at every meeting, told everyone how the city was going to be ruined and become a cesspool, etc. Eventually, he succeeded in alienating everyone, including his neighbors and everything just had to build around him. It was a sadly comical site – a small, darkly painted, old house, sitting like an island with the rest of the community finding its identity in the modern world, just beyond his fences.

I'm sure that up to the day he died, he thought that he had "won". But, if you go back there now, you can't see anything of his legacy, and you can't find anyone who remembers his name or his "message". All you see is the community he had once spurned; healthy and happy, now free of the anchor he had forced them to drag along.

I'm seeing something similar in the City of Damascus. Public agencies are treated as if their sole purpose is to destroy us; articles in regional newspapers discuss our issues with derision and cynicism; and debates have degraded into "it's our way or the highway"

These problems did not exist when we were still under County control.

I'm tired of my taxes funding a City who can only argue and alienate. I prefer my taxes funding a **community** that works together for common goals, even if it means disincorporating.

**Join me in voting "Yes" on M3-433.**

Beau Williams

Damascus Citizen

*(This information furnished by CCD-Beau Williams)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Clackamas County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.*

## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**Yes On M3-433!**

It is time to admit that the City of Damascus has become a failed, expensive expedition. Many of us have spent a lot of time, and all Damascans have spent a lot of money, trying to plan a future city. Yet the city we endlessly plan keeps receding into the distance like a desert mirage. We think we see water, an oasis perhaps. We struggle over the next barren dune only to find more sand, more rocks, no water, and no city.

For nine long years we have wandered the desert. We tried this route and that route. We are told by what is left of City Hall that if we only go over one more dune, we will find our oasis.

Yet right at the moment when we seem to have a plan most of us agreed on, the City Council pushes out the City Manager, lays off staff, fails to adopt a plan, and points us in a completely different direction.

Thanks but no thanks. Every year and dollar we waste on this journey is time and money we will never get back.

We never wanted this journey. We were happy with the **Damascus Community** we had. A beautiful tapestry of valley farms, forested hills, and scattered subdivisions that most in the Portland area envy. It wasn't our choice to make a city here. Why should we keep paying for change we didn't want in the first place?

We have an opportunity right now to end this expensive city and save **our community**. This chance is not likely to come around again. Let's vote to disincorporate and make those who want a city here pay for it and make it happen. Put the onus on them while we return to our rural lives.

**Stop throwing good money and time after bad.**

**Please join us in voting YES on M3-433 to end this journey through the desert.**

*(This information furnished by Chris Hawes, Citizens Committee for Disincorporation)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Continuously divisive, dysfunction city politics have finally compelled me to support the effort to disincorporate Damascus.

Although the original supporters of incorporation meant well, we incorporated for the wrong reasons; mostly as a reaction to being brought into the UGB and fears of "becoming like Happy Valley." There was a naïve belief that local control meant we still wouldn't have to answer to state, regional, and county planning.

Although most people moved here to avoid being within a city, we are still called to be in community. Community projects and activities have gone on in Damascus for over 100 years. They began before we were incorporated and will continue after we disincorporate. The Day in Damascus, weekly farmer's markets, Good Morning Damascus, Centennial Park, plus all the local school and church community events will continue regardless.

We don't need to be a city to be a **community**. The era of incorporation has only diminished that inherent sense of support as neighbors and congregations are split by politics. Once that tension ends we can begin to heal the divisions and return to being a rural community.

Disincorporation will allow tempers to cool, negative memories to fade. It will deprive political opponents the opportunity to belittle, defame, and discredit others at City Council meetings. The allegations about immediate industrialization will also fade as people realize that there is no infrastructure to support large construction. And that the local topography and the associated costs will prevent urbanization for decades to come.

I urge you to read the other letters supporting disincorporation, along with those against it, and determine for yourself who genuinely has the **community's** best interests at heart. Then please vote. We need a large turnout to end Metro's "failed experiment" and allow us to return to being the **caring rural community** we once were.

**Please Vote 'YES' on M3-433!**

**Louise Neilson  
Damascus Resident**

*(This information furnished by CCD-Louise Neilson)*

*The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Clackamas County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.*

## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Dear Citizens of Damascus,  
If we disincorporate we will have...

**NO** voice in the future of our community - **NONE!**

**NO** input on Metro's high density Stack-N-Pack apartment cities!

**NO** control in the multiple times more industrial lands than any city draft plan to date. Metro's 2013 Concept Map makes this abundantly clear. Your voice? - **Zero.**

**NO** current level of police protection to protect us without a significant tax increases if we disincorporate - effectively minimizing any perceived tax reduction.

**NO** voice in our wonderful community having any special consideration from the county and Metro? - none!

**NO** stopping the Damascus area as the next **INDUSTRIAL FRONTIER** as shown on Metro's 2013 Growth Map.

**NO** property rights protections, again no voice, and no city charter!

**NO** compensation for the regulatory taking of private property, just ask Boring, again no city charter!

**NO** voice on "increased taxes, charges or fees without your vote", again no city charter!

**NO** protections without being a city, there are reasons some citizens in Boring are considering **incorporating as a city** and being removed from Metro's jurisdiction.

**NO** city charter that will stop this nonsense!

**NO** significant tax savings! Add higher county tax rates for unincorporated areas, maintaining the same level of police services, the transfer of the city's \$5.5 million cash assets, the city's \$2 million fixed assets distributed outside of Damascus and of course the county's SDC charges on top of that! Any real savings? Minimal if any.

**NO reasons why these same pro Metro tax and spend people want to disincorporate - other than to remove the best limited government property rights city charter in Oregon!**

Please don't let nine years, tens of thousands of volunteer hours and millions of your tax dollars go to waste. And please don't let us succumb to Metro's high density Stack-N-Pack Portland Creep agenda that will ruin our community!

**NO** on 3-433, Stop the disincorporation of our city.

Steve Spinnett, Mayor, City of Damascus

*(This information furnished by Mayor Steve Spinnett)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

On the subject of preserving or abolishing our city and specifically the short and long term impact our vote will have on our beautiful city, our individual and communal land – property stewardship, financial and family management concerns – I sense my over riding appreciation for the value of a local voice. As cynical as it is, my vote will not be based primarily on what appears best for us individually and collectively but rather what is least bad or restrictive. My general premise is that the larger a jurisdictional domain, the less say each individual citizen has on impacting and voicing his/her opinions and any action requested. For example, if I have a specific concern about my tree farm management I will be listened to most attentively and respectfully by our own city council rather than addressing my views to the maze of Metro, Clackamas County, the state bureaucracy or up the line to the federal government. The revised comprehensive plan permits more latitude and discretion of land use, stewardship, and establishment of family legacy. Like most citizens of Damascus, I am a property owner who lives on my property. I appreciate the plan's safeguards against mismanagement and disregard of community interests. Laws, ordinances and codes are established to maintain our constitutional rights, protection from abusive and destructive behavior, and maintenance of social order. This is, in my strong opinion, best achieved locally through the jurisdictional management of our community, the city of Damascus, and not enveloped by a larger venue. I vote to keep Damascus intact. I vote NO to ballot number 3-433.

Lawrence Franks, M.D.

*(This information furnished by Lawrence Franks, M.D)*

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# Measure 3-433

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

### Vote No

#### Measure 3-433 Road to Nowhere

#### Don't surrender your property rights!

Right now our city hall does not have the right to enact land use regulations that diminish fair market value of your property without full monetary compensation to the property owner. This is a protection in our City Charter. Do you feel comfortable giving that up? **We don't!**

#### No caving in to Clackamas County and Metro's hunger for Industrial Land!

The County and Metro are in dire need of heavy industrial lands. Upon disincorporation Damascus would be open to forced replacement of some residential neighborhoods into apartment and industrial sections.

#### Enough taxing and spending!

The disincorporation proponents will boast about property taxes being lower by disincorporation. But up front, upon disincorporation, the County will require **our taxpayers to turn over \$7 million dollars of cash and property** to the County. Give millions now to save some in the future? There are no guarantees that Clackamas County and Metro will ignore the bounty of Damascus resources. Clackamas County and Metro are deep in debt and need a lot more money. Our City has the protection of a spending limit year to year. We have **NO DEBT** as a City.

#### No to giving up the quality of Police service!

Right now we have a City Police Department. Our Budget Committee, with the approval of your city council, allocates the level of police protection the City is to receive for each coming fiscal year. Besides cost, we look at what is required for area coverage and response time. If disincorporation occurs, we will go to Clackamas unincorporated coverage and response time. And the County will increase property tax to cover that.

#### Vote NO on 3-433 Road to Nowhere

Bill Wehr, Damascus City Councilor  
Yvonne K. Wehr  
Mel O'Brien, Damascus City Councilor  
Jane M. O'Brien

*(This information furnished by Bill Wehr / Yvonne Wehr / Mel O'Brien)*

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# Measure 3-433

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

### Five Good Reasons

Over the last few months several have taken the view that the only way forward for Damascus is to go backward, to kill it. They ask: Why should Damascus stay a City?

There are five good reasons why disincorporation is not a good idea. (1) Lower taxes. The City Council is now considering the lowering of everyone's tax rate below the present \$3.10 per thousand. (2) Change the Charter. There is a growing consensus that the restrictive amendments to our City Charter, that hobble, not help, our City, should and can be modified. (3) Preserve much of our rural setting by protecting existing farms in our special Comprehensive Plan. Without a City, neighboring cities (Happy Valley; Gresham) will be free to annex substantial portions of Damascus, and they provide no rural atmosphere. (4) Protect the environment and natural resources as few other cities have done. Our Comprehensive Plan calls for every residential and business development to set aside perpetual open space; it fixes substantial setback from streams; and property owners so affected will be compensated equitably. (5) Control our own character and destiny. There will be special provision for home businesses and auxiliary housing. If the City disincorporates, outside, unknown forces of County and State government and Metro will determine our taxes, our density and zoning, our level of police protection, where new roads and parks will go, how and where development occurs, and whether we protect our natural resources. We will have no local government to appeal to.

We are forming a special City not just for ourselves but for our children and grandchildren. A new Comprehensive Plan is within our grasp. Let's not throw away millions of dollars, and thousands of hours of toil after having once begun. Patience reminds us that it's always too early to give up, to quit.

Citizens for Moving Damascus Forward. Richard Johnson, director; Keith Pugh, treasurer; James and Pat De Young; and others.

*(This information furnished by Richard Johnson, Keith H. Pugh, Citizens for Moving Damascus Forward)*

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# Measure 3-433

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Argument in opposition to 3-433  
By Daniel Phegley

All agree that disincorporation will transfer city assets of about \$5.2 Million in cash and another \$1.8 million in saleable property to a county struggling to pay for light rail.

As the NorthWest Connection pointed out in a september page one article, **“It seems a funny way to save taxpayers money by first throwing away \$7 million.”**

“If saving taxpayers money is the goal of dis-incorporation why not first return at least some of the city cash to taxpayers? Or, why not simply lower the tax rate?”

**These options are allowed by our City Charter.**

**But this measure will give all 7 plus million away.**

Ironically the dis-incorporation movement claims the city spending limit is why we need to dis-incorporate. **This section of the charter specifically allows the city to return tax funds while neither the county or Metro have such a provision.**

All savings to be had in dis-incorporation depend on Metro and Clackamas County not raising taxes, while both are deeply in debt.

**The folks wanting to dis-incorporate Damascus have often claimed that the state will mandate a plan if we do not quickly pass one but, this has proven to be another false claim.**

For residents of Damascus, **your Home Rule City Charter is literally the only law guaranteeing that you get a voice in the taxation and planning process.** While you do not need to be a city to have Metro plan your future, only a city can stand up to their dictates.

Do we really want the folks that tried to make us pay for the Sellwood Bridge dictating our future?

Spending 7 million dollars to have Metro and Clackamas County do our planning, taxing and voting for us, certainly seems absurd.

Don't pay millions to have the county and Metro do your voting !

**VOTE NO ON 3-433**

*(This information furnished by Daniel Phegley)*

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# Measure 3-433

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Should Damascus remain a city? I recommend local control where ever possible. My experience in Oregon has taught me that local government is superior to regional government. To this end I support keeping Damascus as a city. I believe the Founding Fathers would have agreed as well.

**“Here, sir, the people govern; here they act by their immediate representatives.”** – Alexander Hamilton

If you do not have local control from your own city, the homes in your area will be constantly in play to be annexed for revenue by other cities needing the “clients” to pay for their projects.

**“The rights of persons, and the rights of property, are the objects, for the protection of which Government was instituted.”** - James Madison

This quote is the defining reason why Damascus was incorporated in 2004. Damascus was incorporated to protect your property rights. It should be preserved for this same reason.

To dissolve the city, moving control to Clackamas County and Metro will not improve the result it will just move the meetings effecting Damascus' future to conference rooms at Clackamas County's Oregon City offices. The government that answers closest to the voters governs best.

**“My reading of history convinces me that most bad government results from too much government.”** - Thomas Jefferson

Cities exist for a reason. To retain Damascus as a city government, will mean less complexity and therefore less government in your life. You will have local control removing the several layers of Metro and Clackamas County.

Protect Local Control. Protect YOUR Property Rights. Retain Damascus!

I urge you to vote NO on 3-433.

I urge you to keep future decision making local in Damascus.

Mark Fitz  
Damascus Resident  
Planning Commissioner, Volunteer

*(This information furnished by Mark Fitz,  
Damascus Planning Commission)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Dear Damascus residents,

Your young city deserves to not only survive but to grow in ways you decide. I have heard many times in my political life about the struggle to keep hold of local control and self determination without big government interfering.

As one of your Clackamas County Commissioners, I feel obligated to share my concerns and my county perspective on what may be best for the City of Damascus.

In considering the impacts of dis-incorporation and my role in governing the county, I can say with confidence that a NO vote will best serve your community.

In stark contrast, surrendering your city with a YES vote on dis-incorporation, will result in county and regional interests guiding and likely determining the destiny of your community.

Although our county and regional governments strive to accommodate the needs of local communities, these county and regional interests often involve priorities which devalue or even conflict with local desires and plans. The most powerful way for your residents to protect and advocate for your local interests is to preserve and strengthen your city. Not abandon it.

The county alone is not sufficient to either support your local needs or replace what dis-incorporation will sacrifice.

As with all other Clackamas County cities, Damascus should continue to work toward a future your residents envision while partnering with county and regional bodies.

I am very aware of the many difficulties and turmoil you have faced while amending your city charter and crafting your comprehensive plans. But you are not alone in these municipal struggles. Most other cities continually face similar conflicts. These challenges have always been part of the municipal process and should not be used as a means to terminate any Clackamas County city.

Please vote NO on Dis-incorporation and keep your local control.

I believe you will come to realize that keeping your city is good for Damascus and the Clackamas County.

Tootie Smith, Clackamas County Commissioner

*(This information furnished by Tootie Smith)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Dear Damascus voters,

Save your city.

As a fellow Clackamas County resident, a proponent of local control and the Chair of Clackamas County, I feel obligated to provide my perspective on your upcoming vote on Dis-Incorporation.

I recognize Damascus has been working through a lengthy (sometimes contentious) process to determine the destiny of your new city. Disagreements on what that destiny should look like have delayed the adoption of a comprehensive Plan and the control it would provide.

However, I also recognize that many of the disagreements and delays will ultimately be shown to have been a healthy process of achieving the best comp plan possible.

It is important to get a plan approved by voters sooner, rather than later. I believe the current effort to amend the latest draft and take it directly to the voters will soon be successful and appreciated by most Damascus voters. By removing the most excessive and rigid provisions while providing ample property rights and environmental protections, Damascus will be able to grow with the flexibility, density, and pace that it's residents most prefer. I believe your voters will give overwhelming approval to that plan soon.

This is no time to quit. By retaining your city charter (and quickly passing a plan) Damascus will preserve local control and enjoy the highest potential for becoming a healthy city.

A very concerning detriment to quitting is the projected loss of **“just over \$1 million from Damascus for law enforcement services”**, according to county staff.

As the Clackamas County Chair I recently voted to approve this year's Sheriff Office budget. I can easily anticipate great challenges to Damascus if Dis-Incorporation passes and area residents wish to restore their law enforcement levels to the protection they currently enjoy.

You want to preserve your self-determination and voice about growth.

Don't give it up because others say you have to!

Vote NO on Dis-Incorporation.

Save your city!

John Ludlow, Clackamas County Chair

*(This information furnished by John Ludlow)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

The P.O.L.I.C.E PAC and Clackamas County Sheriff Craig Roberts urge you to vote "NO" on Measure 3-433, in order to preserve the enhanced level of police protection currently provided to the City of Damascus.

Since becoming an incorporated city, Damascus has contracted with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office to provide law enforcement services for the community, much like Wilsonville and Happy Valley. This arrangement has made it possible for the sheriff's office to assign four and a half deputies to Damascus full time.

They drive City of Damascus patrol cars and wearing City of Damascus uniforms, but what matters most is the relationships that these police officers build with the community. Working every day in Damascus, they get to know the neighborhoods and the local businesses. They know who belongs in the community, and when a stranger is on the prowl.

These personal connections are just as important as the number of deputies who are dedicated to the city, but the citizens of Damascus will lose both if Measure 3-433 passes on November 5.

Regardless of the outcome, Sheriff Craig Roberts and the members of the Clackamas County Peace Officers' Association are committed to providing the highest level of protection possible to the local community. However, if Damascus once again becomes unincorporated county land, it will only receive a basic level of patrol services from deputies assigned to cover a much larger territory.

So that you can continue to receive a high level of law enforcement from dedicated police officers who know the community, now and in the future, vote "NO on Measure 3-433.

*(Tis information furnished by Steve Thoroughman, Craig Roberts, Peace Officers Lobbying in Common Effort)*

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## Measure 3-433

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Dear Damascus Voters,

As elected city councilors and citizens of Clackamas County, we have observed contentious issues which have, on occasion, seemed insurmountable. Even when we differ on issues, collectively our city council and our citizens want what is best for our community. Yes, politics can be "messy," but persistence moves us through some issues, while others require re-examination of underlying goals and priorities.

Although difficult at times, the city government structure provides your community with the benefit of self-determination. It is hard to imagine having the County or Metro resolving differences and guiding your community if Damascus were to dis-incorporate.

It is not our intention to interfere, but rather to simply offer our experience as a reminder that you are not alone in having internal disagreements. A certain amount of turmoil is not unusual during a city's growth cycle.

Other cities, both in Clackamas County and elsewhere, have faced obstacles to smooth growth and progress. We are confident that essentially all of those cities would join us in encouraging Damascus to stay the course.

Preserve your city and its immense potential. Preserve your local control.

The city of Damascus is important to the future of Clackamas County.

Please vote NO on dis-incorporation.

Sincerely,

Karen Bowerman – City Councilor, Lake Oswego

Mary Olson – Former City Councilor, Lake Oswego

*(This information furnished by Karen Bowerman & Mary Olson)*

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# Measure 26-153

## **CAPTION: 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 filed in favor or opposition to this measure.*