

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR PRINTING IN THE
MARION COUNTY VOTER PAMPHLET

Measure No. 24-497

Election Date: May 21, 2024

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MARION COUNTY OREGON

24 MAR 11 A 7:14

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Total Words 498 (NOTE: This statement must not exceed 500 words.)

Authorized Signature  Title Superintendent

Printed Name Scott Drue

Local Government Unit SILVER FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4J

The Silver Falls School District (SFSD) serves approximately 3,500 students across 250 square miles with one high school, one middle school, and nine elementaries.

Community Involvement

Development of this bond was a six-year process of engagement with community volunteers, including a comprehensive facilities assessment, 39-member Long Range Facilities Planning Committee from 2019-2022, district-wide listening sessions from 2021-2023, and 20-member Bond Advisory Committee from 2022-2023.

Silverton Middle School (SMS)

SMS currently serves 445 students. The SMS main building was constructed in 1938. In the 1950-60s, classroom wings, a cafeteria, and the gymnasium were added. Due to unsafe and degraded conditions, the 1938 main building has been closed and off-limits since 2010.

The permanent usable structure of SMS only has the capacity for 350 students. Exterior stand-alone modular classrooms provide the remaining learning space, but these modulares range from 9-32 years old.

The sprawling building footprint and 41 outside entrances, the majority of which are secured by simple door locks, pose challenges for meeting current safety best practices. In both the 1938 building and 1950-60s additions, roofing, HVAC, electrical, fire protection, and plumbing systems are failing or end-of-life. The gymnasium and locker rooms were seismically upgraded in 2019 with grant funds.

Community committees recommended that SMS be a primary focus of a bond because of its immediate needs. Committees studied costs, schedules, and options for both replacement and remodeling scenarios. They recommended the school be replaced with new construction while retaining the existing gym.

SMS bond projects include:

- Construction of new, approximately 91,000 SF building attached to existing gymnasium, with secure entry, ADA accessibility, with 550-600 student capacity for future growth;
- Remodel 23,465 SF existing gym, gym mezzanine, locker rooms;
- Demolish deteriorating 1938 and 1950-60s building, abating asbestos and hazardous material;
- Site, playfield, and utility improvements; furnishings, equipment.

Silverton High School (SHS) – Targeted Upgrades

To protect the community's investment at SHS, community committees recommended targeted upgrades. This bond proposal includes the following projects:

- Replace deteriorating roof with expired warranty, portions of which are nearly 30 years old;
- Replace obsolete HVAC system controls and end-of-life chiller equipment;
- Replace dated security cameras, intercom/phones, and door access.

\$73 Million Bond

SFSD seeks voter approval of a \$73 million general obligation bond for the projects at SMS and SHS and for bond issuance costs. SFSD will receive a \$6 million matching State grant if bonds are approved.

SFSD has an existing general obligation bond for SHS that ends in 2027. With this proposal, new bonds may be issued in multiple series maturing within 28 years from issuance. New bonds may be layered with the existing bond from 2024-2027 so that the tax rate is estimated to remain at the current rate of \$1.96 per \$1,000 of assessed value during 2024-2027 and after 2027. Actual levy rate may differ due to actual interest rates, changes in assessed value.

SFSD will form a citizen bond oversight committee to ensure proceeds are used for purposes indicated. Audits will be performed as part of SFSD's annual audit.