

Measure 17-69 Rogue Community College District

Ballot Title

17-69

Rogue Community College District General Obligation Bond for Training/Education

QUESTION: Shall Rogue Community College District be authorized to issue general obligation bonds not exceeding \$20,000,000? 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: If approved, this measure provides funds for capital costs to improve facilities for student training/education, assisting with career employment opportunities, including:

- Expansion/remodel or renovation, of education/training facilities at Medford (Riverside Campus-RVC), Grants Pass (Redwood Campus-RWC) and White City (Table Rock Campus-TRC) locations:
- Construction of a facility or expansion/remodeling existing TRC and RVC facilities for allied health programs. The Oregon legislature has approved \$8 million of matching funds for this project.
- Nursing Training Facility (RWC).
- Science Education Center (RWC).
- Career and Technical Education classrooms/labs at RVC, TRC, RWC, and satellite sites.
- Construction of facilities or purchase of modular facilities for the TRC Emergency Services/Fire Training programs at Fire District 3.
- Remodeling TRC building as a High Tech Center.
- Acquisition of furniture/equipment for above-referenced facilities, and bond issuance costs.

Bonds mature in a period not to exceed twenty-one (21) years from the date of issue and may be issued in one or more series. The estimated tax rate is approximately \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Actual rates may vary.

students at RCC achieve careers here in the Rogue Valley. In addition, developing a highly skilled workforce will help existing businesses expand and will attract new industry to the region.

The State has agreed to provide an \$8,000,000 grant towards the cost of the allied health project, but only if RCC can provide a matching amount. It is possible another \$10 million in matching funds will be available in 2017. That could produce an additional \$18 million for a total of \$38 million for the projects.

(This information furnished by Rogue Community College District.)

Explanatory Statement

Rogue Community College is asking for voter approval of a measure to finance needed improvements, expansions, and construction of buildings and facilities to provide the technical training and education to meet the current and future employment opportunities and economic growth of southern Oregon.

The contribution of property owners is estimated to be approximately 5 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, which will raise about \$20 million. Using this estimate, a home with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay \$10 per year; a home with an assessed value of \$300,000 would pay \$15 per year. The bond levy will be district-wide, and the funds will be used in both Jackson and Josephine counties.

These funds will support capital projects to improve facilities for student training in many areas including high technology manufacturing, healthcare, fire science and emergency services, and computer science. It will help the over 17,000

Measure 17-69 Arguments

Argument in Favor

The Rogue Community College Board of Education urges you to join us in voting YES for this important measure.

RCC prepares students for jobs in areas critical to our local economy. This bond will provide the facilities that will enable RCC to educate and train students for careers in healthcare, manufacturing, technology, fire science, computer science, emergency services, and business.

For our local high school graduates as well as returning adult students, the opportunity to earn work skills, a certificate or a degree can make a life-changing difference. Your vote is an investment in their future. Please help us support our students by voting YES for 17-69.

Pat Ashley
Ron Fox
Brett Johnson
Tim Johnson
Kevin Talbert

Jackson County Members of RCC Board of Education

(This information furnished by Kevin Talbert, Rogue Community College Board of Education.)

Argument in Favor

Training on today's equipment and operating systems prepare students for southern Oregon manufacturing jobs. Supporting Measure # 17-69 will equip Rogue Community College's technology labs with the equipment and software used by companies right here in the Rogue Valley. We need the plant systems and electronic technology technicians, CNC machine operators, CAD and CAM programmers, micro controller systems technicians, certified welders and those trained in industrial mechanics and maintenance technology to meet our expanding employment needs. Connecting with our high schools' STEM program participants and linking student credits with engineering programs at OSU and OIT, Rogue Community College can prepare tomorrow's worker with the very tools and processes used in today's workplace.

Please join these southern Oregon manufacturing employers in supporting Rogue Community College District General Obligation Bond for Training/Education, Measure # 17-69.

Boise Cascade
Brammo, Inc.
Erickson, Incorporated
Medford Fabrication
Quantum, Inc.
Roseburg Forest Products
Sweed Machinery Inc.

(This information furnished by William D. Thorndike, Jr. Medford Fabrication.)

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Measure 17-69 Arguments

Argument in Favor

I support Measure 17-69

We need to strengthen our local families and our local businesses. To do that, we need a strong, local community college.

Rogue Community College serves as a bridge between employers and the people they want to hire. RCC trains people for family wage jobs that are already open right here in our valley.

As a physician, I am acutely aware of the shortage of nurses, medical assistants, and other allied health providers. RCC offers great training but has waitlists for healthcare programs. A person could train to be a medical assistant at RCC in 9 months and immediately get a living wage job with full benefits; the shortage almost guarantees it. Healthcare providers also need over 250 nurses right now. The starting wage for nurses on average is over \$35 per hour. Those nurses could be hired from outside the area, but why not fill those jobs with local residents who want to improve their lives? There are over a thousand health related jobs that are unfilled in the valley right now because there are not enough people with the right training. There are shortages in many other fields too, including electronics, computers, and manufacturing technology. RCC can bridge that gap for us.

Measure 17-69 will provide the expansion we need to ensure Rogue Community College can offer local residents the training they need to fill these higher wage jobs.

Vote Yes on Measure 17-69.

(This information furnished by Sen. Alan Bates, D.O..)

Argument in Favor

Rogue Community College is a great investment for our community.

Our local economy is growing and employers are looking to hire more and more people for skilled jobs. Rogue Community College currently enrolls 17,000 local students in many technical training areas including healthcare, technology manufacturing, fire science, emergency services and computer science.

Measure 17-69 will support capital projects and improvements for all three campuses, and the expansion is expected to encourage local business to stay local and grow locally as well as attract new industries to our area. Rogue Community College is building a workforce to meet the current and future demands for a highly trained quality workforce.

Passing this measure will impact our future and decide whether the Rogue Valley economically thrives and grows into the future. Please join me in supporting ballot measure 17-69

Ken Trautman
President & CEO
People's Bank of Commerce

(This information furnished by Ken Trautman, Peoples Bank of Commerce.)

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Measure 17-69 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Logos Public Charter School wholeheartedly supports the RCC bond measure 17-69 on the May 2016 ballot.

Logos Scholars Academy, our early college program, offers students an opportunity to earn dual high school and college credits. In 2015 - 16, 25% of our high school students will earn over 3,100 college credits. Students take writing, math, and science to establish a strong foundation in content, critical thinking, and research to transfer to a four year university to pursue a bachelor's degree. RCC has been an excellent starting point for them.

Hands-on learners have a choice of 80 career and technical training programs, including emergency medical services, electronics technology, medical assistant, and early childhood education. RCC trains students specifically for the workforce demands of the Jackson and Josephine county communities. Students complete these technical certificates in several terms with the skills and knowledge to step into a livable wage career here in Rogue Valley.

All along the way, trained RCC advisors provide course selection guidance, financial aid assistance, and support for students to provide a strong bridge to transition to college.

Logos Charter School believes the community will greatly benefit from the projects supported by this bond measure. The expanded and renovated high tech facilities devoted to technical courses offered at RCC will provide students of all ages and career interests with a quality learning environment to learn necessary skills to apply in today's workforce.

Vote YES on 17-69!

Valerie Barr
Logos Scholars Academy Director
Logos Public Charter School

(This information furnished by Valerie Barr, Logos Public Charter School.)

Argument in Favor

This is a critical moment for our region's economy. The ability of RCC to provide the educational and training opportunities we vitally need will be decided by this measure. I strongly urge a yes vote.

All the pieces are finally coming together to kickstart our economy to a much higher level, and to ensure good, family wage jobs. RCC has done a remarkable job bringing in federal and state funding for student training, with the final piece needed here on the ballot to confirm our local support. If we vote to bring local dollars as a portion of matching funds to this effort, it is going to be a game changer. Our students will have access to first class career and technical education, and our health care, high tech, construction and manufacturing sectors will thrive.

We have an incredible opportunity in front of us, one that will pay off for decades to come. We have struggled for far too long to develop the pathway to good paying jobs in our region. That pathway is here now. Let's take it.

(This information furnished by Rep. Peter Buckley, State Representative, House District 5.)

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Measure 17-69 Arguments

Argument in Favor

The Rogue Valley Fire Chief's Association represents every Fire Agency in both Jackson and Josephine County. Rogue Community College has utilized fire stations across the two counties to deliver a fire science program that prepares local people for careers in the fire service.

Many of the full time career firefighters in the Rogue Valley are graduates of the RCC Fire Science program. Several fire Departments sponsor new firefighters by paying for their tuition and books while they work on a fire engine serving their local community. These well trained student firefighters supplement the career staff during their training and many of them are hired as full time career firefighters after they graduate.

There are several areas where the hands on training can be delivered, unfortunately, classroom space has been limited. The Fire Science program utilizes space at the Fire District 3 training facility in White City to store their apparatus and equipment. This training facility has a burn building, simulation house, drill tower, and several other props on site that provide a quality training experience that is accessible to the college and to all local fire agencies. Medford Fire-Rescue and Grants Pass Fire-Rescue also provide excellent hands on training opportunities that are routinely used by the RCC program.

Classroom space has been the primary challenge.

This bond measure has dedicated funds to establish fire science classrooms at the training facility in White City. Fire Science students would be able to attend class at the same location where a significant portion of the hands on training is occurring. In addition, the local fire service would have access to these facilities.

The Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association urges you to vote YES on ballot measure 17-69.

A YES vote will to help support your local fire agency in its quest to deliver high quality service to your community.

(This information furnished by Justin Bates, Rogue Valley Fire Chiefs Association.)

Argument in Favor

SOREDI Board Supports RCC Bond Levy

Our **college**, our **students** and our **economy** need the expanded training and educational capacities to be achieved with approval of Rogue Community College's bond levy proposal on the May primary ballot. Export businesses in our region need workers ready to fill current and future jobs available in our region. Nearly every business in Jackson and Josephine County is investing in new levels of technology whether in manufacturing, electronic commerce or business services sectors so our workforce needs to possess the proper skills to fill these high wage opportunities.

The bond levy proposed by Rogue Community College will invest in new facilities, new training and educational modules at RCC's campuses in Grants Pass, Medford and White City. The investments will train, educate and prepare our future workers as well as current workers to attain better skills and prepare students planning to pursue a university education. The RCC bond levy funds will be used to expand nursing and allied healthcare training; expand advanced manufacturing skills training along with facility improvements for apprenticeship programs and outdoor recreation. Current students completing one of five different RCC technical career degrees have found jobs where their RCC education made the real difference. Of recent RCC graduates over 90% have found quality jobs upon graduation. Also these same RCC technical degree graduates are earning wages well above the current average annual wages for Jackson and Josephine Counties.

In SOREDI's work to support export business success and to attract new businesses to our region we hear the same "#1" priority for an expansion or in choosing a location for a new facility – a skilled and ready workforce! For our **economy** to improve, for our businesses to create quality **jobs**, and for our **students** to acquire the essential skills we need our **college** to able train and educate more workers.

SOREDI Board urges approval of the RCC bond levy.

Matt Stephenson Bill Thorndike Monte Mendenhall

(This information furnished by Ron Fox, Executive Director, Southern Oregon Regional Economic Development, Inc. (SOREDI).)

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