


Jackson County voters' pamphlet

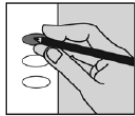


Oregon Vote-by-Mail Special Election

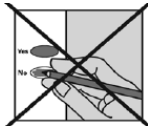
November 7, 2023

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

Examine your Official Ballot and locate the response of your choice. To vote, you must completely darken the oval () to the left of the response of your choice with black or blue ink.



If you vote **both** Yes **and** No on a measure, it is called an overvote. Your vote **will not count** for that measure.



Contact Jackson County Elections to request a replacement if:

- you make a mistake
- your ballot is damaged or spoiled
- your ballot is lost

or for any other reason.

RETURN YOUR BALLOT

By mail: Mail your ballot so it is postmarked by the USPS by Election Day.

In person at an official drop site: Deposit your ballot in an official Oregon ballot drop box by 8 pm on Election Day.

Jackson County Elections

1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501
(541) 774-6148 www.jacksoncountyor.org

DROP SITE LOCATIONS

Ballots must be deposited in an official ballot drop site by 8 pm on ELECTION DAY, November 7, 2023.

Jackson County Elections *Opening Monday, October 23rd*

1101 W. Main St., Suite 201, Medford, OR 97501

Curbside ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (left lane - W. Main)

Elections office open 8 am to 4 pm (7 am - 8 pm on Election Day)

Eagle Point Library *Opening Monday, October 23rd*

239 W. Main St., Eagle Point, OR 97524

Walk up ballot drop box open 24 hours daily (library main branch entrance)

Closes at 8 pm Election Day

VOTER REGISTRATION

The deadline to register to vote is the 21st day before an election.

Registering to Vote

To vote in Oregon you need to be registered in the county where you reside. You can register if you can answer yes to these three questions:

- Are you a resident of Oregon?
- Are you a U.S. citizen?
- Are you at least 16 years of age?

If you are 16 or 17 years of age, you will not receive a ballot until an election occurs on or after your 18th birthday.

How to register

You can register to vote online at www.oregonvotes.gov or you can get a voter registration card at any of the following places:

- any county elections office
- the Secretary of State's office
- some state agencies such as the Division of Motor Vehicles
- a voter registration drive

You can fill the card out in person or send it in by US mail. You can also print out a registration card online at www.oregonvotes.gov.

Updating your voter registration

Once you have registered, you are responsible for keeping your information up to date. You can do this online at www.oregonvotes.gov or by completing and returning a voter registration card with the new information.

Assistance in Marking Ballot; Allowances and Limitations

Any voter who, due to a disability or inability to read or write, is unable to mark their ballot may receive assistance. The assistance is provided either by two persons of different political parties provided by the county clerk or by some other person chosen by the voter. Any person assisting a voter must follow the direction of the voter as to how to vote the ballot. Also, the person assisting the voter must not afterwards give out any information about how the voter voted. Additionally, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an employer of the voter or an agent of the employer. Also, a person may not provide such assistance if they are an officer or agent of a union of which the voter is a member. (ORS 254.445)

Translation Information

Selected portions of this county voters' pamphlet are available in Simplified Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. These translations can be found online at oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

本县选民手册的部分内容提供简体中文版本。可以访问 oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP 获取译本。

주 유권자 팜플렛의 선택된 부분은 한국어 준비되어 있습니다. 번역은 온라인 oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP 에서 찾아볼 수 있습니다.

Отдельные части брошюр избирателей этого округа доступны на русском языке. С данными переводами можно ознакомиться в Интернете по адресу: oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Algunas secciones de este folleto para votantes del condado están disponibles en español. Estas traducciones están disponibles en línea en oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Ang mga piling bahagi ng mga pamphlet na ito para sa mga botante ng county ay mababasa sa Tagalog. Makikita online ang mga pagsasaling-wikang ito sa oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Các phần được chọn trong tập thông tin cho cử tri quận này có bản ngôn ngữ tiếng Việt. Bản dịch có thể xem trực tuyến tại oregonvotes.gov/JacksonVP

Measure 15-221 Eagle Point School District 9

Ballot Title

15-221

Bonds to add classrooms, relieve overcrowding, improve safety and security

Question: Shall District add classrooms, repair, update schools, improve safety and security; issue \$58,295,000 general obligation bonds; receive \$4,260,706 state grant? 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: Eagle Point School District 9 seeks bonds to add classrooms to relieve overcrowding, update schools, and improve safety and security. The District has been awarded a \$4,260,706 state grant available only if the bonds are approved.

Bonds will be used to finance capital costs throughout the District, including:

- Replace Elementary classroom building at Shady Cove School
- Add classrooms at EPHS, EPMS, White Mountain MS, Eagle Rock ES, Hillside ES
- Improve traffic flow for student safety at EPMS, Eagle Rock ES, and Table Rock ES
- Upgrade security, fire panels, and lighting
- Construct gymnasium at Hillside ES
- Add multi-use spaces at middle schools
- Renovate locker rooms at EPHS and restrooms at Table Rock ES
- Add covered outdoor areas
- Improve playgrounds

Bonds would mature in 21 years or less from date of issuance. If approved, the tax rate is estimated to be \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value, 34 cents less than the rate paid on the District's prior bond issue. Actual rates may vary based upon interest rates and changes in assessed value.

Explanatory Statement

Eagle Point School District's proposed \$58,295,000 bond would provide funds to add classrooms to address crowding and future growth, enhance the learning environment and improve safety and security.

The District encompasses the communities of Eagle Point, Shady Cove and White City, serving nearly 4,000 students in nine schools. Enrollment is approaching capacity throughout the District, and continued growth is forecast as new construction continues. The city of Eagle Point has averaged about 40 new homes per year over the past decade and has already issued land use approvals for over 300 new homes to be built over the next several years. The communities of White City and Shady Cove together are averaging 70-80 new homes per year.

The proposed bond projects were identified by the District Facilities Committee, which first reviewed and assessed District facilities in 2022. The committee reconvened in 2023, prioritizing and reducing the original list of projects to those it considered most critical.

Proposed projects

The proposed bond is expected to finance projects throughout the District, including:

- **Shady Cove School:** Replace elementary building. It was constructed in 1928 and has failing operating systems, is approaching student capacity, and would cost more to repair than replace.
- **Eagle Point HS:** Add classrooms, upgrade fire protection systems, repair and replace perimeter doors, repave parking lots, upgrade locker rooms, install gate for more secure campus.
- **Eagle Point MS:** Add classrooms, replace door sensors, add multi-use space for PE, STEAM/CTE classes, wrestling and after-school programs, improve traffic flow for student drop-off and pick up.
- **White Mountain MS:** Add classrooms, add multi-use space for PE, STEAM/CTE classes, wrestling and after-school programs.
- **Eagle Rock ES:** Add classrooms, expand playground area, add outdoor covered area, improve traffic flow for student drop-off and pick up.

- **Hillside ES:** Add classrooms, gymnasium and covered outdoor area.
- **Table Rock ES:** Improve traffic flow for student drop-off and pick up, upgrade fire protection systems, add noise reduction between accordion walls, remodel restrooms, upgrade lighting, update playground equipment.
- **Upper Rogue Center for Educational Opportunities:** Add covered outdoor area, improve gym and office space.

Bond cost

The bond is estimated to cost property owners \$1.30 per \$1,000 of assessed value and would be repaid over 21 years. This estimated rate is 34 cents less than the rate of the District's previous bond which expired in 2020. Bond funds could only be used for capital costs, not operating costs.

\$4,260,706 matching grant

If the bond passes, Eagle Point School District would receive a \$4,260,706 grant from the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching (OSCIM) program to use for bond projects. The District would not receive the grant if the proposed bond doesn't pass.

Local jobs

The District would structure portions of the bond projects into smaller contracts that local contractors could bid on.

Accountability and informing the public

The School Board would appoint a citizen oversight committee to monitor the progress, schedule and costs of the bond. That committee would report back to the School Board on a regular basis.

(This information furnished by Eagle Point School District 9.)

Argument in Favor

In recent years our community has experienced rapid growth while maintaining our small-town feel. Our schools reflect our community, and we want to give our kids the best chance to succeed now and in the future. The key to their success is having a great experience while in our schools. For that to happen they need an atmosphere that enables both students and teachers to thrive.

Our district staff has done so well maintaining our older buildings that some might think things are just fine. They're not. Shady Cove elementary is 90 years old and repairs are no longer economically viable. Classroom space at all schools is too tight to allow for the developments that are being built. Drop off and pickup areas are too congested, time consuming, and unsafe. The fire protection systems at the high school and Table Rock Elementary are too old for improvement. The perimeter doors at multiple schools are not secure. We do not have sufficient space for our middle school STEAM/CTE, wrestling, and after school programs. Some of our schools do not have a gymnasium on the property. Our high school locker rooms are in serious need of upgrades to facilitate a better sports program.

The cost we will pay now will save us money in the future. The cost of not doing something now will affect the educational experience our kids will have moving forward through school and afterwards.

The district has worked hard to improve and build recently (Agriculture Science, TRE modular, gym floors) to show a high level of responsibility and soundness to spending our tax dollars.

Creating and improving our school facilities is critical to the growth, development, and character of a community. Our community is worth investing in.

Please join the school board in voting yes with Friends of D9 Schools for this bond.

Respectfully, Matt Stone, Randy Wolf, Emily McIntire, Chery Stritenberg, Josh Graves.

(This information furnished by Matt Stone.)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by the County of Jackson, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statement made in the argument.

Argument in Favor

Voters in the Eagle Point School district face some challenging choices in the upcoming election. One of these is proposed 58.3-million-dollar School bond measure proposed by the Eagle Point School District. The district encompasses the cities of Eagle Point, White City and Shady Cove, and is requesting the funds to expand and improve public schools in the district. The badly needed improvements will include new buildings, added classrooms and added security for area students.

The bond issue, if passed, will increase property taxes for residents. And this makes us all ask about the value proposition. How should we responsibly value our children's education and safety?

The Eagle Point & the Upper Rogue Chamber of Commerce believes there is nothing more important, or more precious, than our children. They are our joy, and they are the future of our country. The wellbeing and true measure of a community depends on how it values and treats its youth and elderly.

In principle, the Chamber generally opposes tax increases, especially those that fatten government bureaucracies and do not substantially improve community wellbeing. But this Bond is about needed physical facilities for the benefit of our growing region and the safety of our youth. Because the Eagle Point and Upper Rogue Chamber of Commerce believes in strong, vibrant, and supportive communities, we support the passage of this School Bond issue.

Respectfully, The Eagle Point & The Upper Rogue Chamber of Commerce
(This information furnished by Amber Hardin, The Eagle Point & The Upper Rogue Chamber of Commerce.)

Argument in Favor

This bond project aims to improve the learning environment for the students and staff of the Eagle Point School District by providing critically needed building replacements, repairs, and expansions. The Eagle Point Education Association supports Measure 15-221 because it will promote success for District 9 students in the long-term by reducing overcrowding in classrooms, and improving safety on all campuses. We want students, staff, and the community to continue feeling a strong sense of pride and confidence in their schools. By showing support, we are investing in the future of our students. Thank you for your vote!

Amber Harris, EPEA Executive Council

(This information furnished by Amber Harris, Eagle Point Education Association.)

Argument in Favor

John F. Kennedy stated, "Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future." Parents in all generations have worked to provide future opportunities for children and therefore, for themselves. Each generation faces issues that are more complicated than the past and as a community, we must help students handle whatever challenges come their way.

Approving the proposed School District 9 capital bond is one way of making that investment in our children's future. If we as a community invest our part, the state through the Oregon School Capital Improvement Matching program will invest matching funds of \$4,260,706 which our school district will receive only if this bond measure is approved. Replacement of the Shady Cove School is one part of this overall plan. The Shady Cove School was built in 1928 and in the last 95 years, major developments in basic construction design, methods, and materials make schools much more efficient, effective, and safe. Crucial advances have been made in the areas of:

- Fire protection
- Earthquake resistance
- Students and staff safety
- Technology
- Infrastructure: plumbing, electricity, heat, etc.

Shady Cove School has served the Upper Rogue community well. Its outdated, and inadequate as a place of learning today. It has reached the point of being unfixable, costing more to repair than replace.

School District 9 offers outstanding opportunities for students and one part of the curriculum includes superior agriculture classes and the FFA program. The August 21st Washington Post contained an article titled "In Case of Apocalypse, Find the Nearest 4-H Club". The article pointed out that FFA programs "provide hands-on learning in agriculture, science and technology, healthy lifestyle practices, and civic engagement" as well as a nurturing yet practical approach to the natural life cycle from birth to death. Providing these learning opportunities requires us, as a community, to invest in the physical foundations where our students can grow successful, productive, healthy lives.

Lena Richardson

(This information furnished by Lena Richardson.)

Argument in Favor

As a long time member of the Eagle Point community, I strongly support the passage of the Eagle Point School District bond measure. The growth in our community has literally been explosive with new houses built, under construction or planned in large numbers. Look to the east as you come over Long Mountain on Linn Rd and it seems like each time there are more houses in Eagle Point. Each of those houses has the potential to add children to our schools. All of the other communities in our district are experiencing similar growth.

As a retired senior, paying taxes isn't my favorite thing to do, but I understand how important it is to educate our kids, who are our future, and will gladly pay my share to repair, replace and upgrade our school facilities. I have read the bond measure and I actually think the Board of Directors and Administration have put together a reasonable list of projects that need to be done, all of which are important, and will have to be dealt with sooner or later. I also commend them for creating a realistic bond request to finance the construction and repair work along with finding a significant partially matching funding grant that will reduce expenses to the patrons of District 9.

Students of District 9 are blessed to have schools second to none in terms of academics and opportunities. Our kids do well in college and trade schools because of what happens in our classrooms. The District 9 Career and Technical Education classes are the best in Jackson County and the Agriculture Science and Technology Program/FFA chapter is one of the finest in the nation.

Please support this bond measure. It makes sense for our schools, our kids and the taxpayers.

Respectfully,

John B. Dimick

(This information furnished by John B. Dimick.)

Argument in Favor

EPSD9 Needs a Bond. Why: Growth. Safety and Security. Opportunities. There are good taxes and bad taxes. Good taxes go to support your community. They are transparent, direct. You know where the money is being spent. Those taxes are road taxes, safety taxes for law enforcement, schools- these types of taxes support your community, they increase your home values, they provide safety and security, they bring in new growth. That is how I see this bond. Over the past 4 years our district has utilized our general fund to make significant improvements to several of our schools that were literally falling apart. We have hired a grant writer to find state and federal money that can be accessed, but it still just isn't enough. We have chosen to postpone this bond due to the rapid inflation increases during COVID, and after much deliberation and extensive research, have found that we can't put this off any longer.

We are looking at adding space, upgrading security, improving access and opportunities, infrastructure, and remodeling. These items have been carefully considered with painstaking detail and chosen for the greatest benefit to all students.

It's time for EP to set the standard rather than reach for it. We have an excellent administration, staff, and school board. We work hard to give your kids the best education we can in the state we live in. Is it perfect, no, but I can promise you- we work hard to keep academic excellence at its core. I am well aware of the increased costs we are all under. I see it, I feel it. However, as our city reaches 10,000 residents and with 300 building permits issued, now is the time.

This is where it becomes your choice. You choose- we need you to VOTE!

Thank you for your consideration!

Blessings, Emily McIntire

School Board Member

State Representative

(This information furnished by Emily McIntire.)

Argument in Favor

In 2020 our taxpayers paid off the last outstanding bond for Eagle Point School District making the current amount that we pay towards updating outdated schools or building new facilities as \$0.00. While good for our pocketbooks in the short term, this status is not sustainable over time or wise in the long term.

As the educational leader in your public schools, I respectfully request your strongest consideration and your 'yes' vote on Measure 15-221. The funds requested in this measure will go directly towards meeting critical safety and educational needs identified both by an independent school facility evaluation as well as recommendations by District Facility Committees, which included community members, in 2022 and 2023.

This bond measure contains provisions for necessary educational improvements, for our students, including additional classrooms at nearly all of our schools. It will also include a new K-5 building for Shady Cove Elementary, of which parts of the current building were built in the 1920's. It will also work to improve safety concerns such as additional security measures for single entry access at EPHS, and improved traffic management at Eagle Rock, Table Rock and Eagle Point Middle School.

As a taxpayer myself, I am very budget aware and matching state funds make this measure an especially good value. I believe this measure will meet our student needs and continue to keep our communities a desirable place to live at the lowest possible price point.

Respectfully,

Andy Kovach

(This information furnished by Andy Kovach.)

Argument in Favor

We at Club West wrestling urge a Yes vote on Measure 15-221, the District 9 School Bond Levy. Our Club West board members have been involved in the wrestling community for over 50 years, as Coaches, Athletes, or Parents of Athletes. One thing our programs are missing that other schools have is the dedicated wrestling rooms at the Middle School level.

The 2002 fire that destroyed Eagle Point Junior High School also destroyed the only middle school wrestling room in Eagle Point School District 9. For most of the past 21 years middle school wrestling students have been practicing on mats rolled out on cafeteria floors, surrounded by large picture windows, open hard floors, and cafeteria tables. There have been head injuries, shoulder and elbow injuries and knee injuries due to the lack of wall pads that surround a properly constructed wrestling room. The unsafe practice facilities do not meet the requirements of state OARs, school district policies and National Coaches Associations policies for ensuring student athlete safety. This school bond measure will provide a multi-use facility that will provide Eagle Point Middle School and White Mountain Middle School with classrooms for Physical Education, STEAM/Career Technical Education and other classroom space during the day. This facility will also provide a safe space for after-school activities, which includes wrestling. Safe facilities for students need to be a top priority.

Bob Bergen

Vic Eccleston

Tony Stanfield

(This information furnished by Tony Stanfield, Club West Wrestling.)

Argument in Favor

As retired educators, we wholeheartedly support School Bond Measure 15-221. We believe that investing in our schools is one of the most important things we can do for our communities and our future generations. The city of Eagle Point has averaged around 40 new homes per year over the past decade and has already issued land use approvals for over 300 new homes to be built over the next several years. With the increasing demand, EPSD9 schools are struggling to keep up.

EPHS, EPMS, WMMS, and ERE are all projected to be over capacity by 2030, this bond will add classrooms to all of these schools. The Bond also includes upgrades to traffic flow for student drop-off and pick-up, upgraded fire protection systems, improved campus safety and security, and an enhanced learning environment.

Many of EPSD9's daily accommodations utilized by students and teachers are in dire need of an update. Replacing Shady Cove School Grades 1-5 building is one example. The school was constructed in 1928, has failing operating systems, and would cost more to repair than to replace. It's critically important that we improve our school buildings to ensure that our facilities provide EPSD9 students and staff with a safe and healthy learning environment.

Passing the Bond during the November election will also secure a \$4,260,706 state-matching grant. Which is an opportunity we can't afford to miss. Let's work together to ensure that our schools have the resources they need to provide our children with the best possible education. We encourage others in the community to join in supporting this initiative to help build a brighter future for our children.

Respectfully,
Sonia MacInnis, James Mannenbach, Janet Kay Sears,
William R Watson II, Joni Parsons

(This information furnished by Sonia MacInnis.)

Argument in Favor

Why I am asking you to join me in voting YES for the EPSD9 bond measure.

EPSD9 is nearing crisis status with a lack of classroom space in some schools and aging buildings that need to be repaired or fully replaced. If you have not recently visited the public schools your money has built for the children of our community, I urge you to connect with someone at EPSD9 and learn about the shortcomings yourself before you cast your vote. See the needs facing students that hinder educating the children of EPSD9. The children that are our future.

The volunteering I have given this district for over 20 years makes me knowledgeable about school conditions, safety and current/future needs. It is time to replace Shady Cove Elementary as well as adding classrooms to Middle Schools in all communities, while upgrading Eagle Point High School where 1,100 plus students attend every school year.

Graduating kids is the job of the Superintendent, while providing facilities is the job of the community; you, me, and your neighbor. We are responsible for the buildings that our children attend.

Our historically fiscally responsible district has done an amazing job maintaining our aging buildings, but as we all have experienced in our own life, some repairs can only be patched up for so long before they require real investment of resources and this is where we are with our publicly owned EPSD9 buildings.

A bond is often an unpopular concept, I accept that. However, providing safe, healthy environments and buildings to educate the future generations, and keeping classes from overcrowding is a necessary reality of your family and friends. We can not kick the reality that we are facing necessary updates and repairs down the road. Inflation will only make this a more expensive venture later for our tax base.

Respectfully, vote YES for our future.

Dan Hodges
Former Board Member - Board Chair

(This information furnished by Dan Hodges.)