



## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Why was the bond measure referred to voters?

Sutherlin School District is currently proposing a bond measure that, if passed, would address safety, security, and maintenance projects in schools throughout the district, and construct a new 400-student intermediate school to serve 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students north of the district offices on Umatilla Street to replace West Intermediate School. If passed, this bond measure would cost an estimated \$22 million and would cost property taxpayers an estimated \$1.29 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Working with Soderstrom Architects, the District has evaluated projects that would be completed at the West Intermediate School related to its replacement or repair. West was built in 1953, with the most recent improvements added in 1999. The estimate for repairing the school would be approximately \$21 million, while a new school is estimated to cost approximately \$23 million. The proposed new school would be built north of the District offices, putting all of the school campuses within close proximity of one another and all on the same side of the railroad tracks for safety.

At the time of their construction, the campuses and facilities in the Sutherlin School District were not designed to current security standards. The current High School, Middle School and West Intermediate campuses were designed to be open to the students and community. This design provides many points of access and creates a physical environment that is difficult to monitor for safety or lock down effectively. East Primary is considered the most secure campus in the district.

If the levy passes, the projects the Sutherlin School Board has identified would improve safety and security for students, teachers, and staff, and energy efficiency throughout the district. Generally speaking, the projects would be meant to extend the life of the district's resources.

### 2. What are the proposed projects?

If the levy passes, the projects identified by the Sutherlin School Board are:

- Replace West Intermediate School with a new, two-story, academic building on district owned property on Umatilla Street;
- Complete repair and maintenance projects on buildings district-wide, including, but not limited to, roofing, paint, and siding;
- Construct secure entryways, with fencing and camera systems to increase safety for students and staff;
- Replace windows to improve energy efficiency;
- And, improve communications systems between buildings for safety;

If passed, the current tax rate would change to \$1.29 per \$1,000 of assessed value. If the levy is not passed, the tax would not go into effect and the projects would not be completed.

Sutherlin School District  
Proposed General Obligation Bond Levy - May 2020

**3. What dollar amount is proposed for the G.O. Bond?**

If the measure passes, taxpayers would pay a total of \$22 million over 30 years. The current proposal includes the recently awarded OSCIM (Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching Program) “matching” grant from the State of Oregon for \$4 million. If the G.O. Bond is passed by voters, Sutherlin School District would receive the matching funds to assist with the proposed projects.

**4. If passed, how many years would the G.O. Bond be in place before it matures?**

The current proposal is based on a 30-year bond maturity timeline.

**5. When would the proposed Bond Levy begin?**

If passed, the proposed bond would go into effect in January of 2021.

**6. How much would it cost if the proposed bond levy were to pass?**

If passed, the current tax rate would change to \$1.29 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

As an example, a property owner inside the Sutherlin School District with an assessed value of \$100,000 would pay a total of approximately \$129 per year, or an additional \$10.75 per month, if the levy passes. A property owner inside the Sutherlin School District with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay a total of approximately \$258 per year, or an additional \$21.50 per month. If the levy is not passed, the tax would not go into effect and the projects would not be completed.

**7. Why were these projects proposed? What about the Career Technical Education (CTE)/vocational program facilities?**

The state of Oregon is helping school districts fund CTE program improvements through Measure 98, which was approved by voters in 2016. The Sutherlin School District is currently in the process of using Measure 98 funding to improve CTE programs. Those funds have allowed Sutherlin to build a new agricultural science building and purchase a modern dust collection systems for the wood shop. Because of Measure 98 funding, the Sutherlin School District can use bond levy revenue to address other projects.

**8. Can bond levy funds be used to provide pay raises for School Administrators or other school employees?**

State law prevents the bond funds from being spent on salaries for teachers or administrators.

**9. What is the difference between appraised value and assessed value?**

Assessed and appraised values define the worth of a home slightly differently from each other. Assessed values represent what the county uses to determine property taxes while the appraised value is a current market valuation, often used during the home sale process. To determine the assessed value of your home, visit [http://www.co.douglas.or.us/puboaa/puboaa\\_search.asp](http://www.co.douglas.or.us/puboaa/puboaa_search.asp)

**10. What is a General Obligation Bond (G.O. Bond)?**

G.O. Bonds are tax levies that, if passed by voters, would allow school districts, community colleges, cities, and counties to fund capital improvement projects that otherwise could not be completed with general fund dollars. G.O. Bonds decided in May or November elections are approved or failed on a majority vote. ‘Double majority’ approval is not necessary in Primary or General Elections in the state of Oregon.