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# Notice of Measure Election District

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rev 03/18 ORS 250.035, 250.041, 255.145, 255.945

Notice			
Date of Notice	Name of District	Name of County or Counties	Date of Election
March 10, 2021	Three Rivers / Josephine County Unit Joint School District	Josephine, Jackso	May 18, 2021

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.  
  
Bonds to improve student safety, programs and school facilities.

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.  
  
Shall the District issue \$81,770,000 in bonds for school capital costs and receive a \$4,975,682 state matching grant? 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.  
  
Three Rivers/Josephine County Unit Joint School District was awarded a \$4,975,682 State grant which will be available only if the bonds are approved.  
  
If approved, this measure would finance capital costs within the District, including projects that:  
  
- Improve safety and security at schools,  
- Replace or Improve mechanical systems for efficiency, health and safety,  
- Address overcrowding, create flexibility, add or improve learning spaces, and,  
- Improve and repair buildings for longevity  
  
Citizen accountability, oversight, audits of bond projects and expenditures will be required.  
  
The District's outstanding bonds will mature before the District levies for this measure. The District estimates this measure will increase the current tax rate for the District's general obligation bonds by .46 cents per thousand of assessed value.  
  
Bonds would mature in 21 years or less from the date of issuance and may be issued in one or more series. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to be \$.93 per \$1,000.00 of assessed value. Actual rates may vary based upon interest rates incurred and changes in assessed value.

**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 drafted 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	Title
Dave Valenzuela	Superintendent
Mailing Address	Contact Phone
P.O. Box 160, Murphy, Oregon 97533	(541) 862-3111

*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

3-10-2021  
Date Signed

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Three Rivers / Josephine County Unit Joint School District serves approximately 4,500 students in Grants Pass, Merlin, Sunny Valley, Murphy, Williams, Applegate, Selma, Kerby, O'Brien and Cave Junction. The average age of our school buildings is 59 years old.

Three Rivers School District has been awarded a \$4.975 million grant from the State of Oregon to use on identified projects - if the bond measure is approved. If the measure is not approved, these funds will be granted to another District.

In 2017, a community-based Long-Range Facility Planning team recommended renovations to address facility issues and improvements to support student learning. In 2020 a Bond Committee, using the priorities previously established, identified specific projects to extend the life of buildings, improve efficiency and address student safety and instructional needs.

### **Although well maintained, Three Rivers Schools face challenges:**

- Extended fire seasons and the pandemic are impacting air quality and the health of students and staff.
- We have aging buildings with failing, inefficient mechanical systems.
- School safety and security needs have changed.
- Our schools need updated and flexible learning spaces. Stages, closets, and hallways are currently being used as classrooms.

Based on the Committees' work, the School Board is seeking voter approval to issue up to \$81.77 million in general obligation bonds to fund prioritized projects from the plan, including:

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### **Protecting investments in existing schools:**

- Upgrading heating, ventilation and air conditioning
- Repairing and replacing roofs, upgrading domestic hot water delivery systems, and paving access routes
- Replacing bathroom fixtures and stalls, flooring replacement and asbestos abatement
- Replacing windows and repairing the exterior envelope

### **Addressing over-crowding, creating flexibility, adding improved learning spaces:**

- Additional classrooms, adding outdoor learning spaces or covered courtyards, replacing temporary walls with permanent walls, and middle and high school Career & Technical Education program upgrades.

### **Improving safety and security at schools:**

- Replacing fire alarm system, ADA ramps, exterior fencing, doors and locks, integrated bells and intercom system, adding solid doors, exterior lighting and reorganizing some school layouts to increase security.

All schools will be receiving critical building investment upgrades. In addition, each school will receive at least three program or safety improvements identified during the school and community outreach programs.

The proposed bond measure would replace the District's current bond with a tax rate of approximately \$.93 per \$1,000 of assessed property value or \$186 per year for property assessed at \$200,000. The actual levy rate may differ due to actual interest rates and changes in assessed value. Bonds would mature in 21 years or less from the date they are issued and may be issued in one or more series. Bond funds can only be used for capital projects, not operating costs.

The Three Rivers School District will establish an independent Citizen Oversight Committee to ensure bond funds are being used as approved by the voters.