

Measure 26-259 / Portland School District 1J

Ballot Title

Bonds to Improve Health, Safety, and Learning; Modernize, Repair Schools

**QUESTION:** Shall Portland Public Schools repair, modernize schools; increase health, safety; by issuing bonds estimated to maintain current tax rate?

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:** Measure authorizes up to \$1.83 billion in principal amount of general obligation bonds for facilities and education investments.

If approved, this measure would finance capital costs, including:

**Update, Repair Aging Elementary and Middle Schools:**

- Update/replace major building systems, including roofs, siding, heating/cooling

**Make Schools Safe and Secure:**

- Update safety, security systems
- Seismic upgrades

**Modernize, Improve Educational Materials, Technology and Schools:**

- Renovate/replace schools, including Cleveland, Ida B. Wells (formerly Wilson)
- Upgrade curriculum materials, technology, including student devices

**Increase Extracurricular Opportunities:**

- Upgrade/expand high school athletic facilities; create district-wide athletic hubs at Jackson, Marshall
- Update high school performing arts/theater facilities

Requires community accountability/oversight; independent audits of projects and expenditures

Bonds may be issued in one or more series, each series maturing in 30 years or less.

Due to declining debt service, measure is not expected to increase PPS’s bond tax rate above \$2.50/\$1,000 assessed value, the rate that has been targeted since 2017 bond. Actual rates may differ based on interest rates and changes in assessed value.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

If approved, this measure will allow Portland Public Schools to continue to prioritize schools in need of large-scale repairs and replacements to address safety hazards and to fix failing infrastructure.

This measure is not expected to increase tax rates above the level targeted by the 2017 bond. In 2012, 2017, and 2020, voters approved capital bonds that funded improvements to many of Portland Public Schools’s aging buildings, creating modern, safer places for students to learn. Since 2012, the bond program has fully modernized eight schools, with three more under design. In addition, the bond program has addressed some of the infrastructure needs at every school throughout the District.

Prior investments include:

- Roosevelt, McDaniel, Franklin, Grant, Benson, and Lincoln High Schools, Kellogg Middle School, Faubion PK-8, and the Multiple Pathways to Graduation building were fully modernized.
- Full modernizations of Jefferson, Ida B. Wells, and Cleveland High Schools are in design.
- Health and safety improvements, including:
  - Replacing plumbing to reduce lead and improve water quality;
  - Removing or encapsulating exposed lead paint and asbestos;

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- Upgrading fire alarm and sprinkler systems;
- Repairing or replacing leaking or deteriorating roofs;
- Mitigating radon exposure;
- Strengthening school safety and security.
- Educational improvements, including:
  - Upgrading science labs;
  - Enhancing technology;
  - New curriculum materials.
- Accessibility improvements for children and adults with disabilities.

## What Would the Proposed 2025 Bond Fund?

If approved, bond funding would address additional building, health, safety, and learning needs in schools across the District, while continuing PPS’s plan to comprehensively address facility needs by improving all of our schools over the long term.

If approved, the bond funds will:

### **Update and Repair Aging Elementary and Middle Schools:**

- Update or replace leaking or deteriorating school roofs, mechanical systems (heating and cooling), and other building repairs

### **Make Schools Safe and Secure:**

- Update safety and security systems - including additional cameras, fencing to protect students and staff
- Seismic upgrades

### **Modernize, Improve Educational Materials, Technology, Schools:**

- Renovate/replace Cleveland and Ida B. Wells (formerly Wilson) High Schools
- Utilize any high school improvement cost savings to update/repair elementary and middle schools
- Provide comprehensive, culturally relevant, and current curriculum materials across core and supplemental subject areas
- Replace or provide student tablets and laptops to provide equitable access to classroom learning, and update classroom and District technology

### **Increase Extracurricular Opportunities:**

- Upgrade athletic facilities, including needed improvements for Roosevelt, Lincoln, Franklin and Grant and create athletic hub facilities at Jackson Middle School and Marshall campus.
- Update high school performing arts/theater facilities.

## What Would the Bonds Cost?

Because the tax rate on existing bonds is scheduled to decline, PPS’s bond tax rate is not expected to exceed the previous estimate of \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The total principal amount of bonds authorized by this measure cannot exceed \$1.83 billion.

## Oversight and Accountability

An independent group of community members will review quarterly reports and audits of how the bond dollars are being spent to provide accountability to the public until construction is completed.

### **Submitted by:**

*Dr. Kimberlee Armstrong, Superintendent  
Portland Public Schools*

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

VOTE YES ON THE \$1.38 BILLION MYSTERY LOOT CRATE

VOTE YES for the biggest property tax measure in Oregon history!

VOTE YES to give PPS a blank check!

VOTE YES for the most expensive schools built in the country!

VOTE YES for bigger schools for shrinking enrollment!

VOTE YES for millions of dollars of cost overruns!

VOTE YES for months—or years—of construction delays!

VOTE YES for no accountability and no community input!

Portland voters, let’s throw \$1.83 billion at PPS’s latest fever dream!

Why? Because nothing says “responsible education” like building the most expensive schools in the country while **slashing classroom budgets!** Now, that’s what we call leadership.

Enrollment dropping? No problem!

**We’ll build for 15,200 students when we only expect 11,000.** Willamette Week says, “Portland Public Schools has a math problem,” while the PPS board chair says, “We’re building them for the next 100 years.” (Willamette Week, 3/19/2025) In 100 years, we’ll all be dead!

Sure, PPS has a track record of broken promises and ballooning costs. But who doesn’t love a good mystery?

**Jefferson High School’s budget went from \$311 million to \$491 million without laying a single brick.** How did that happen? It’s a mystery!

So, vote YES on this bond because nothing says “It’s for the children” quite like bankrupting taxpayers to build half-empty schools!

*(This information furnished by Eric Fruits)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Renew the PPS Bond

MEASURE 26-259 CONTINUES OUR COMMUNITY’S COMMITMENT TO PPS SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

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## RENEW - No Increase in Tax Rates - Your Tax Rate Stay the Same

Portland has a proud history of investing in its public schools. By voting **YES** on the **2025 PPS Bond**, we can continue modernizing and improving our schools—ensuring they are **safe, strong, and built to support student success**.

## SECURE - WITHOUT RAISING EXISTING TAX RATES

**IMPROVES HEALTH, SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY:** Schools should be safe and accessible for all students. This bond funds **seismic reinforcements, security upgrades, fire safety improvements, and new elevators** to enhance accessibility.

## REPAIR & MODERNIZE - WITHOUT RAISING EXISTING TAX RATES

**FUNDS NEW CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION:** With major school renovations completed or underway from previous bonds, the 2025 PPS Bond will continue this work—fully modernizing **Cleveland and Ida B. Wells High Schools**, completing **Jefferson High School**, and beginning upgrades to **elementary and middle schools** across the district. This bond will provide **\$1.15 billion** toward these critical improvements.

## EDUCATE - WITHOUT RAISING EXISTING TAX RATES

**EXPANDS EDUCATIONAL & EXTRACURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES:** Our students deserve modern learning tools and spaces. The bond dedicates **\$321 million** to **new textbooks, technology, revitalized auditoriums, upgraded performing arts spaces, and improved athletic facilities** at Grant, Roosevelt, Lincoln, and new district-wide sports hubs.

**Please join hundreds of parents, teachers, and community leaders.**

**Let’s Renew the School Bond.**

*(This information furnished by Tony Morse – Portlanders for Safe and Healthy Schools)*

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## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### **Business Leaders: Investing in Schools is Investing in Our Economy**

#### **MEASURE 26-259: A Smart Investment in Economic Growth**

Portland business leaders understand the direct connection between strong schools and a thriving, successful city. Great schools support local businesses, attract new industries, and help build a skilled workforce for the future.

The local business community urges you to vote **YES** on the **2025 PPS Bond**—a critical investment in both our schools and our economy.

### **Strong Schools, Strong Economy**

Quality public schools are essential for developing a strong workforce, fostering



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economic growth, and preparing students for future careers. This bond will create immediate jobs in construction, manufacturing, and design while ensuring a well-educated workforce for generations to come.

## A \$1.8 Billion Economic Development Engine

Measure 26-259 is a major investment in our local economy. The \$1.8 billion bond will keep local businesses working over the next decade—particularly in the construction sector, which is vital to Portland’s economic health.

## No Increase to Existing Tax Rates—Accountability for Every Dollar

This bond renews the current tax rate with no rate increase for taxpayers. It also includes strong financial oversight through independent audits and a community-led Bond Accountability Committee to ensure responsible spending.

Portland’s business community stands behind this investment in our economy and future workforce. Join us in voting YES!

Measure 26-259 is endorsed by PORTLAND METRO CHAMBER. VOTE YES!

The Portland Metro Chamber represents businesses of all sizes across the region and has been a champion of Portland’s economy for over 150 years.

*(This information furnished by Eddie Wang, Chair - Portland Public Schools Board of Education)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Parents, PTA’s Across the City & Portland Council PTA: Vote YES for Our Schools

The **Portland Council PTA** urges you to **Vote YES on the 2025 PPS Bond!** Parents, teachers, and community members have worked tirelessly to ensure all children have access to safe and high-quality schools. This bond will continue that progress. We are in our children’s schools every day and see the impact that our out-of-date, older buildings (some over 100 years old!) have on our children’s ability to learn.

We need to improve the conditions our children learn in.

A **YES vote** means:

- **Safer schools** with seismic reinforcements, fire safety upgrades, and security improvements.
- **Modernized classrooms** with new books, technology, and learning materials.
- **Renovated high schools**—completing Jefferson and modernizing Ida B. Wells & Cleveland.
- **Upgraded athletics and arts spaces** to support student development.

**This bond does all of this without raising tax rates!**

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Join parents across Portland—Vote YES for our students’ future!

## Portland Council PTA

- Abernethy Elementary PTA
- Alameda Elementary PTA
- Atkinson Elementary PTA
- Bridlemile Elementary PTA
- César Chávez Elementary PTA
- Cleveland High School PTA
- Duniway Elementary PTA
- Faubion Community PTA
- Franklin High PTSA
- Glencoe Elementary PTA
- Grant High PTA
- Harriet Tubman Middle PTA
- Hayhurst Elementary PTA
- Ida B. Wells High PTA
- Jackson Middle PTA
- Kellogg Middle PTSA
- Lane Middle PTA
- Lent Elementary PTA
- Lewis Elementary PTA
- Friends of Lincoln High
- McDaniel High Parent Symth Lai
- Richmond Elementary PTA
- Rieke Elementary PTA
- Rigler Elementary PTA
- Robert Gray Middle PTA
- Roseway Heights Middle Parent Symth Lai
- Sellwood Middle School PTA
- Sunnyside Environmental PTSA
- Vernon PTA Executive Board
- Vestal Elementary PTA
- Winterhaven School PTSA
- Woodlawn Elementary Parent Rachelle Chase-Miller
- Woodmere Elementary Parents Group
- Woodstock Elementary PTA

*(This information furnished by Sharon Meigh-Chang – Portland PTA Council President)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Vote Yes for Measure 26-259

#### Generational Impact, Paying it Forward, Invest in the Future

We are parents and grandparents today, but once, we were students as well—benefiting from the investments made in our education by our grandparents.

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It’s a cycle that has powered our public schools for generations.

Now, it’s our turn to **pay it forward** and leave a lasting legacy for the next generation of Portland students.

Most of Portland’s schools were built between **1930 and 1960** and are showing their age. **Leaky roofs, failing heating systems, outdated classrooms, and earthquake risks** make it harder for students to learn and thrive. **Measure 26-259** will fund **critical repairs, classroom upgrades, modern safety measures, and school modernizations** to create **safe, secure, and exceptional schools** for all students.

## Affordable

We know things are expensive. Costs are a concern. That’s why this bond renews existing tax rates. By voting YES, we continue improving our schools with no tax rate increase.

## Fairness and Equity

Your address should not determine the quality of school you attend. No matter their zip code, every student should have the same opportunity to learn in a safe and inspiring environment. This bond continues our commitment to rebuilding and upgrading schools in all parts of the city, ensuring that every family—east, west, north, or south—sees the benefits.

## Everyone Benefits

**We all benefit** from strong public schools. **Great schools attract families, strengthen neighborhoods, support home values, and fuel our local economy.**

## A Smart, Responsible Investment

Measure 26-259 is a **fiscally responsible plan** with **strong oversight** to ensure funds go where they’re needed most.

This isn’t just about fixing old buildings—it’s about **investing in our children, our communities, and Portland’s future.**

- Families for Equity in Schools
- Portland: Neighbors Welcome
- NAYA Family Center
- L. Otto Schell
- Robin Shallcross
- Sharon Mei-Chang
- Martine Sacks
- Mike Roach
- Kim Osgood
- Annette DeFino
- Jean Borgerding
- Phyllis Brown
- Doug Hagen

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Donna Ossario  
David Salniker  
Terri Waller

*(This information furnished by L. Otto Schell)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Portland Teachers Support the 2025 PPS Bond!

“Hot, Cold, Rats, Mold” is more than a chant – it’s an unfortunate reality of teachers every day working in our older Portland schools.

Our teachers often have to teach in classrooms too cold or too hot for students to learn.

Roofs leak so often that buckets in classrooms and hallways are a common sight in our schools.

Frequent water intrusion leads to mold.

And yes, vermin are an all too common problem as they make their way into our classrooms through deteriorating siding, windows and floors.

It’s past time to fix this.

Portland Educators want every student to have a **safe, modern, and inspiring place to learn**. This bond will help achieve that goal.

Portland Educators want all high school students to have **equitable access to a state-of-the-art learning facility**.

A **YES** vote will:

- **Fix critical building issues** like leaky roofs, outdated heating, siding and unsafe plumbing.
- **Provide modern learning tools**—new textbooks, technology, and educational materials.
- **Upgrade classrooms** with stronger infrastructure and better accessibility.
- **Complete high school modernizations** to ensure all students have high-quality learning environments.

The **2025 PPS Bond renews existing tax rates**—investing \$1.8 billion in our schools without increasing the rate taxpayers pay today.

As educators, we know that **modern, well-equipped schools** lead to **better student outcomes**. We ask you to **support Portland’s students—Vote YES on the PPS Bond!**

### Portland Association of Teachers

*(This information furnished by Angela Bonilla – Portland Association of Teachers)*



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## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Vote YES on Measure 26-259: Finish the Job—Modernize Our Schools!

Every Portland student deserves a safe, modern high school with strong academics, extracurriculars, and high-quality facilities. In 2012, PPS committed to rebuilding every high school. Past bonds modernized Franklin, Grant, Roosevelt, Benson, Lincoln, McDaniel, and Jefferson. Now, it’s time to finish the job with Cleveland and Ida B. Wells.

#### Cleveland High School: 113 Years Old

Built in 1912, Cleveland has been in critical need of modernization for over decades. Students and staff face:

- Lead paint chips falling from ceilings
- Arsenic and lead contamination in soil
- Raw sewage overflows in the cafeteria
- Rodents, failing bathrooms, and unsafe learning spaces
- No heat or air conditioning
- Overcrowded cafeteria and outdated Career & Technical Education (CTE) spaces
- Inaccessible facilities for students with disabilities

#### Ida B. Wells High School: Failing Infrastructure at 70 Years Old

Built in 1954, Wells is considered the “youngest” high school in Portland, yet it is rapidly deteriorating:

- Collapsing ceilings and hazardous conditions
- Outdated heating and cooling systems that leave classrooms freezing in winter and sweltering in summer
- Rodent infestations and failing infrastructure
- Overcrowded, outdated CTE classrooms that limit student opportunities

**This is unacceptable. Cleveland and Wells families have waited patiently while other schools were modernized. Now, it’s our turn.**

Measure 26-259 will finally bring these schools up to standard, ensuring safe, modern spaces where students can learn and thrive.

This bond isn’t just about buildings—it’s about investing in students, our community, and Portland’s future.

**Our kids can’t wait. Let’s finish what we started.**

Vote YES on Measure 26-259!

- Cleveland High School PTA
- Ida B. Wells High PTA
- Turf Powell Park Advocacy Group
- Cleveland High School Baseball and Softball Board
- Duniway Educational Foundation

*(This information furnished by Michelle DePass, Vice-Chair - Portland Public Schools Board of Education)*

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## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**This is our chance to stand up for Public Education.  
Vote YES on Measure 26-259 to  
renew the PPS School Bond.**

**Measure 26-259 is our chance to stand up for public education.**

As your local elected officials, we routinely hear from families about the urgent need to improve our schools. The **2025 PPS Bond** will help ensure that **every student** has access to a **safe, healthy and modern learning environment**—because investing in our schools is investing in our future.

A **YES** vote will:

- **Renew our investment in public education**—without raising tax rates.
- **Fund critical repairs** so schools remain safe and accessible.
- **Complete long-overdue high school modernizations.**
- **Enhance learning spaces** for arts, athletics, and academics.

This bond isn’t just about repairs—it’s about giving all students a better future. Safe, updated classrooms help us focus, learn, and succeed. We need this investment now to ensure future generations have even better schools.

**Join us in standing up for our local schools!**

Please vote **YES on Measure 26-259!**

### Federal

**Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici and Congresswoman Maxine Dexter, M.D.**

### State Senators

**Senator Rob Wagner, President  
Senator Kayse Jama  
Senator Khanh Pham  
Senator Lisa Reynolds, M.D.  
Senator Kathleen Taylor**

### State Representatives

**Representative Willy Chotzen  
Representative Mark Gamba  
Representative Travis Nelson  
Representative Rob Nosse  
Representative Tawna Sanchez**

### Metro Council

**Councilor Lynn Peterson, President  
Councilor Juan Carlos González  
Councilor Duncan Hwang**

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Councilor Christine Lewis  
Councilor Ashton Simpson

Multnomah County Commissioners  
Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair  
Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards  
Commissioner Meghan Moyer  
Commissioner Vince Jones-Dixon  
Commissioner Shannon Singleton

Portland Mayor Keith Wilson

Portland City Council  
Councilor Elana Pirtle-Guiney, President  
Councilor Tiffany Koyama Lane, Vice President  
Councilor Candace Avalos  
Councilor Olivia Clark  
Councilor Jamie Dunphy  
Councilor Mitch Green  
Councilor Sameer Kanai  
Councilor Angelita Morillo  
Councilor Steve Novick  
Councilor Dan Ryan  
Councilor Loretta Smith  
Councilor Eric Zimmerman

PCC Board Member Kien Truong

*(This information furnished by Eddie Wang, Chair - Portland Public Schools Board of Education)*

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## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### PPS Students from Across the City Support this Bond Renewal

#### Because Students Deserve Safe, Modern Schools

As students who attend schools across the city, we know how much our schools impact our learning. Too many of us sit in classrooms with leaky roofs, broken heaters, and outdated technology. Some schools have been shut down for months because repairs were so extensive students couldn't even be in the school.

It's also not fair that students in some neighborhoods have new, modern High Schools while others are attending schools nearly a hundred years old.

The 2025 PPS Bond will make basic repairs to schools across the district, so no matter where you live, you have a safe place to learn. PPS is working to cut costs and do more, making sure every dollar goes toward real improvements.

This bond isn't just about repairs—it's about giving all students a better future. Safe, updated

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classrooms help us focus, learn, and succeed. We need this investment now to ensure future generations have even better schools.

**Vote YES on Measure 26-259—because every student deserves a great place to learn.**

## SIGNED BY Students

**JJ Kunsevi, PPS Student Representative**  
**Josh Stilwell, Metropolitan Learning Center**  
**Rosaline Sandell, Lincoln High School**  
**Delilah Garris, Benson High School**  
**Ian Ritorto, Roosevelt High School**  
**Francesca Silverstein, Franklin High School graduate**

*(This information furnished by Terri Waller)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A message about Safe and Secure Schools from **Isaac McLennan, President of Portland Fire Fighters’ Association, IAFF Local 43**

Portland’s students and educators deserve safe, secure schools—and right now, too many of our school buildings don’t meet modern safety standards. Measure 26-259 is a critical investment in making sure every student learns in a secure, well-maintained, and disaster-ready environment.

### Protecting Students & Staff

- Upgrading safety and security systems with improved cameras, fencing, and entry controls to keep schools protected.
- Replacing outdated fire alarms and sprinkler systems to ensure quick response in case of emergencies.

### Earthquake Preparedness

- Many Portland schools were built before modern seismic standards—leaving them vulnerable in a major earthquake. Measure 26-259 continues the program of structural reinforcements to help protect students and staff when disaster strikes.

### Safe Access for Everyone

- Replacing aging elevators so students, educators, and staff can safely access all areas of their schools.
- Ensuring schools meet modern safety codes to prevent injuries and accidents.

A YES vote on Measure 26-259 means safer schools, stronger buildings, and better protection for our students, teachers, and staff.

**Let’s invest in safety. Let’s invest in our schools.**

**VOTE YES on Measure 26-259!**

*(This information furnished by Isaac McLennan)*



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## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### YES on Measure 26-259: A Win for Jobs, Working Families, and Portland’s Future

Measure 26-259 is more than just an investment in schools—it’s an investment in Portland’s workforce. This \$1.8 billion bond will help create countless family-wage jobs in construction, trades, design, and more, keeping our local workforce strong for the next decade. From electricians to plumbers, and ironworkers to engineers—this bond means more economic opportunities and more paychecks for workers in Portland.

### Standing Up for Working Families

Strong public schools are the foundation of a thriving economy. This bond ensures safe, modern schools where working families can send their kids to learn and succeed. It does so WITHOUT INCREASING TAX RATES—so working families can get the benefits without extra financial strain.

### Better Working Conditions for Students and Educators

Teachers, school staff, and students deserve safe, healthy, and well-equipped schools. Measure 26-259 funds critical repairs, removes outdated and hazardous infrastructure, and upgrades classrooms to meet the needs of today’s educators. When we improve school conditions, we improve working conditions.

### Portland’s Comeback: Building Our City’s Future

Portland’s comeback starts with good jobs, strong schools, and investments in our community. This bond keeps money in our local economy, fuels our city’s workforce, and strengthens the middle class. By voting YES on Measure 26-259, we’re building Portland—brick by brick, job by job, future by future.

Join Portland’s labor unions, educators, and working families in voting YES on Measure 26-259. Let’s invest in our schools, our jobs, and our city’s future.

### VOTE YES!

- AFSCME Local 189
- AFSCME Local 328
- SEIU Local 503
- Portland Association of Teachers
- NW Oregon Labor Council, AFL-CIO
- Ironworkers Local 29
- IBEW Local 48
- UFCW Local 555

*(This information furnished by Christy Splitt - Portland Public Schools Board of Education)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**Please join the PPS School Board and vote YES on Measure 26-259.**

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## Renew - Repair- Modernize

As your elected **PPS Board of Directors**, we **unanimously** placed this bond on the ballot because **Portland students deserve safe, modern schools**. By voting **YES** on the **PPS Bond this May**, we can make a **generational impact—without raising tax rates**. This bond funds **essential repairs** and ensures that **all students, no matter where they live, have access to high-quality schools for generations to come**.

Why are we asking for your vote on Measure 26-259?

- **No Tax Rate Increase** – This bond **keeps rates steady** while funding critical school improvements.
- **Repairs Aging Schools** – Fixes **roofs, heating, plumbing, and electrical systems** that are failing across the district and negatively impacting student learning.
- **Enhances Safety & Security** – Upgrades include **seismic reinforcements, stronger buildings, and improved security systems**.
- **Completes High School Modernizations** – Ensures **every student** has access to a **high-quality high school**.
- **Invests in Elementary & Middle Schools** – Begins **critical repairs and upgrades** where our youngest learners **start their journey**.
- **Expands Learning Opportunities** – Funds **new curriculum, technology, sports, and arts facilities** to prepare students for the future.

### Our Commitment to You

We take board oversight seriously—**asking tough questions, scrutinizing costs**, and ensuring your tax dollars are maximized for the greatest benefit.

### A Generational Investment

Previous generations paid for the schools we all attended – now it’s our turn. This bond funds schools built to last 75–100 years, just like those we’re replacing.

Every student deserves classrooms conditioned for learning, a school that is safe and secure and has access to modern curriculum and learning tools. Vote YES on Measure 26-259 to renew the PPS Bond!

**Vote YES on Measure 26-259 to Renew the PPS Bond!**

### Portland Public School Board

- Eddie Wang, Chair**
- Michelle DePass, Vice-Chair**
- Julia Brim-Edwards**
- Herman Greene**
- Christy Splitt**
- Patte Sullivan**
- JJ Kunvevi, Student Representative**

*(This information furnished by Eddie Wang, Chair - Portland Public Schools Board of Education)*

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## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

### DON'T DRINK THE SCHOOL BOND KOOL-AID

It's not about the students. It's about abusing your concern for them to generate **kickbacks to crony contractors**.

PPS facilities are overbuilt and underused, and this is more of the same insanity.

This bond will mortgage our childrens' future by making the cost of living and future housing ever-more unaffordable for 30 years. **It's classic racketeering by the School Bond Mafia.**

PPS has spent billions in the past two decades on facility "upgrades." What did we get for it?-- **Bloated teacher pension debt** and the **worst educational performance in the country**. Schools don't need to be palaces. All they need are good books, good leadership, good standards, and a love of learning.

Proponents will exploit your desire to be a "good person" by using misleading and warped equity rhetoric that has nothing to do with diversity or inclusion. **If PPS knew what it was doing, its students of color would have seen improvements** from the last several giant bonds. Why haven't they? **Because it's not about helping students**. It's really about wealth transfer from the middle class to politically-connected contractors, covered up by a wet-noodle "oversight" committee packed with corrupt insiders.

We have to be grown ups and reject this cash grab. Students will benefit the most when we let PPS know they have to identify actual solutions to the problems they face.

### Vote NO!

Libertarian Party of Multnomah County

multnomahlibertarians.com

@multcoliberty on X

*(This argument is furnished by Deanna Kallen, Libertarian Party of Multnomah County)*

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Oregon Small Business Association  
Opposes Measure 26-259

Higher property taxes make it impossible to run a business in Portland.

"Downtown Portland's rate of  
vacant office space is highest in the US"  
KGW-TV 3/28/24

7 big reasons why property taxes are too high already

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- #1. U.S. Bank left their own U.S. Bank Tower (Big Pink) for Gresham ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #2. REI left Portland and moved next door to Beaverton ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #3. Umpqua Bank left their own Umpqua Bank Plaza and moved next door to Lake Oswego ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #4. Oregon’s largest privately owned company, Hoffman Construction, left Portland and moved next door to Clackamas County ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #5. KinderCare’s headquarters left Portland and moved next door to Lake Oswego ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #6. Local small business success story, Tamale Boy, moved its headquarters from Portland to next door Tigard ... where property taxes are much lower.
- #7. The iconic McCormick and Schmick restaurant (founded in Portland) has left the city for a dozen other states ... where taxes are much lower.

Measure 26-259 will make property taxes unbearable for small business.

Vote NO

*(This information furnished by TJ Reilly,  
Oregon Small Business Association)*

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

### Reasons to Vote Against the PPS Bond

#### Debt service is too high

- PPS plans to borrow \$1.83 billion, with interest payments of **\$1.7 billion over 32 years**. The total request is for **\$3.5 billion in NEW TAXES**.

#### PPS can’t be trusted

- The 2020 bond promised that Jefferson HS would be rebuilt for \$311 million. The school has not been built (or even started), and the budget is now \$491 million.
- The 2020 bond also set aside \$60 million for a Center for Black Student Excellence. None of the \$60 million has been spent, and there is no building.
- In 2022 PPS received \$120 million from the state legislature to move Harriett Tubman Middle School. PPS later concluded that there are no feasible sites to move the school. The District kept the money, but has stopped working on the project.

#### PPS is overbuilding

Forecasts show that high school enrollment is likely to be around 11,000 a decade from now.



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PPS is building for 17,000.  
The new Benson HS seats 1,700 students but only has 869. Jefferson is also planned for 1,700 students, but currently has 459.

**PPS board members know the Bond is flawed.** In their own words:

Andrew Scott, 12/2/24 Board meeting, 0:03: “If we build high schools for more than \$450 million each, they will not only be the most expensive schools ever built in Oregon, but would probably be the most expensive schools ever built in the country. That is **not an award we want to win.**”

Julia Brim-Edwards, 2/4/25 Board meeting, 2:41: “I’ve been involved with six PPS bonds. This is the bond with the least amount of public comment, the least information, and **no community stakeholder group.** We can’t keep shutting down discussion.”

Patte Sullivan, 12/2/24 Board meeting, 1:20: “Technology and curriculum updates should be paid for **out of the general fund, not a construction bond.**”

*(This information furnished by John Charles,  
Cascade Policy Institute)*

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## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

### TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION OF OREGON URGES VOTE NO ON 6-259

### DON’T BE FOOLED BY THE BOND BOONDOGGLE

Portland taxpayers, don’t be fooled by PPS’s massive \$1.83 billion construction bond.

### THIS MEASURE IS A BLANK CHECK WITH VIRTUALLY NO ACCOUNTABILITY.

Incredibly, the school board still has no clear idea what projects will be included, how much they will cost, or when they’ll be completed.

Go to the PPS website, and you’ll see ... The bond budget does not show individual school budgets. It simply shows a single number—\$1.15 billion—for the three high schools, plus unnamed elementary and middle Schools.

### Will your kid’s school get repaired? You don’t know, and PPS won’t tell you.

PPS has a terrible track record with your money.

The 2020 bond included \$311 million for Jefferson High School, but costs ballooned to \$491 million without a single shovel put in the ground.

Think about it ... **PPS wants you to pay twice for Jefferson.** First, with the 2020 bond. Now, with this bond.

# Measure 26-259 / Portland School District 1J

An audit of the 2017 bond revealed that PPS presented public cost estimates that were \$100 million lower than their own staff said it would cost!

PPS learned their lesson. This time, they're not showing us the cost estimates!

The truth is simple: **PPS WANTS YOUR MONEY WITH ALMOST NO ACCOUNTABILITY.**

They're planning to build massive high schools while enrollment is dropping and will continue to drop.

Don't reward mismanagement and wasteful spending.

**VOTE NO AND DEMAND A BETTER PLAN WITH REAL ACCOUNTABILITY.**

For more information, follow us at [OregonWatchdog.com](http://OregonWatchdog.com)

The Taxpayers Association of Oregon has been fighting for lower taxes and less government waste for 25 years.

*(This information furnished by Jason Williams,  
Taxpayers Association of Oregon)*

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## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Taxpayers Association of Oregon  
urges a No vote on 26-259

**PPS construction costs are wildly out of line with neighboring districts.**

School construction Cost per square foot:

Portland     \$1,340 to \$1,570  
Seattle \$1,200  
Bend     \$1,150  
Beaverton   \$874

Source: *The Oregonian* 1/19/25

Portland construction costs are nearly **DOUBLE** what other school districts pay.

The School District needs to come back with a normal tax bond that is not wasteful and one that is affordable.

For more information, follow us at [OregonWatchdog.com](http://OregonWatchdog.com)

The Taxpayers Association of Oregon has been fighting for lower taxes and less government waste for 25 years.

*(This argument furnished by Jason Williams,  
Taxpayers Association of Oregon)*

# Measure 26-259 / Portland School District 1J

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

### NO MORE BROKEN PROMISES VOTE NO ON THE \$1.83 BILLION PPS BOND MEASURE

It’s time to hit the brakes on Portland Public Schools’ runaway spending.

The school board wants you to approve a **staggering \$1.83 billion** construction bond this May, but there are serious problems they don’t want you to know about.

First, this isn’t just \$1.83 billion – with interest, **you’ll be paying \$3.5 billion** over 32 years!

- Almost half of every dollar goes straight to bondholders, not our schools.
- This **debt is already devouring our education budget**, with interest payments skyrocketing from \$1.8 million in 2006 to \$67 million today.

Second, **PPS keeps breaking promises**.

- The 2020 bond included \$311 million for Jefferson High School, but the cost ballooned to \$491 million **without a single brick being laid**.
- PPS also promised a \$60 million Center for Black Student Excellence that was **never built**.

Third, **even school board members say this bond is incredibly wasteful**.

- Former board member Scott Bailey revealed that PPS is building high schools for 17,000 students when enrollment projections show only 11,000 students in ten years — “a huge overbuild that will **waste hundreds of millions of dollars**.” (*PPS Board Meeting, 3/4/2025*)
- While still on the board, Andrew Scott admitted these would be “the **most expensive schools ever** built in the country.” (*PPS Board Meeting, 12/3/2024*)
- Current board member Julia Brim-Edwards complained this bond had “the least information and **no community stakeholder group**.” (*PPS Board Meeting, 2/4/2025*)

The truth is simple: **PPS wants a blank check with vague promises**.

PPS is building palaces when **enrollment is dropping** and **cutting classroom budgets** at the same time. This isn’t responsible stewardship of our tax dollars.

Send a clear message to PPS: **We support students, but not wasteful spending.**

**Vote NO** on this bond and demand a better plan that puts students before excessive construction costs.

### VOTE NO ON 26-259

*(This information furnished by Gilion Dumas)*