

# Banks School District Proposed Bond Measure Frequently Asked Questions

## Background

1. Why has the Banks School District referred this bond measure to the ballot?
  - a. **Addressing targeted issues:** If passed, the proposed school bond would address targeted issues in the school district. While the schools may have met standards in the past, the educational landscape has evolved and all the schools have maintenance issues that are outside the normal budget. The current buildings face challenges such as leaky roofs, heating, cooling, and ventilation issues, earthquake and physical threat vulnerabilities, and limited classroom space. If passed, the proposed bond measure would provide funds to modernize these aspects, providing students with an upgraded learning environment. The tax revenues would be allocated towards updating classroom spaces, including construction of a new two-story classroom building that would replace most of the high school, addressing targeted issues such as roofing, heating, cooling, ventilation, and safety.
2. What priorities are not being met by the current buildings?
  - a. **Outdated infrastructure:** The current buildings face challenges such as leaky roofs, heating, cooling, and ventilation issues, earthquake and physical threat vulnerabilities, and limited classroom space. If the measure passes, the proposed bond would provide tax revenue that would be used to modernize these aspects, providing students and staff with an upgraded learning environment.
3. Does this mean the district has not kept up with maintenance of the buildings?
  - a. **Deferred maintenance:** While maintenance has been ongoing, the scale of necessary maintenance has outpaced available funds. If passed, the proposed bond measure would provide tax revenue that the school district would use to make comprehensive upgrades and renovations, ensuring the longevity and functionality of school facilities.
4. If the measure passes, what would change at the current schools?
  - a. **Repairs, maintenance, and upgrades:** If passed, the proposed bond measure would provide funding for capital projects at all schools, including roof repairs, heating, cooling, and ventilation maintenance, and safety upgrades. The elementary and middle school buildings would remain in service during and after these capital projects. The bond measure would also provide funding for the construction of a new two-story classroom building which would replace most of the high school; the remainder of the high school building would continue to be in service.

## The Proposed Bond Measure Election

5. When will residents have the opportunity to vote on the proposed bond measure?
  - a. **May 21, 2024:** Ballots will be sent out in early May and must either be postmarked by May 21, 2024, or turned in by 8 pm on May 21, 2024. Ballots can be turned in at Banks City Hall/Library: 42461 NW Market Street, Banks 97106.
6. What happens if the proposed bond measure doesn't pass?
  - a. **No proposed projects or property tax increase:** If the measure does not pass, the proposed projects would not be completed, and property taxes would not be increased.

## Proposed Bond Measure Cost, if Passed

7. If passed, what would the proposed bond measure cost?
  - a. **Tax impact:** If passed, the bond measure would cost **\$2.99 per \$1000 of assessed property value** (not market value). The 2024 tax rate is \$1.80, this bond would increase the tax rate by an estimated \$1.18 per \$1,000 of taxable assessed value. **The owner of a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay about \$25 more per month or \$300 more per year.** You can find the estimated cost by entering in your property's assessed value (found here: <https://washcotax.co.washington.or.us/>) into the estimated cost calculator at the bottom of the Banks School District bond webpage (<https://banks.k12.or.us/2024bond>)
8. Didn't the Banks School District already pass a bond measure?
  - a. **Previous bond measure:** About ten years ago, in 2012, the Banks community passed a bond measure. Those funds were used to rebuild a new middle school and address certain issues at that time. If passed, the proposed 2024 bond measure would build on earlier projects and fund comprehensive upgrades and renovations, upgrading longevity and functionality of school facilities.
9. The state already funds schools, why has the Banks School District referred this bond measure to the ballot?
  - a. **Supplementing state funding:** While the state provides funding for education, that funding includes minimal dollars to go toward infrastructure, buildings, maintenance, etc. Oregon's funding model requires school districts to use voter approved local bonds to fund larger capital projects.

10. Has the Banks School District looked into grants and other sources of money?
- a. **Maximizing grant efforts:** Banks School District has over \$10 million in grant applications to supplement the proposed bond. These grants are for both state and federal dollars. Additionally, Banks School District is first on a waitlist for a minimum \$5.4 million state grant available only if the bond measure is passed by voters.
11. How do we know the Banks School District would use the bond funds as they say they would?
- a. **Bond Oversight Committee:** If the measure passes, Banks School District would establish a Bond Oversight Committee, composed of community representatives. This committee would not only systematically report on expenditures to the school board but also would serve as a mechanism for accountability in the utilization of the allocated funds.
12. Would the average individual tax burden go down if new developments are built?
- a. **Limited impact on tax burden:** New developments may contribute to a broader tax base. However, this is unlikely to change individual tax burdens.
13. Why aren't developers paying for the proposed projects?
- a. **Oregon's funding model:** Oregon's funding model does not require developers to fund community infrastructure, instead capital project funding is subject to a vote of the people.

## **Proposed Bond Projects**

14. What would the scope of the work be if the bond measure is passed?
- a. **Comprehensive renovations:** If passed, the scope is expected to include the construction of a new two-story classroom building that would replace most of the high school, repairs and replacements of leaky roofing at the high school and elementary school, heating, cooling, and ventilation issues at schools, replacement of some existing buildings with failing safety, mechanical systems, earthquake vulnerabilities, and physical threat security upgrades at all three schools (including controlled access and security visibility). Additionally general upgrades, repairs, and reconfiguration would be made to extend building lifespan, upgrade traffic flow, and upgrade services across campus. The focus would be on creating a safe and conducive learning environment for all students.
15. If the measure passes, would there be upgrades to athletic facilities?

- a. **Auxiliary gym and locker room upgrades:** The proposed bond would provide the funds to build a new auxiliary gym to replace the Barn and upgrade the locker room to comply with Title IX requirements.
16. Would the proposed bond measure help with traffic flow and parking?
- a. **Yes.** If the bond measure is passed, the district would remove the Barn and build an auxiliary gym elsewhere on campus. This would open up the entrance, alleviating some traffic congestion and adding more parking. Additionally, the proposed two-story high school building would create more space for parking.
17. If the measure passes, how many classrooms would the high school have after construction?
- a. **Matching the existing number of classrooms:** The proposed bond measure would fund construction of a new two-story high school building that would replace most of the existing high school, providing up to date classrooms for students. The number of classrooms in the new building is expected to match the existing number of classrooms. Additionally, existing high school learning spaces such as the art room, choir/band room, and gym would not be replaced. If the voters approve the bond measure, specific plans for the new high school building would be finalized with the exact number of new classrooms.
18. Why not build a new high school somewhere else?
- a. **Additional campus space is not necessary:** The current property can accommodate our current student population as well as the projected growth in the near future, so the Banks school board believes acquiring an additional campus is not necessary.
19. If passed, how would the proposed projects be completed while simultaneously operating schools?
- a. **Phased construction:** The goal would be to minimize the disruption to students as much as possible, through phased construction of the new high school building. Students would be moved into new classrooms as they are finished, reducing the need for temporary classrooms. The elementary and middle schools would remain open during proposed capital projects.
20. If the measure passes, would the Barn be torn down?
- a. **Yes: The Barn is nearing the end of its projected service life** and would require a significant remodeling to bring it to modern requirements. The Banks school board believes that it is a more efficient use of community funds to rebuild a modern auxiliary gym with regulation courts, space for other activities (e.g. robotics), and proper ADA access. In addition, if the Barn is replaced with a gym at another location on campus, it would upgrade the traffic flow, particularly at drop off and pick up.

21. If passed, would the proposed bond measure include replacing other district buildings?
- a. **Yes: The district administration office is approaching the end of its projected service life**, and significant remodeling would be necessary to bring it up to modern standards. After conducting assessments on the current structure, the Banks school board believes that replacing the administration building would be the most efficient use of funds.