

MAPLETON BOND MEASURE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is Mapleton School District seeking a Bond Measure?

Our school buildings average over 65 years old (MES 1957, MMS 1939, MHS 1948); serious and immediate repairs and upgrades are needed. Additionally, our technology and curriculum is outdated and needs to be replaced. It's also a smart time to act because of Senate Bill 447. Through SB 447 Mapleton School District is eligible to receive up to \$4 million in grant funding with passage of a local bond.

What is SB 447?

The primary goal of SB 447 is to encourage communities to pass local general obligation (GO) bonds to address the deferred maintenance problems present in Oregon's schools. SB 447 provides direct matching facility grants to districts. Mapleton School District is eligible to receive up to \$4 million in matching funds. A \$4 million bond would actually provide an \$8 million facility improvement budget.

What is a Bond Measure and how is the money used?

A school bond measure is a voter-approved funding method that can only be used for constructing or improving school buildings, facilities and equipment, such as books and computers. Under state law, the revenue from bonds cannot be used for salaries.

Do other Lane County Schools have bonds?

Yes. Eugene, Springfield, Creswell, Pleasant Hill, South Lane, Bethel, Oakridge, Fern Ridge, Siuslaw, Marcola, and McKenzie all have passed bonds.

Is technology a part of the plan?

Yes. We want to increase the student to computer ratio, create greater access for students, and strengthen our technology infrastructure to address current and future needs for connectivity through hard-wire and wireless resources.

There has been a lot of national attention lately to school security issues. How is safety and security addressed?

Our discussions about renovations are centered on safe, secure and healthy learning environments. We have focused on entry points of buildings and how to better secure our campus. A vestibule for the High School main entry has been designed to be directly supervised by the administration office. Additional emergency exits will be created district wide.

What would be the potential ways the community could use the new facilities?

A new community room will be created in Mapleton High School. This room will be dedicated for community and public use after school and in the summer. We would also replace the bleachers in the gym that are used for athletic events, graduation, and frequently used by the community for special events. Other community needs that the district can help provide will be discussed at our upcoming meetings; for example, a community gym or fitness facility.

What are the planned improvements?

Mapleton High School and Elementary would be the focus of our remodels. The project would include asbestos abatement, upgrades to plumbing, electrical, window and door replacement, energy efficient lighting and heating, increased security and ADA accessibility. Design details will be discussed at our community meetings.

How can I understand what a Bond Measure means for me personally as a homeowner?

Mapleton School District does not wish to over burden our tax payers. We are considering the following levy rates \$1.19, \$1.59, \$1.98; we wish for our patrons to discuss (and select) these three options at our upcoming community meetings. With a \$1.59 levy rate, the cost to a \$100,000 taxable value house (NOT real market value) is approximately \$159.00 per year or \$13.25 per month.

What is my home's assessed value?

On your Lane County Tax Statement you will see a line item in bold that reads "TAXABLE VALUE." This is the value that will be used for the bond levy (NOT real market value). You can search for your Lane County Property Tax Statement online at <http://apps.lanecounty.org/taxstatement/search.aspx> .

When are these upcoming community meetings?

We are planning three community meetings in Deadwood, Swisshome, and Mapleton in late January or early February. Once these dates and times are finalized they will be published.

When is the vote?

Your ballot will arrive in the mail in mid April, and must be received at the elections office by Election Day, May 17th.