Strong Schools Strong Eugene

THE FACTS

ON MEASURE 20-182

Measure 20-182 is a small, temporary local income tax to help Eugene schools stop increasing class sizes and restore cut school days.

Voting YES on Measure 20-182 raises $16.8 million per year for four years for our schools and holds schools accountable. Schools must use these funds to hold the line on class sizes and bring back lost school days. A citizens' review committee will make sure schools use these funds well.

It's an investment in our future:

We have cut over $50 million from our schools in the last 3 years, and our schools need help. We have increased class sizes and cut schools days, making it harder for students to get the education they need.

It's modest: Our school will still have to make big cuts. For example, even if this measure passes, 4J will still lay-off more than 40 administrators and classified staff. The 4J budget deficit is roughly $25 million next year, and this will provide $12 million; the Bethel deficit about $7 million, and this measure provides $4.6 million. By focusing on school days and class size, Measure 20-182 protects our children's education.

It's fair: Eugene residents below the poverty line do not pay. All other residents will contribute on a sliding scale based on their taxable income after deductions. The rates are modest and progressive – between 0.35% and 1.2% on Oregon taxable income. Households with an adjusted gross income (that is, after deductions) of $50,000 would pay only $120 a year.

It's accountable: The school districts must report each year to a citizens' review panel to ensure that the tax revenue is only used to restore cut school days and hold the line on increasing class size. The review panel is similar in nature to the Citizen Street Repair Review Panel.

It's temporary: This tax ends after 4 years.

"This tax will cost me about $100 a year. But I see it as a small price to pay to ensure a more positive outcome for every elementary, middle and secondary school student in our community. It's a modest investment in the future."
Matthew Schmidt, warehouse coordinator, Hummingbird Natural Foods wholesaler

"As a local physician, we are often interviewing and recruiting new doctors to our community. We want Eugene to continue to attract the best doctors. In all my years of recruiting, I have never been asked what our tax rates are, but I am usually asked how our public schools are. Vote Yes for Strong Schools in May."
Bob Pelz, PeaceHealth Physician

"We do not have the time to come up with other options that may or may not solve the financial deficit that is crippling our school district. We need to do this! This is not only a crisis for school-aged children and their parents, but a city, state and nationwide problem that can only be remedied by the actions of its concerned citizens."
Susanne and Jarret Bryant, small business owners, Devote30

Tax Brackets and Estimated Tax Liability for A City Income Tax to Raise $16.8 Million for Schools

Estimated AGI	OTI	Joint Filers Rate	Joint Filers $	Single Filers Rate	Single Filers $
$5,000	$1,800	0.00%	$0	0.00%	$0
$10,000	$6,000	0.00%	$0	0.00%	$0
$15,000	$9,900	0.00%	$0	0.00%	$0
$20,000	$13,900	0.00%	$0	0.35%	$49
$25,000	$18,100	0.00%	$0	0.47%	$85
$30,000	$21,500	0.00%	$0	0.47%	$101
$35,000	$24,800	0.35%	$87	0.47%	$117
$40,000	$28,000	0.35%	$98	0.75%	$210
$45,000	$31,100	0.35%	$109	0.75%	$233
$50,000	$34,300	0.35%	$120	0.75%	$257
$60,000	$40,700	0.47%	$191	1.20%	$488
$70,000	$47,600	0.47%	$224	1.20%	$571
$80,000	$54,700	0.75%	$410	1.20%	$656
$90,000	$62,100	0.75%	$466	1.20%	$745
$100,000	$70,500	0.75%	$529	1.20%	$846
$250,000	$190,300	1.20%	$2,284	1.20%	$2,284

Notes: *OTI means Oregon Taxable Income.*
The AGI (Adjusted Gross Income) is shown for reference purposes only. The AGI/OTI relationship depends on individual taxpayer circumstances.
Joint filers include people filing jointly as well as heads of household. Single filers include people filing separately.
Details and definitions related to filers, brackets, rates and other terms of the income tax will be included in the proposed ordinance that City Council will consider in April.

4J CALENDAR JANUARY 2011

M	Tu	W	Th	F
~~3~~	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	~~14~~
~~17~~	18	19	20	21
24	25	26	27	~~28~~
~~31~~				

X = NO SCHOOL

SCHOOL DAYS CUT

Oregon already has the 2nd shortest school year in the nation. *It is 12 days short of the national average, and 3 weeks shorter than the 10 states with the longest school year. If we do nothing, our school year will shrink even more.*

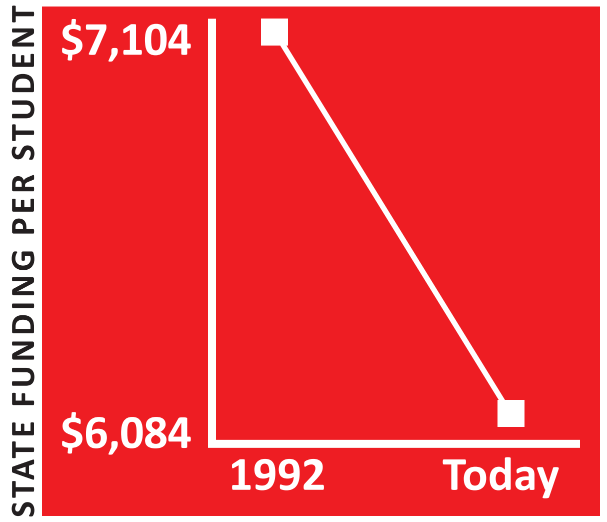
The real cost of "no school days" is not just a day without learning:

- On the cut school days, working parents have to choose: pay for childcare or miss work. Sometimes, neither of these is an option.
- Some children end up at home unsupervised.
- Students who rely on free and reduced breakfast and lunch to eat - 40% of 4J students and 56% of students in Bethel - often do not eat on the cut school days.

Why are districts facing cuts?

Education's share of the state budget has been in decline for years. The current economic crisis has only made things worse.

We are spending 15% less today than we spent 20 years ago to educate our kids.



When adjusted for inflation, the per-student budget in the 4J schools has decreased dramatically in the past 20 years.