

WHY IS IT needed?

WHAT IS A bond?

16+ years ago

The last bond in 2001 addressed aging facilities, but not every school.



60+
portable classrooms,
converted spaces

Use has more than doubled since the last bond. The average lease cost is \$8,000-\$9,000 per year, per portable classroom.

58 years old
The average age of schools needing to be replaced.



100
new classrooms

K-3 class size reductions funded by the state are creating a need for new classrooms to be built throughout the district.



Students at Ogden, in front of one of many portables

Did you know?
Almost 30% of Ogden Elementary's students attend school in portable classrooms.



First day of school 2016 at Walnut Grove Elementary

SCHOOL BONDS WORK... a lot like loans

1. NEED

When school districts need to build new facilities or make major repairs, they need to request funds in the form of a bond measure.

2. APPROVAL

Local voters first must approve a bond measure in the form of property taxes. Bond measures require **60 percent approval** to pass.



3. FUNDS

The district sells the bonds to obtain money in the short term that will be paid back over approximately 20 years.

4. INVESTMENT

Funds from the bond pay for upgrades and new schools. The improvements become assets in the community.

LEVY = operations

vs.

BOND = buildings

- Teacher and staff support
- Extracurricular activities
- Classroom supplies, textbooks and equipment
- Utilities and insurance
- Safety and security staff

Levies are not typically used for significant construction and must be renewed every two, three or four years.

- New construction
- Replacement schools
- Major building upgrades (new roofs, heating and cooling systems)
- Safe and secure entrances
- Major remodeling and/or expansion

If a bond is approved by local voters, some projects are eligible for state assistance funds. Bonds are paid off over approximately 20 years.



BOND ELECTION
Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Vancouver Public Schools is an equal opportunity district.

This fact sheet is published as part of Vancouver Public Schools' obligation to provide election information to the community.

vansd.org/reschools • 360-313-1230

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VANCOUVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOND FACTS • ELECTION DATE: FEBRUARY 14, 2017

WHY NOW?

Low interest rates

Rates are at an historic low; delaying the bond could drive up the cost.



Area growth

Planning now prevents further overcrowding. The downtown area alone may see 4,000 residential units added in the next few years.



Condition of buildings

The average age of planned replacement schools is 58 years old. Outdated buildings have higher energy and maintenance costs.



State funds

A grant and state assistance funding would provide an estimated additional \$93 million for construction and upgrades.



Feedback

VPS began looking at facility needs at every school two years ago. Community input has shaped how this plan was created.



McLoughlin principal and students invite the community.



Truman students participate in community planning.

WHAT WILL IT COVER?

UPDATES at every SCHOOL

SITE IMPROVEMENTS

- improve play equipment ADA accessibility
- replace old outdoor bleacher seating
- replace tracks with synthetic surface
- install artificial turf

AGE & CONDITION

- improve heating/cooling systems
- repair/replace roofs
- replace flooring
- seal brick exteriors
- repave parking lots

SAFETY & SECURITY

- construct secure entrances
- install fencing
- add security cameras
- expand electronic key card access systems

Updates to schools could include any of the above.

See the full list of projects for every school at vansd.org/reschools.

1 REPLACEMENT SCHOOL PROJECTS

- George C. Marshall Elementary
- Peter S. Ogden Elementary
- Harry S. Truman Elementary
- Martin Luther King Elementary
- Walnut Grove Elementary
- Lieser School (relocate at remodeled Marshall elementary)
- McLoughlin Middle School
- Fir Grove/Vista

2 NEW SCHOOL PROJECTS

- Vancouver iTech Preparatory
- NE 25th Ave. elementary
- Downtown elementary

3 MAJOR ADDITION/MODERNIZATION PROJECTS

- Sacajawea Elementary
- Benjamin Franklin Elementary
- Vancouver School of Arts and Academics
- Columbia River High School (500 wing, stadium restoration)
- Kiggins Bowl restoration (construct visitors' seating and accessible restrooms, replace turf field)

4 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Update building to improve safety and security and upgrade aging elements at each school:

Sarah J. Anderson Elementary	Washington Elementary
Chinook Elementary	Alki Middle
Eisenhower Elementary	Discovery Middle
Felida Elementary	Gaiser Middle
Fruit Valley Elementary	Jason Lee Middle
Harney Elementary	Jefferson Middle
Hazel Dell Elementary	Fort Vancouver High
Hough Elementary	Hudson's Bay High
Lake Shore Elementary	Skyview High
Lincoln Elementary	Vancouver Flex Academy
Minnehaha Elementary	GATE
Roosevelt Elementary	Support facilities
Salmon Creek Elementary	

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

\$458 million bond measure

WHAT THAT MEANS FOR TAXPAYERS:

temporary increase of 9¢ combined with existing bonds total of \$1.52 per \$1,000 of assessed property value for 3 years.

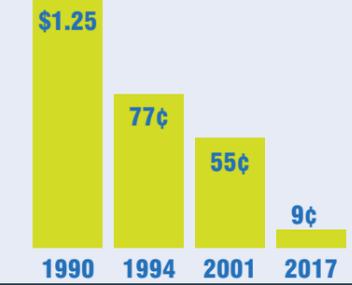
average annual increase: \$20 based on a median-priced home of \$225,000 for 3 years

drops by 17¢ combined with existing bonds total of \$1.35 per \$1,000 assessed value starting in 2021



SMALLEST RATE INCREASE IN RECENT BOND HISTORY

This bond is the lowest cost per \$1,000 to taxpayers in the past 25 years of VPS bond history, due in part to historically low interest rates.



TOTAL TAX RATE

The three-year operations levy, approved by voters in 2016, will cost \$2.68 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2018. The technology levy, approved by voters in 2013, will cost \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2018. With approval of this bond, combined local school tax rates would be \$4.43 per \$1,000 assessed value.

HOW DO I vote?

1. Register to vote in Clark County and live within Vancouver Public Schools' boundaries.
2. Get ballot in mail.
3. Return ballot by mail or drop off.



Elections are vote-by-mail; voters will receive ballots around January 20, 2017. Returned ballots must be dropped off at designated locations or postmarked by Election Day: February 14, 2017.

NOTE: Some disabled and senior citizens are exempt from paying all or part of school levy and bond taxes. Refer to the Department of Revenue Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons publication at www.dor.wa.gov. You also may contact the Clark County Assessor's Office at 360-397-2391 or taxreduction@clark.wa.gov.