

RESOLUTION No.

Call for Five-Year Local Option Levy to Support Schools

RECITALS

- A. Strong public schools are the foundation of a great city, supporting families, keeping neighborhoods vital, building community and strengthening the local economy.
- B. Successful schools are proven to contribute to all residents' quality of life, attract business and reduce crime.
- C. Portland Public Schools (PPS) serves more than 49,000 students and enrolls a higher share of the city's students than most urban school districts in the country.
- D. PPS, through conversations and engagement with the greater Portland school community, created a vision that reimagines what and how our students will graduate prepared for college, career and beyond. By identifying the essential skills and attributes educators should have, and changes needed in our school systems, the school district will release a multi-year strategic plan in the 2019-20 school year focused on ensuring that all students have equitable opportunities to achieve high academic goals and outcomes.
- E. Supporting the school district's staffing levels and educational programming to support every student's success is essential to realizing the vision and implementing the strategic plan.
- F. As far back as 2001, after decades of disinvestment in K-12 schools, Portland voters have showed their support for strong schools and educational programs by approving a local option levy to fund PPS schools.
- G. As recently as 2014, voters again affirmed their support for Portland Public Schools by passing a second, five-year local option levy to support teaching positions and educational programs by a margin of 72%.
- H. The PPS local option levy was intended to support a minimum of 640 teaching positions each year however, over the five-year period of the 2014 levy, it will have supported an average of 825 positions each school year, contributing to the school district's equitable staffing model and commitment to providing necessary supports for struggling students.

I. PPS has exercised strong financial management over benefits costs, with all employees paying a share of health care premiums and all employees paying the 6-percent contribution into their retirement plans (a cost picked up by many public employers), and by refinancing the school district's PERS retirement obligations to save millions of dollars each year.

J. This local option levy requires independent oversight by the Citizens Budget Review Committee (CBRC) to ensure that levy dollars are used only for purposes approved by local voters.

K. The CBRC has affirmed, in annual reports to the PPS Board of Education, that local option funds have primarily been used to fund hundreds of teachers and maintain or lower class sizes. It urges the Board of Education to refer another five-year local option levy in the interest of maintaining teaching positions.

L. All funds raised under this proposed levy will be used exclusively for Portland students in PPS schools; and none of the funds will go to the state for distribution under the state school funding formula.

RESOLUTION

1. The Board shall ask voters to approve a five-year local option levy in November 2019 that will provide an estimated \$99.9 million in 2020-2021; \$103.9 million in 2021-2022; \$108.1 million in 2022-2023; \$112.4 million in 2023-2024; and \$111.9 million in 2024-2025.

2. The levy revenue shall be used to fund teaching positions and classroom supports.

3. The fully allowable levy rate shall continue to be \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value, which is estimated to cost roughly \$39.00 per month for a median home assessed at \$233,925 per year in the PPS district.

4. The Citizen Budget Review Committee will continue to provide independent oversight so that the funds are spent as the voters intended. The CBRC will continue to publish an annual report about the use of the local option revenues and their contribution to student achievement.

5. The Board will continue to commission performance audits of the school district's activities,
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increased accountability. Audits will continue to be conducted by independent auditors who will work at the direction of the Board to define the scope and design of audits.

6. The Board of Directors of School District No.1, Multnomah County, Oregon, finds that for the reasons and purposes described in the proposed measure set forth below, it is necessary and appropriate to levy a local option tax under ORS 280.040 et seq. for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and for four additional fiscal years thereafter each commencing July 1.

7. A serial levy election is hereby called to be held at the General Election on the 5th day of November 2019, in the manner and between the hours provided by law, at which there shall be submitted to the electors of School District No. 1, Multnomah County, Oregon.

8. PPS authorizes the Board Chair, Superintendent, or his designee (the "Authorized Representative") to take any actions necessary to place the measure that is attached as Exhibit A on the November 5, 2019 election ballot, and to place the explanatory statement that is attached as Exhibit B in the voter's pamphlet for that election. The Authorized Representative shall file the measure with the elections officer of Multnomah County not later than August 16, 2019 and the explanatory statement not later than September 5, 2019.

This renewed local option levy would continue to fund teaching positions to:

Support a well-rounded education, incl

This local option levy replaces the one passed by voters in 2014, and maintains the existing tax rate. For a home with an average assessed value of \$233,925 and taxed at the maximum levy rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value, the estimated cost would continue to be about \$465 per year or \$39 per month.

Submitted by Guadalupe Guerrero
Superintendent Portland Public Schools