

Measure 17-69 Rogue Community College District

Referred to the People by Rogue Community College District

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.

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 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.

Measure 17-69 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Local Businesses and Job Creators Ask You to Vote Yes on the RCC Bond

The Josephine County Chamber of Commerce, made up of over 500 local businesses, strongly encourages you to vote **YES** on 17-69, the Rogue Community College (RCC) Bond Measure.

In today's economy, having a well-trained workforce is the only way our communities can succeed. For three generations, RCC has been the primary way for local residents to gain the education and training required for the jobs our businesses need to fill.

The RCC levy will allow our community college to build the space needed to expand training programs for local students in the industrial, technical and health care professions where qualified employees are in high demand. The levy will also help modernize equipment so our students and workforce are trained to meet the ever changing industry standards employers require and to help them find good, local jobs.

With a 'yes' vote on 17-69, students at RCC will continue to be trained for jobs that our local businesses need qualified applicants for right now. Not only is this essential for our local businesses, but it gives educational opportunities to local students which will assist them in finding living wage jobs immediately after graduating.

Rogue Community College is an essential part of our community and a critical partner in the future success of our local businesses.

The Josephine County Chamber of Commerce asks that you please vote **Yes on 17-69**.

(This information furnished by Colene Martin, Grants Pass & Josephine County Chamber of Commerce.)

Argument in Favor

We, the undersigned citizens of Josephine County, urge 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, business and more.

For our local high school graduates as well as returning adult students, the opportunity to earn work and life 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.

*Dean Wendle
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Jim Dole
John Harelson
Midge Renton
Dawn Welch
Josh Welch
Kathy Burkey
Penney Shipley
Galyn Carlile
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Mary Louise Hendricks*

(This information furnished by Claudia Sullivan, Rogue Community College Board of Education.)

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Measure 17-69 Arguments

Argument in Favor

Rogue Community College deserves my support and the support of this community now and into the future. Let me explain why I am so enthusiastic about voting YES.

I grew up locally in Rogue River and received my GED due to having my first child at 16 years of age. A university education appeared impossible and out of reach, but attending Rogue Community College seemed less daunting and attainable. From the beginning, I appreciated the community atmosphere and friendly environment. The assistance and support I received made the journey through academia possible. Something that never came easy to me. I loved learning, had professors that believed in my abilities and best of all, I began to believe in myself. I was able to attend my classes, keep my employment, and raise my family. All while staying in my home area.

I continued on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and, more recently, my Master's degree in Nursing. I wholeheartedly believe that the ability to begin my journey at Rogue Community College led to the success I have today. Currently, I am a Professional Development Specialist/Clinical Educator, in a job that I truly love. And I know each and every day I am making a difference in the lives of the people we serve. My mother has also received her degree from RCC and my oldest daughter is now attending as well. All while continuing to live and work locally in Southern Oregon.

Rogue Community College has the opportunity to expand the campus in the allied health field providing high quality training to local students to help meet the healthcare needs of our community. A yes vote will support the college's structural needs, expand technical training and provide a solid foundation for the future.

(This information furnished by Shana Ogle.)

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. 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.

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.)

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Measure 17-69 Arguments

Argument in Favor

I support Measure 17-69. As a longtime family physician in the community, I believe it will bolster the delivery of healthcare in Southern Oregon.

With the rapid increase of people with people health insurance, and our aging population, the demand for quality healthcare will only continue to grow. To meet this demand will take more than new physicians and clinics, it will require maintaining and developing a highly trained and effective healthcare workforce including nurses, medical assistants, community health workers, pharmacy technicians and emergency responders

Rogue Community College is already training the people who will be caring for us, but it needs to upgrade classroom spaces and build a new nurse center in Grants Pass, and a health occupations training center in White City. These modern facilities will make it possible to provide industry-standard training.

If you vote yes, this bond will raise \$20 million dollars, and RCC will qualify for an additional \$8 million in matching funds from the state, earmarked specifically for healthcare training. That is a 40 percent bonus that will only cost the average homeowner about \$15.00 a year.

Most importantly, this bond will help southern Oregonians, your friends and neighbors, to get family wage career jobs. Their prosperity will translate into dollars spend locally, which boost the entire community.

When I served as chief medical officer of Asante Three Rivers Medical Center I personally saw the importance of having people with the right healthcare and for the future healthcare workers in our communities.

(This information furnished by Dr. Thomas Turek MD.)

Argument in Favor

Logos Public Charter School serving Jackson and Josephine county students 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.)

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