

33-111

FILED
AUG 01 2024
WASCO COUNTY CLERK

SEL 803

rev 03/18 ORS 250.035,
250.041, 255.145, 255.345

Notice of Measure Election

District

Notice

Date of Notice	Name of District	Name of County or Counties	Date of Election
08/01/2024	Columbia Gorge Community College District	Wasco and Hood River	11/05/2024

Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Bonds to increase accessibility; make facility and safety improvements

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall College construct, update vocational, educational facilities; refinance obligations; issue \$13 million in 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 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

Columbia Gorge Community College seeks approval of bonds to improve college facilities; estimated to maintain current tax rate, regular audits required.

The State is expected to provide \$5.5 million in matching funds.

Bonds would finance capital costs, including:

- **Enhancing student and staff safety** with cameras, automatic locking systems and seismic upgrades.
- **Updating aging building systems** for operations, energy efficiency, technology and accessibility improvements.
- **Modernizing classrooms and labs** to provide educational technology and support students' workforce training.
- **Improvements to The Dalles Campus** classrooms, labs, and buildings, including hybrid learning technology supporting specialized job training, apprenticeship, and education programs. Improve food service and cafeteria facilities.
- **Upgrades to the Hood River Campus** focused on educational (science lab and health) programs and community gathering spaces.
- **Refinance Regional Skills Center and Student Housing** loan that funded construction.

Bonds would mature within 13 years from date of issuance. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to maintain the current bond tax rate of \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value subject to change based on interest rates and assessed value fluctuations.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

- any measure referred by the district elections authority; **or**
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.


Explanatory Statement Attached? Yes No

Authorized District Official Not required to be notarized.

Name Dr. Kenneth Lawson	Title President
Mailing Address 400 East Scenic Drive, The Dalles, OR 97058	Contact Phone 541-506-6000

By signing this document:

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election; **and**
- I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

DocuSigned by:

AA692F4410D1427...

08/01/2024

Signature

Date Signed

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WASCO AND HOOD RIVER COUNTIES, OREGON**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

Established in 1977, Columbia Gorge Community College District now serves over 2,300 students per year at two campuses, one in The Dalles and one in Hood River.

THE COLLEGE SEEKS VOTER APPROVAL TO ISSUE BONDS ESTIMATED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT BOND TAX RATE

The Columbia Gorge Community College District Board of Education seeks voter approval of a \$13 million general obligation bond. **If this measure is approved the College estimates that property owners would continue to pay the same rate for the College's bonds as they are currently paying.**

\$5.5 MILLION IN STATE GRANT FUNDS

The Oregon legislature has made eligible up to \$5,500,000 in grant funds but only if the College provides matching funds. Passage of the bond would secure the College's matching funds.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

In 2023, the College formed a facilities planning committee comprised of community and college volunteers that analyzed the condition of all of the College's facilities. The committee recommended a plan to improve, update, and construct educational and workforce training facilities.

Bonds would finance capital costs including:

ENHANCING SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Safety and security improvements to both The Dalles and Hood River campuses, including:

- Security cameras
- Automatic door-locking systems
- Seismic upgrades

UPDATING AGING COLLEGE FACILITIES

- Updating and improving aging facilities, including energy efficiency upgrades, replacing central heating and cooling, technology upgrades, and increased accessibility for people with disabilities.

MODERNIZING CLASSROOMS AND LABS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

- Renovating and modernizing learning spaces to provide hybrid and distant learning needs to serve users across Wasco and Hood River counties, both urban and rural.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FACILITIES

- Expansion of workforce spaces to enhance current career and technical education programs.

IMPROVING THE DALLES CAMPUS including upgrades to classrooms, labs, and buildings that provide:

- Hybrid learning opportunities
- Specialized job training, apprenticeship, and education programs
- Improved food service and cafeteria facilities

UPGRADING THE HOOD RIVER CAMPUS focused on educational (science lab and health) programs and community gathering spaces.

REFINANCING REGIONAL SKILLS CENTER AND STUDENT HOUSING LOAN THAT FUNDED CONSTRUCTION

Additional capital costs including loan repayment, site improvements, furnishings, equipment, and bond issuance costs.

OVERSIGHT FOR BOND EXPENDITURES

The Columbia Gorge Community College District Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee would provide oversight to ensure that all bond funds are used for the purposes approved by voters. Their role would include communicating project implementation to the public and overseeing spending.

BOND FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR VOTER-APPROVED PROJECTS

Law requires bond funds be used for expenses described in the ballot.

FINANCIALS

Bonds would mature within 13 years from date of issuance. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to maintain the current bond tax rate of \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value subject to change based on interest rates and assessed value fluctuations.