



Proposed Health, Safety and Modernization Bond Talking Points

- **Aging Schools Need Repair and Upgrades:** The safety of our schools has been at the front of all of our minds since last summer, when Portland Public Schools investigated health and safety needs across the district, in eleven areas, from lead in drinking water to radon.
 - Lead testing showed that most schools have cold water fixtures above the EPA action level.
 - They found that many roofs are beyond their useful life and some leak frequently, and that fire alarm and sprinkler systems at most schools are inadequate.
 - The cost of fully mitigating all eleven health and safety areas is approximately \$1.6 billion. Full details of these health and safety issues are documented at www.pps.net/bond2017.
- **Board Bond Referral:** This spring, the Portland Public Schools Board of Education voted unanimously to refer a \$790 million capital construction bond to the May 16 ballot.
- **Renovations and Additions:** If passed, the bond would renovate Benson and Madison High Schools, rebuild Lincoln High School and Kellogg Middle School, and fund at least \$150 million in district-wide health and safety projects, addressing critical needs at every school.
- **Planning for Next Schools:** If approved, this bond would also fund planning for the three remaining high schools to be modernized: Jefferson, Cleveland and Wilson.
- **Bond Measures Can Only Pay for Construction Projects:** By law, money raised through capital construction bond measures can only go toward these purposes.

- **Every School Reached:** If passed, funding from this bond would touch every school in the district, resolving many of the priority health and safety needs.
 - While this proposed bond would not address the full \$1.6 billion in health and safety needs, issues of lead in water and in paint, plus radon, would be fully addressed at every affected school if the bond is approved.
 - Most exposed asbestos would be removed or encapsulated. Many leaking or deteriorating roofs would be repaired or replaced. Access for people with disabilities would be improved with approximately \$10 million in proposed projects. Fire alarm and/or sprinkler systems would be upgraded at many schools, and some schools would see security improvements.
- **If the Proposed Bond Doesn't Pass:** If the proposed bond doesn't pass, PPS will continue to respond to health and safety emergencies and take steps to make sure schools remain safe. But, PPS will not have funding available to embark on significant long-term mitigation of these hazards.
- **Estimated Cost if Bond Passes:** The proposed \$790 million bond, if passed, is estimated to cost an average of \$0.68 per \$1,000 of assessed value over the 30-year life of the bond. For a house assessed at \$200,000, the initial annual cost would be about \$280; the overall average cost is \$136 annually.
- **Accountability:** As with the 2012 capital improvement bond, an independent group of citizens from the community will review quarterly reports and audits of how the bond dollars are being spent to provide accountability to the public until construction is complete.
- **Ballots Mailed:** Ballots go out in late April and are due on May 16.
- **For More Information:** For more information about the proposed Health, Safety and Modernization bond measure, please visit www.pps.net/bond2017
- However you choose to vote, I encourage you to vote in this election and in every election.