

Retreat and Special Meeting
Wednesday, August 12, 2026 8:00 AM

District Office Board Room
1555 SW 35th Street
Corvallis, OR 97333

Agenda

- I. CALL TO ORDER (8:00 AM)*
- II. WORK SESSION WITH OREGON SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

Corvallis school board retreat - August 12, 2026

1. Welcome
2. Reflect on homework from last time
 - a. What is one perception of the district/board that you want to change?
 - b. What is the board's current state with respect to community connection? Where would you like it to be?
3. The board as a messenger
 - a. Speaking with one voice (unified vs. uniform)
 - b. Speaking as an individual (policy BBAA)
 - c. Clear communication during meetings
 - d. Lack of conflict vs. passivity
 - e. Sharing data used in decision-making with the community
4. Continued and improved connection and community care
 - a. Common expectations
 - b. Defining transparency
5. Timelines for change and evolution
6. Reflections: what have we learned about community engagement?
7. What's next?

August 2026

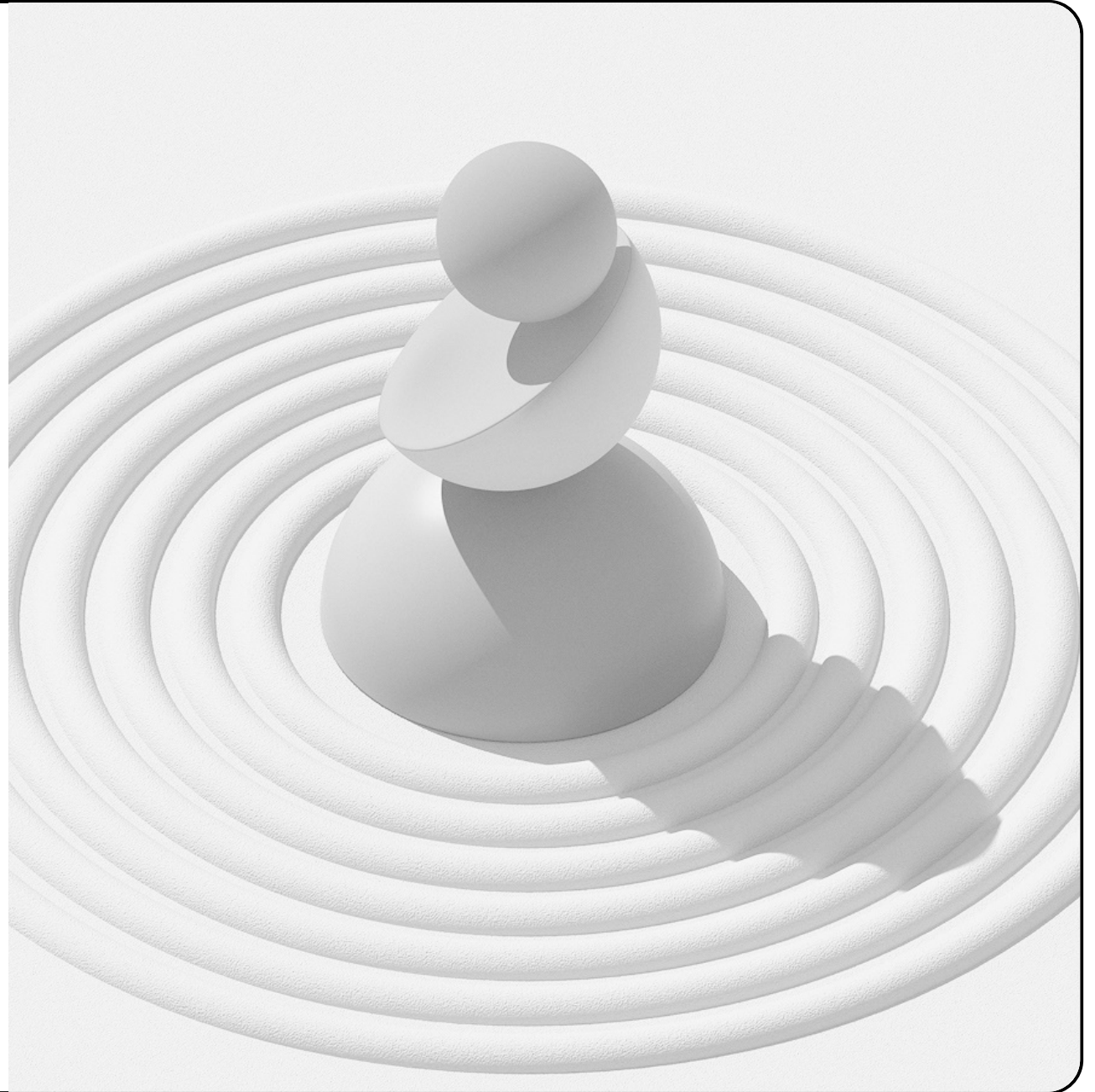
Kristen Miles, Ed.D.

Oregon School Boards Association

CORVALLIS SCHOOL BOARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP II

WELCOME

- What was one thing you enjoyed this summer?
- What's going well with the board/district?
- Anything you would like to share between last time and today?



The most trusted boards
aren't the ones that avoid
controversy.

They're the ones whose
values remain recognizable
during controversy.

HOMEWORK REFLECTION:

1. What is one perception of the district and/or board you would like to change?
2. What is one perception of the district and/or board that you would like to maintain?
3. What is the board's current state with respect to community connection? Where would you like it to be?

COMMON THEMES

Did anyone identify the same perception?

Which perceptions are within the board's control?

Which are not?

Which perceptions are actually about communication rather than decisions?



THE BOARD AS MESSENGER

UNIFIED AND UNIFORM

UNIFIED

Respectful disagreement

Decision is made

Everyone supports
implementation

UNIFORM

Same opinions

Same vote

Same reasoning

SPEAKING AS AN INDIVIDUAL (POLICY BBAA)

1. Exercise authority in board meetings
2. Only act in the name of the board when authorized to do so
3. Be knowledgeable of the district's work
4. Express personal opinions in public as one's own
5. Requests for information requiring expense or resources must be submitted to the board for consideration
6. Requests for legal opinions must be approved by the board. The chair can seek legal advice if the request involves the superintendent's employment or performance
7. Route complaints through the appropriate channels
8. Visits to schools should be arranged in advance. Notify the superintendent
9. Individuals signing contracts on behalf of the board without approval will be personally liable

EDUCATION

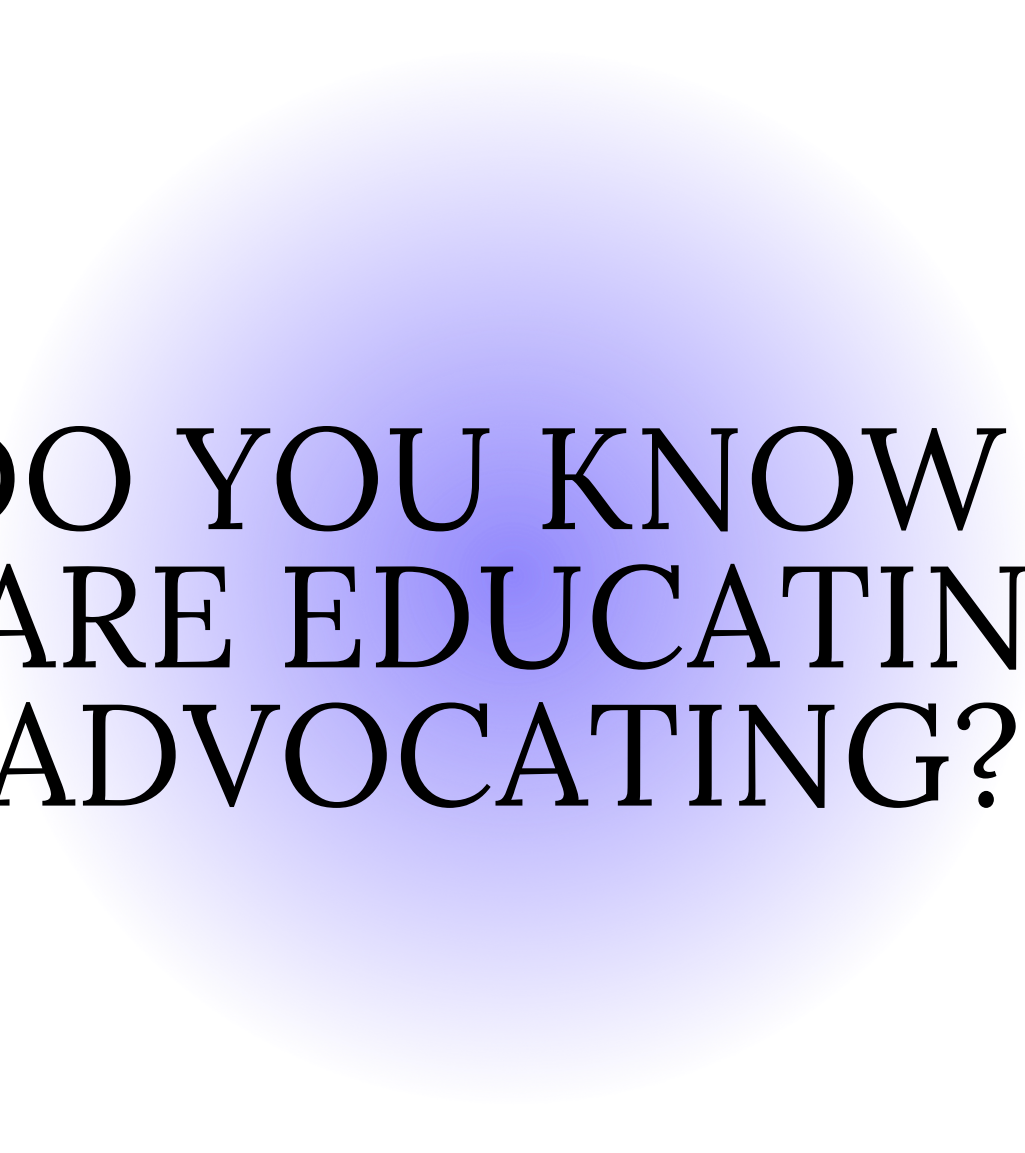
PROVIDING OBJECTIVE, INFORMATION THAT HELPS THE COMMUNITY UNDERSTAND AN ISSUE, THE BOARD'S ROLE, THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS, OR THE REASONS BEHIND A DECISION.

- Explains rather than persuades.
- Presents relevant facts and context.
- Acknowledges complexity.
- Helps people understand the "why."
- Leaves room for people to reach their own conclusions.

ADVOCACY

COMMUNICATING WITH THE PURPOSE OF PERSUADING OTHERS TO SUPPORT A PARTICULAR POSITION, OUTCOME, OR COURSE OF ACTION.

- Seeks to influence opinion.
- Promotes a preferred outcome.
- Uses arguments intended to convince.
- Often emphasizes why one position is the right one.



HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN
YOU ARE EDUCATING VS.
ADVOCATING?

A. Education answers:

1. What happened?
2. Why did the board consider this?
3. What information informed the decision?
4. What is the board's role?

B. Advocacy answers:

1. Why you should agree.
2. Why this is the best choice.
3. Why opposing views are less valid.

*Neither avenue is wrong;
both have their place in
governance*



COMMUNICATION DURING THE BOARD MEETING



PAIR ACTIVITY

The district proposes changing school start times to improve transportation efficiency and reflect current age-based brain science about how students learn. The proposal would impact family schedules and extracurricular activities. You're discussing this at a board meeting.

Provide an example of:

- Curiosity
- Confidence
- Respect while disagreeing
- Clarity

CONFLICT VS. PASSIVITY AT THE BOARD TABLE

What is the difference between healthy disagreement and avoiding difficult conversations?

If someone watched your meetings, would they conclude that this board thinks deeply before making decisions? Why or why not?



SHARING DATA

What information would help a reasonable person understand—not necessarily agree with—the board's decision?

Individual activity:

Think of a decision you've made as a board—or one a board commonly faces. What data or information would be important to proactively share with the community so they could understand the board's reasoning? What processes or strategies could you use to make this clear?

CONTINUED AND
IMPROVED
TRANSPARENCY AND
COMMUNITY CARE

PAIR ACTIVITY

Think about a board you know (or an ideal board, if you don't) that you would describe as connected to their community.

Without naming the district, what behaviors does that board consistently demonstrate? (3-5 ideas)



ADDITIONAL IDEAS

1. Predictable engagement
2. Visible decision-making
3. Respectful dialogue
4. Responsiveness to emerging issues
5. Consistency
6. Transparency
7. Student-centered focus

What identified behaviors are already strengths for this board? Which represent opportunities?

WHAT IS TRANSPARENCY?



THE GOAL OF TRANSPARENCY
ISN'T THAT EVERYONE AGREES
WITH THE BOARD.

IT'S THAT NO ONE HAS TO
GUESS HOW THE BOARD GOT
THERE.

Transparency IS

Explaining the process

Providing context

Explaining the rationale

Communicating proactively

Being honest about tradeoffs

Transparency is NOT

Sharing confidential information

Sharing every conversation

Seeking agreement

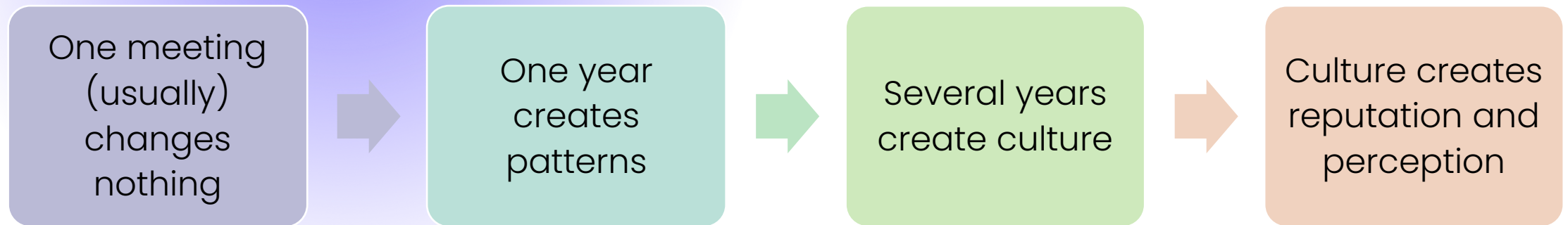
Defending every decision

Eliminating disagreement



CHANGE TAKES TIME

Timelines for change



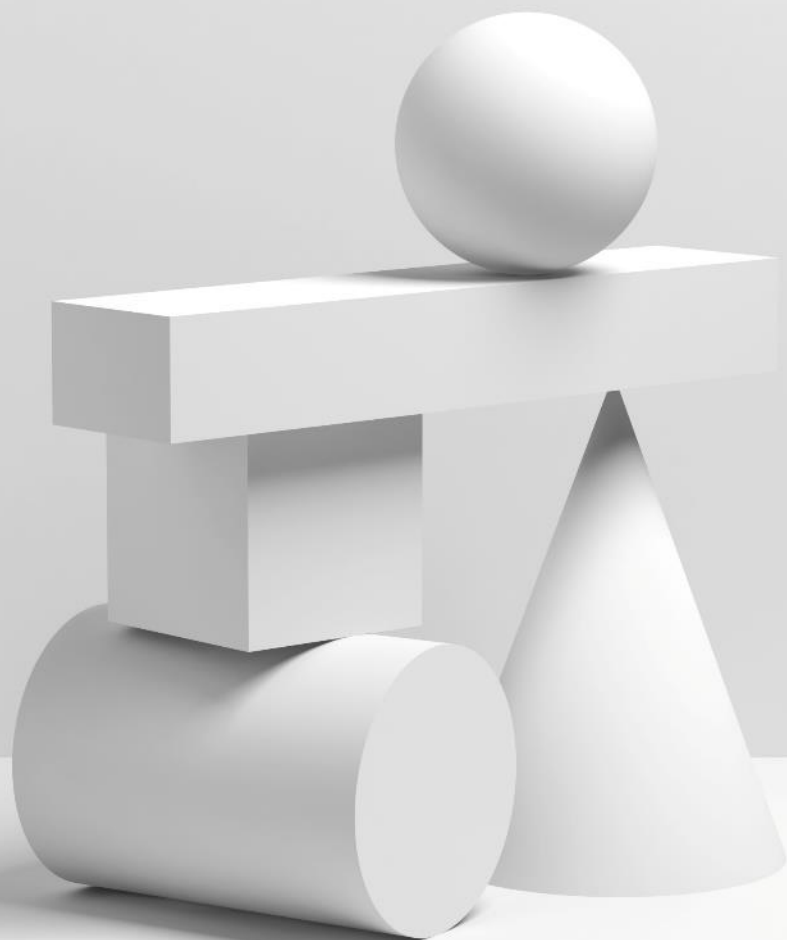
What is the board doing well with respect to steps 2, 3, and 4?

REFLECTION:

WHAT ASSUMPTIONS HAVE BEEN
CHALLENGED?

WHAT STRENGTHS HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED
THAT CAN BE LEVERAGED FOR THE
FUTURE?

WHAT DO YOU COMMIT TO AS PART OF
TODAY'S DISCUSSION?



Q & A AND DISCUSSION

- II.A. Welcome
- II.B. Reflect On Homework From Last Time
- II.C. The Board as a Messenger
- II.D. Continued and Improved Connection and Community Care
- II.E. Timelines For Change and Evolution
- II.F. Reflections: What Have We Learned About Community Engagement?
- II.G. What's Next?
- III. LUNCH (11:00 AM)
- IV. BOOK STUDY - THE FUTURE IS DISABLED: PROPHECIES, LOVE NOTES
AND MOURNING SONGS
- V. RESOLUTION NO 26-0801 CALLING MEASURE ELECTION



Corvallis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prepared for: Corvallis School Board
Prepared by: Lauren Wolfe, Director of Finance
Meeting Date: August 12, 2026

Resolution No. 26-0801: Call a Measure Election to Submit to the Electors of the District the Question of Authorizing a Five-Year Local Option Levy Renewal ACTION REQUESTED

Background

Under Oregon's property tax law, a local option levy gives individual communities the ability to supplement state funding for their local schools. In May 2022, voters in Corvallis renewed a five-year local option levy, originally approved in 2006 and renewed in 2010 and 2016, at a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

The district uses resources from the local option levy to fund teachers at all schools to sustain class sizes; music, physical education and art instruction for elementary students; vocational and technical education opportunities; counseling support for students; and high school athletics and activities. In fiscal year 2026-27, local option taxes are estimated to represent about \$11.3 million, or 10% of the district's general fund operating revenues.

The current levy will expire June 30, 2027. Proposing a levy renewal with a rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value would not increase the current tax rate; it would extend the existing tax rate for another five years beginning in 2027-28, after the current levy expires.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Adopt the attached resolution to call a measure election on November 3, 2026, to submit to the electors of the district the question of authorizing a five-year local option levy renewal.

ATTACHED:

Resolution No. 26-0801
Request for Ballot Title – SEL 805
Notice of Measure Election – SEL 803
Explanatory Statement for Benton County Voters Pamphlet

MOTION REQUESTED:

"I move that Resolution No. 26-0801 be adopted to call a measure election on November 3, 2026, to submit to the electors of the district the question of authorizing a five-year local option levy renewal."

Corvallis School District 509J
Resolution No. 26-0801

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 509J, BENTON AND LINN COUNTIES, OREGON, CALLING A MEASURE ELECTION TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF A FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY RENEWAL AT THE RATE OF \$1.50 PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUATION FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS.

WHEREAS, Oregon Revised Statutes 280.040 through 280.090 authorizes the district to submit a measure to district voters which, if approved, would allow the district to impose a local option tax for general operations.

WHEREAS, voters in the district last approved a local option levy in 2022 at the rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for general operations; and

WHEREAS, the current local option levy provides approximately 10% of the District's general fund revenue and funds over 67 staff positions; and

WHEREAS, the current local option levy will expire June 30, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the district has determined there is a need to renew this level of funding and seek voter approval to renew the local option tax.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CORVALLIS SCHOOL DISTRICT 509J, BENTON AND LINN COUNTIES, OREGON AS FOLLOWS:

1. That an election is hereby called for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the district the question of authorizing a renewal of the local option levy for operating purposes for a period of five years commencing July 1, 2027 and ending June 30, 2032 at a fixed rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Such a rate is estimated to raise approximately \$61.8 million over five years. The amount raised may be different than estimated, depending on changes to the assessed and real market value of each property within the district.

2. That the election hereby called shall be held on November 3, 2026.

3. That the School Board authorizes the Superintendent or their designee as the Authorized Representative to act on behalf of the district, to submit the final ballot title and explanatory statement, and to take such further action as is necessary or desirable to carry out the intent and purposes herein in compliance with the applicable provisions of law.

4. That there shall be delivered to the elections officer of Benton County, Oregon the Notice of Measure Election (the "Notice") in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A, with such changes as are approved and filed by the Authorized Representative as follows:

- a. Not later than August 14, 2026 (80 days prior to the election date) for publication of notice by Benton County on Form SEL 805.
- b. Not sooner than after completion of the ballot title challenge process provided in the Secretary of State's Referral Manual and not later than September 3, 2026 (61 days prior to the election date) on Form SEL 803.

5. That pursuant to ORS 310.145, the five-year local option tax in the amount of a fixed rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value shall be classified as being subject to the limits of Section 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution and that the taxes will be dedicated to fund the public school system.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Corvallis School District 509J, Benton and Linn Counties, Oregon, this 12th day of August, 2026.

ATTEST:

Luhui Whitebear, Board Chair

Lauren Wolfe, Deputy Clerk

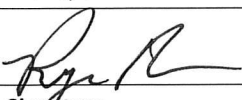
Request for Ballot Title

Preparation or Publication of Notice

SEL 805rev 08/25
OAR 165-014-0005

No later than the **81st day before an election**, a governing body that has referred a measure must prepare and file with the local elections official the text of the referral for ballot title preparation or the ballot title for publication of notice of receipt of ballot title. This form may be used to file the text of the referral and request the elections official begin the ballot title drafting process or file a ballot title and request the elections official publish notice of receipt of ballot title.

Filing Information	
Election Date November 3, 2026	Governing Body Referring Measure Corvallis School District 509J
Referral Information	
Title, Number, or other Identifier	Corvallis School District 509J
This Filing is For	
☐ Drafting of Ballot Title (Attach referral text.)	☒ Publication of Notice (Ballot title below.)
Ballot Title (Additional requirements may apply)	
Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure. Renewal of current five-year local option tax for school operations	
Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure. Shall district renew \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value local option levy for five years starting 2027-28 for school operations?	
Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect. This measure renews the Corvallis School District's local option tax, originally passed in 2006 and previously renewed in 2010, 2016, and 2022. The current local option tax expires June 30, 2027. If approved, the current tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value will remain unchanged for five years, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28. The tax revenue will be used to maintain current educational service levels and operations across the district. Specifically, funding supports: Elementary teachers for music, physical education, and art; Vocational and technical education programs; Classroom teachers to sustain or reduce class sizes; School counselors and instructional coaches; Extracurricular athletics and student activities. Approval of this measure is projected to raise approximately \$61.8 million over the five-year period. Without this local option tax revenue, the district estimates it would need to reduce its annual operating budget by approximately 10 percent, equivalent to roughly 67 full-time teaching positions.	
Authorized Official Not required to be notarized.	
Name Ryan Noss	Title Superintendent
Email Address ryan.noss@corvallis.k12.or.us	Contact Phone 541-757-5841
By signing this document: → I hereby state that I am authorized by the county, city, or district governing body to submit this Request for Ballot Title – Preparation or Publication of Notice.	


Signature8/12/26
Date Signed

Notice of Measure Election

District

SEL 803rev 08/25 ORS 250.035,
250.041, 255.145, 255.345**Notice****Date of Notice**

9/3/2026

Name of District

Corvallis School District 509J

Name of County or Counties

Linn & Benton

Date of Election

11/3/2026

Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to district voters. The ballot title notice was published and the ballot title challenge process is complete.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Renewal of current five-year local option tax for school operations

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall district renew \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value local option levy for five years starting 2027-28 for school operations?

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

This measure renews the Corvallis School District's local option tax, originally passed in 2006 and previously renewed in 2010, 2016, and 2022. The current local option tax expires June 30, 2027. If approved, the current tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value will remain unchanged for five years, beginning in fiscal year 2027-28.

The tax revenue will be used to maintain current educational service levels and operations across the district. Specifically, funding supports:

Elementary teachers for music, physical education, and art;
Vocational and technical education programs;
Classroom teachers to sustain or reduce class sizes;
School counselors and instructional coaches;
Extracurricular athletics and student activities.

Approval of this measure is projected to raise approximately \$61.8 million over the five-year period. Without this local option tax revenue, the district estimates it would need to reduce its annual operating budget by approximately 10 percent, equivalent to roughly 67 full-time teaching positions.

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be written and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the district elections authority; **or**
→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached? ☒ Yes

☐ No

Authorized District Official Not required to be notarized.

Name

Ryan Noss

Title

Superintendent

Mailing Address

1555 SW 35th St, Corvallis, OR 97333

Contact Phone

541-757-5841

By signing this document:

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election; **and**
→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.


Signature

9/3/2026

Date Signed

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR BENTON COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

☐ Primary Election _____ ☒ General Election 11/03/2026 ☐ Special Election _____
 MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY MM/DD/YYYY

☐ Original Statement ☐ Amended Statement

Measure Number

 District Submitting Statement
 Corvallis School District 509J

Total Words: 327 This Statement must not exceed 500 words.

Printed Name: Ryan NossSignature: Title: SuperintendentDate: August 12, 2026**Filing Instructions**

1. An Explanatory Statement is **required** to be submitted when a County Voter's Pamphlet is printed for the Election.
2. The person responsible for the content of the statement shall print and sign their name. Include title and name of the governing body represented.
3. Filing deadline is the same filing deadline as the Notice of Measure Election.
4. E-mail an electronic text of the explanatory statement to **elections@bentoncountyor.gov**. The electronic version must mirror the submitted file print copy. If they are different, the hard copy version will take precedence.

Requirements

1. It must be an impartial, simple, and understandable statement explaining the measure and its effect.
2. Typewritten on 8 1/2" X 11" white paper in Tahoma size 12 and attached to this form.
3. The maximum word count is 500 words/numbers. If the statement exceeds the word limit, the Elections Office will end the statement at 500 words.
4. Consist of words and numbers only. Charts, graphics or photographs are not acceptable.
5. If a word is hyphenated and is listed in a dictionary as one word, it will count as one word. All other hyphenated words will count as more than one word.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT FOR BENTON COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

Under Oregon's property tax law, a local option tax allows individual communities to supplement state funding for their local schools. The Corvallis School District local option tax was first approved by voters in 2006 and then renewed by voters in 2010, 2016 and 2022. The current local option tax represents approximately 10% of the district's general fund operating budget, and funds about 67 full-time teaching positions. The current tax expires June 30, 2027.

This measure would renew the local option tax at the current rate for another five years, beginning in 2027-28 and ending in 2031-32. The current tax rate will not increase if this measure is approved.

How will these additional tax dollars be spent?

The tax revenue from this measure will be used to continue to operate the district at its present level of service. More specifically, the additional tax revenue from this measure will be used to fund:

- Classroom teachers at all schools to sustain or reduce class sizes
- Music, physical education and art teachers at all elementary schools
- Vocational and technical education opportunities for students
- School counselors and instructional coaches
- Extracurricular athletics and activities

Is this measure within the limits established by Ballot Measure 5?

Yes, and all taxes collected will remain in the district. The local option tax rate is calculated individually for each property so that the total rate paid for education stays within the Measure 5 limits.

How much would this cost?

This measure would renew the current local option tax rate of \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value for another five years, starting in 2027 and ending in 2032. The current tax rate will not increase if this measure is approved. This is not a new or additional tax.

What if this measure doesn't pass?

If this measure fails, the district would have to reduce its annual operating budget by approximately 10% beginning in the 2027-28 school year, which is equivalent to about 67 full-time teaching positions.

PRESERVING CLASSROOM & PROGRAM FUNDING



OREGON SCHOOL FUNDING & THE LOCAL OPTION EXCEPTION

The Funding Gap

Under Oregon's constitutional tax limits (Measure 5 and Measure 50), school funding shifted heavily to the state level, which redistributes funds based on statewide student enrollment.

The "Local Control" Tool

Oregon law created the Local Option Levy as the primary tool to allow local communities to supplement their state-allocated operating budgets.

100% Locally Retained

Every dollar raised stays entirely within Corvallis School District boundaries.

Operations Only

Dedicated strictly to staffing, programs, and classroom resources – not construction or facility renovations.

Time-Limited by Law

Operating levies are capped at a **5-year maximum**, requiring periodic voter renewals.

THE FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL MEASURE

2027

Levy Expiration

Current levy expires June 30, 2027.
Resolution No. 26-0801 ensures no
funding lapse.

\$1.50

Per \$1,000 Assessed Value

The proposed rate — the exact same
rate residents have paid since 2006.

\$61.8M

Over 5 Years

Estimated total revenue if approved,
beginning fiscal year 2027-28.

This is **not a new or increased tax**. Approving this measure simply maintains the exact same rate residents have paid since 2006.

WHAT THE LEVY MEANS TO CSD'S BUDGET



A Critical 10%

The local option levy represents approximately **10% of the district's general fund operating budget** — a share that carries outsized importance.

\$11.3 Million in Annual Revenue

For the 2026-27 fiscal year, this levy represents **\$11.3 million in operating revenue**, providing a critical buffer against state funding fluctuations.

Measure 5 Compliance

The tax rate is calculated individually for each property to ensure total education property taxes remain within Oregon's constitutional Measure 5 limits.

PUTTING LEVY DOLLARS TO WORK

The levy currently funds **over 67 full-time staff positions** across the district. Without these dollars, these positions and programs would not exist.



Classroom Teachers

Retaining teachers at all school levels to sustain or reduce class sizes.



Elementary Specialists

Funding music, physical education, and art teachers at all elementary schools.



Career & Technical Education

Supporting hands-on vocational and technical education opportunities.



Student Support Services

Funding school counselors and instructional coaches for mental health and academic success.



Extracurricular Activities

Maintaining high school athletics and extracurricular activities that keep students engaged.

LEVY-FUNDED PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Classroom Teachers & Class Size

Levy funds support retaining high-quality teachers at all school levels to sustain or reduce class sizes. Over the last five years of the levy, the District has maintained its licensed staff to student ratio.



Student Support Services

Funding ensures dedicated school counselors, social workers, and instructional coaches are available to support students' mental health and academic success, providing a critical emotional and educational safety net across all schools.



Career & Technical Education

Levy funds support robust, hands-on vocational and technical training opportunities across our secondary schools. Students gain practical experience, industry credentials, and pathways to high-wage, high-demand careers in engineering, early learning, healthcare, computer science, construction, hospitality, and manufacturing.



Elementary Specialists

Funding ensures dedicated specialists for music, physical education, and art at all elementary schools in the district.



Extracurricular Activities

Levy funds support high school athletics and extracurricular activities that keep students engaged and provide valuable opportunities outside the classroom.

VI. CONSOLIDATED ACTION

VI.A. Ratify 2026-27 Organizational actions



Corvallis

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Prepared for: Corvallis School Board

Prepared by: Kim Nelson, Board Secretary

Meeting Date: August 12, 2026

Applicable Policy: [Board Policy BC/BCA](#) – Board Organization/Board Organizational Meeting

Ratify 2026-27 Organizational Actions

ACTION REQUESTED

Background

The Board is required to take action on certain organizational items no later than the next regular meeting following July 1 of each fiscal year. Because the Corvallis School Board's first meeting each fiscal year does not occur until August, the Board takes action in the prior fiscal year and then ratifies those actions at its August meeting as a formality. The annual organizational items are:

1. Resolution No. 26-0606: Designation of District Officers, Clerks, Agents, and Depositories of Funds (2026-27 Organizational Resolution)
2. Election of Board officers for 2026-27.
3. Board of Directors 2026-27 Meeting Schedule

ACTION REQUESTED:

Ratify the 2026-27 actions taken in the prior fiscal year.

MOTION REQUESTED:

"I move to ratify the 2026-27 actions that were taken by the Board at the June 18, 2026, board meeting."

VII. ADJOURNMENT