

FILED
JUL 19 2024
WASCO COUNTY CLERK

SEL 805

rev 08/21
OAR 165-014-0005

Request for Ballot Title

Preparation or Publication of Notice

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 5, 2024	Authorized Official Dr. Kenneth Lawson, President
Contact Phone (541) 506-6000	Email Address klawson@cgcc.edu
Referral Information	
Title, Number or other Identifier COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND	
This Filing is For	
<input type="checkbox"/> Drafting of Ballot Title Attach referral text. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Publication of Notice Ballot title below.	

Ballot Title Additional requirements may apply

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.
Bonds to increase accessibility; make facility and safety improvements

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.
Shall College construct, update vocational, educational facilities; refinance obligations; issue \$13 million in bonds; estimated to maintain current tax rate? 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 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.
Columbia Gorge Community College seeks approval of bonds to improve college facilities; estimated to maintain current tax rate, regular audits required.
The State is expected to provide \$5.5 million in matching funds.
Bonds would finance capital costs, including:

- Enhancing student and staff safety with cameras, automatic locking systems and seismic upgrades.
- Updating aging building systems for operations, energy efficiency, technology and accessibility improvements.
- Modernizing classrooms and labs to provide educational technology and support students' workforce training.
- Improvements to The Dalles Campus classrooms, labs, and buildings, including hybrid learning technology supporting specialized job training, apprenticeship, and education programs. Improve food service and cafeteria facilities.
- Upgrades to the Hood River Campus focused on educational (science lab and health) programs and community gathering spaces.
- Refinance Regional Skills Center and Student Housing loan that funded construction.

Bonds would mature within 13 years from date of issuance. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to maintain the current bond tax rate of \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value subject to change based on interest rates and assessed value fluctuations.

By signing this document:
→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the county or city governing body, or district elections authority to submit this Request for Ballot Title – Preparation or Publication of Notice.

DocuSigned by:

 AA692F4410D1427...
Signature | **Date Signed** 07-19-24

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WASCO AND HOOD RIVER COUNTIES, OREGON**

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT:

Established in 1977, Columbia Gorge Community College District now serves over 2,300 students per year at two campuses, one in The Dalles and one in Hood River.

THE COLLEGE SEEKS VOTER APPROVAL TO ISSUE BONDS ESTIMATED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT BOND TAX RATE

The Columbia Gorge Community College District Board of Education seeks voter approval of a \$13 million general obligation bond. **If this measure is approved the College estimates that property owners would continue to pay the same rate for the College's bonds as they are currently paying.**

\$5.5 MILLION IN STATE GRANT FUNDS

The Oregon legislature has made eligible up to \$5,500,000 in grant funds but only if the College provides matching funds. Passage of the bond would secure the College's matching funds.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

In 2023, the College formed a facilities planning committee comprised of community and college volunteers that analyzed the condition of all of the College's facilities. The committee recommended a plan to improve, update, and construct educational and workforce training facilities.

Bonds would finance capital costs including:

ENHANCING SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Safety and security improvements to both The Dalles and Hood River campuses, including:

- Security cameras
- Automatic door-locking systems
- Seismic upgrades

UPDATING AGING COLLEGE FACILITIES

- Updating and improving aging facilities, including energy efficiency upgrades, replacing central heating and cooling, technology upgrades, and increased accessibility for people with disabilities.

MODERNIZING CLASSROOMS AND LABS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

- Renovating and modernizing learning spaces to provide hybrid and distant learning needs to serve users across Wasco and Hood River counties, both urban and rural.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FACILITIES

- Expansion of workforce spaces to enhance current career and technical education programs.

IMPROVING THE DALLES CAMPUS including upgrades to classrooms, labs, and buildings that provide:

- Hybrid learning opportunities
- Specialized job training, apprenticeship, and education programs
- Improved food service and cafeteria facilities

UPGRADING THE HOOD RIVER CAMPUS focused on educational (science lab and health) programs and community gathering spaces.

REFINANCING REGIONAL SKILLS CENTER AND STUDENT HOUSING LOAN THAT FUNDED CONSTRUCTION

Additional capital costs including loan repayment, site improvements, furnishings, equipment, and bond issuance costs.

OVERSIGHT FOR BOND EXPENDITURES

The Columbia Gorge Community College District Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee would provide oversight to ensure that all bond funds are used for the purposes approved by voters. Their role would include communicating project implementation to the public and overseeing spending.

BOND FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR VOTER-APPROVED PROJECTS

Law requires bond funds be used for expenses described in the ballot.

FINANCIALS

Bonds would mature within 13 years from date of issuance. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to maintain the current bond tax rate of \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value subject to change based on interest rates and assessed value fluctuations.