

## Measure 24-27: City of Salem

### Charter Amendment Increasing Transient Occupancy Tax Rate Limit

**Question:** Shall city charter be amended to increase transient occupancy tax rate limit from six percent to nine percent?

**Summary:** The city imposes a tax on the privilege of occupying rooms or spaces in hotels or other transient lodging structures. The city charter provides that revenues from this transient occupancy tax must be used for:

- (1) Enhancement and beautification of vehicular and pedestrian entrance-ways to the city;
- (2) Urban beautification generally;
- (3) Improvements to or operation of major tourist attraction or cultural facilities;
- (4) Activities performed directly by the city or through contracts which promote use of Salem for conventions, conferences, seminars or for general tourism.

The charter currently limits the tax rate to six percent of the occupancy charge. This amendment would increase the tax rate limit to nine percent of the occupancy charge. It would take effect on July 1, 1999.

#### **Explanatory Statement:**

The City Charter permits the City Council to levy a six percent (6%) hotel and motel (transient lodging) tax. This tax is imposed on the occupants of hotel or motel rooms, including bed and breakfast lodging, RV parks, and campgrounds. Approval of this measure would permit the City Council to increase the tax to nine percent (9%).

The City Charter provides that revenues from the transient occupancy tax must be used for:

- (1) Enhancement and beautification of vehicular and pedestrian entrance-ways to the city;
- (2) Urban beautification generally;
- (3) Improvements to or operation of major tourist attraction or cultural facilities;
- (4) Activities performed directly by the city or through contracts which promote use of Salem for conventions, conferences, seminars or for general tourism.

The additional funds would be used to repair historic attractions such as Gilbert House, Deepwood Estate, and Bush House. They would also be used for other purposes permitted by the Charter.

Submitted by

Mayor Mike Swaim on behalf of the Salem City Council

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#### **Argument in Favor:**

##### ***Quality Counts!***

To All Registered Voters in Salem;

Ballot Measure 24-27 gives us an opportunity to restore Salem's wonderful historic buildings, expand our local economy through tourism, and maintain our city parks.

By increasing the hotel/motel transient occupancy tax - paid by visitors - from 6% to 9%, funds will become available to make much-needed repairs to our treasured **Bush House, Deepwood, Parrish House, Rockenfield House and the**

**Gilbert House at the A.C. Gilbert's Discovery Village.** These are part of Salem's history and we need to ensure that they'll be around in future years for our families and our visitors to enjoy.

**We also need to bolster tourism efforts and stay competitive with other communities.** Salem has a lot to offer visitors and we need to let them know about our local attractions and beautiful surroundings. Funds from this measure will restore the majority of funds recently cut from the Salem Convention and Visitor's Association (SCVA) budget back to current operating levels. As our City's primary marketing group, SCVA focuses on increased visitor attendance which results in local expenditures.

Increased tax revenues will also benefit Salem's cultural enhancement programs through additional funding for **Mid-Valley Arts Council, Salem Art Association, Mission Mill Museum, Marion County Historical Society and STAGE at The Historic Elsinore Theatre.**

Funds from the measure will be also used to **maintain our local city parks**, keeping them attractive and fun for Salem residents and visitors.

*How does the increase compare to surrounding communities?*

Salem's current hotel/motel occupancy tax rate is 6%, one of the lowest around. Corvallis and Portland's tax is 9%, Eugene is 9.5% and Albany is 8%.

**Remember, these additional taxes are paid by visitors who stay at hotels and motels, not Salem residents.** And, the resulting revenues will be put to excellent use to preserve Salem's history and boost our local economy.

**Vote "Yes" on 24-27**

*(This information provided by Cindy Becker, Salem's Heritage Means Business)*

*No arguments in opposition to this measure were filed.*

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## **Measure 24-28: Cascade School District**

### **Cascade School District No. 5 General Obligation Bond Authorization**

**Question:** Shall the District be authorized to contract a general obligation bonded indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$17,900,000? 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:** This measure may be passed only at an election with at least a 50 percent voter turnout. If approved, bond funds would:

- Provide repairs and renovations to all elementary (Aumsville, Turner, Marion, West Stayton, Cloverdale) and secondary (junior and senior high school) buildings, such as ADA handicap accessibility, electrical upgrades, dry rot repair, Fire Marshal safety issues and heating and ventilation upgrades.
- Construction of seven new general classrooms, music classroom, a gymnasium, a covered play shed, additional restrooms, hallways and storage areas at Aumsville Elementary School.
- Remodeling of old classrooms and auditorium into five general classrooms.
- Constructing nine new classrooms; new auditorium with storage; music and choir room; a gymnasium to include a practice gym, areas for lockers, training, weight training, laundry, and a coaches office.
- Pay issuance costs.

The bonds will mature in 20 years or less.

## **Explanatory Statement:**

Cascade School District is a unified district which operates five elementary buildings including Aumsville, Cloverdale, Marion, Turner and West Stayton. The District's central campus on the corners of Marion Road and 70th Avenue is the site of the junior and senior high schools. Current district enrollment is 2350 and is projected to exceed 2500 students by 1999.

School buildings in the District range from 25-75 years of age. The conditions of the buildings vary but time and the elements have taken their toll. Extensive dry rot is prevalent in all buildings. Roof disintegration is significant in elementary buildings. Electrical safety and computer technology wiring upgrades are needed in all the buildings as well as updates which ensure compliance with federal handicap accessibility, health and fire regulations.

Cascade's 17.9 million bond measure will provide classroom space for current and future students and repair and upgrade current facilities. Specific Bond Measure projects are:

- Upgrade and installation of fire protection systems;
- Repair and upgrades to current electrical systems for safety, computers and technology;
- Repair of dry rot and replacement of leaking roofs;
- Replace windows damaged by dry rot;
- Improve classroom ventilation and heating systems;
- Replace failing plumbing systems;
- Modify buildings to meet standards required by the American with Disabilities Act;
- Construct 7 additional classrooms, a music room and a multi-purpose room at Aumsville Elementary;

Constructing 9 new classrooms; new auditorium with storage; music and choir room; a gymnasium to include a practice gym, areas for lockers, training, weight training, laundry, and a coaches office at the High School.

### **Technology \*\* Repairs \*\* Classrooms**

District buildings need electrical upgrading for student computer use. In addition, Cascade is currently facing significant overcrowding in elementary buildings and the junior and senior high schools. Because of overcrowding at Aumsville, 6th graders are bussed to the junior high building and 5th graders are bussed to Turner causing the Turner 6th grade to be bussed to the junior high. This chain reaction of bussing children has been a short-term solution to accelerating population growth. The bond measure will maximize use of current facilities. Four elementary schools will be configured to serve students from kindergarten through 6th grade. Aumsville will become a kindergarten through 5th grade school. The current junior high building will serve the Aumsville 6th graders and the district's 7th-8th graders. The current high school will continue to serve the district's 9th-12th graders.

With the school district serving as the core of the Cascade community, the new high school auditorium and gymnasium will be used by all children and serve as facilities for the entire community.

The estimated cost to property owners will be \$2.20 for \$1,000 of assessed value. Cascade School District has no current school bond debt.

Submitted by:

F. James McBride, Superintendent, Cascade School District No. 5

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## **Argument in Favor:**

Vote YES for

Cascade School District Bond Measure

because you

CARE

Whether you currently are, or will be, or have been a parent in Cascade School District you have a stake in the quality of education for the children of the Cascade area. Our community children are only 21% of our population, but they are 100% of our future. These children need your YES vote to pass this measure. A YES vote means you support your neighbors in helping our children learn to deal with the challenges of a fast paced information age. A YES vote will give to our community...

- repair and renovation of our existing educational facilities to bring the schools up to the fire, health and safety standards
- resolve extensive dry rot problems in the floors, walls and roofs of our facilities
- upgrade electrical and plumbing systems
- provide full access for handicapped children and adults
- properly wire our current educational facilities to give our students access to computers and other technology
- build much needed classroom space at the district's crowded facilities (Aumsville and Cascade High School)
- add an auditorium, gymnasium and music classrooms at the high school
- add music and multipurpose classrooms at Aumsville
- allow all high school classes to be taught at the high school and free up much needed classroom space at the junior high school

Cascade School District has not had bonded indebtedness for over 30 years. Its facilities are in need of repair. Acting now would allow the district to avoid higher bond rates and avoid higher future construction costs.

**CARE**

**enough**

**VOTE**

**YES!**

*(This information provided by Len Federico, Chairman and Karen Albers, Treasurer for Cascade Area Residents for Education [CARE])*

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Our Children are our Future

**Not just for those of us with kids in this district, but for all of us! In order for them to succeed, they MUST have a safe, warm uncrowded learning environment . . . passing this bond would be a step in the right direction.**

This is not an attempt to take unnecessary money from the taxpayers. There are serious needs (NOT WANTS) in the Cascade School District (which includes Aumsville, Cloverdale, Marion, Turner and West Stayton Elementary Schools, Cascade Junior High and Cascade Senior High). These schools range in age from 31 - 76 years old. **ALL** of the schools need to have fire safety issues, electrical upgrades, and Americans with Disabilities Act requirements met. The schools need plumbing and dry rot repair, and many need heating and ventilation system upgrades.

Because they are so crowded, Aumsville Elementary School has been busing their 5th grade students to Turner Elementary and their 6th grade students, along with Turner's 6th grade students, to the Junior High School. But the student population continues to grow at a rate where **they now house as many Kindergarten - 4th grade students as they had with K - 6th graders just a few years ago!** The district is running out of classroom space. Both Aumsville Elementary and Cascade Senior High need additional classrooms built.

Keeping classroom sizes at a manageable level, so that teachers can actually teach, not just baby-sit, is (as it should be) a priority. Keeping our students at their local schools is also a priority. This bond will maintain all 5 of our elementary schools and prepare our Junior High and Senior High for the arrival of these young students in the coming years.

The district currently has NO bond indebtedness, with the last bond passing in 1967.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!!! Please join the:**

**Aumsville Parent/Teacher Club**

**Turner Parent Club**

**Cloverdale Parent Club**

**West Stayton Parent Club**

**in support of the bond measure.**

**VOTE YES!**

*(This information provided by Cherie Lewis, Aumsville Parent/Teacher Club)*

**Argument in Opposition:**

Good education is the single most important goal. Money is limited.

Vote **NO** on proposed \$17.9 million bond! It has already failed three times. It reflects old 1996 planning and poor choices. Elementary students need a new \$ 7 million dollar school, now. It isn't proposed. Proposed spending provides expensive space, where it isn't needed. A grade school will still be needed, even if \$ 17.9 million is spent.

Because sewer construction brings new homes and more students, Aumsville and Turner are growing more than expected.

A \$7 million elementary school would help the most kids, now, for the least money. It assures kids, teachers and families, neighborhood access to school and also technology, that's costly to put in old buildings. An additional \$1 million could repair dry rot and other damage that is part of \$1.63 million of avoidable, deferred repair at Aumsville.

500 students can be served at Aumsville Elementary; Fifth and sixth grade students are transported to other schools, because there isn't room. Kids spend extra time on a bus, have more opportunity to get into trouble, and have less time for homework or for other interests.

220 students can be served at Turner Elementary; Turner receives about 90+, Aumsville 5th graders and buses 25 sixth graders to the Cascade campus, each day. Growth in Turner may over-run capacity in a few years. A new elementary school may be fully occupied, when complete.

West Stayton, Marion and Cloverdale families prefer small elementary schools. Small size and high cost, force Aumsville and Turner youngsters to endure long bus rides. Duplication of food, academic specialists, transportation, maintenance, and administration costs could be avoided. There isn't enough money to support the tiny schools. Wise spending means more and better education for all.

Vote NO. Let's first build a new elementary school, with all essential code compliance issues resolved.

Respectfully, T. J. and Juanita Schaffer

*(This information provided by T. J. and Juanita Schaffer)*