

This four-year, modest (\$120 a year on average) tax is by far the most important thing on the ballot. Without the school funding measure, 100 teachers could lose their jobs and 4J and Bethel kids could suffer classrooms packed with more than 50 kids and school weeks cut to four days.

independent ECONorthwest study found. Mean-spirited kid and teacher bashers have desperately thrown every distortion and outright lie they can at this measure in an effort to defeat it. All the opponent arguments could apply to any government tax. The taxes for jails and potholes that conservatives back all involve imperfect PERS benefits and even more imperfect tax collection systems. The difference here simply comes down to the sad fact that opponents value prisons and asphalt more than innocent children. We don't, and neither should the people of Eugene.

Ballot Measure 20-183 –
General obligation bonds for 4J school facilities – **YES**

The school board shouldn't have put this \$70 million measure on the ballot this election. Too many people don't understand that this property tax measure, unlike the 20-182 income tax funding, won't keep schools open, it will just

repair the buildings, and put stuff in them. Even a gleaming new school building with the best equipment is useless unless there is funding for teachers to keep it open. That's what the income tax does, not this bond measure. Under our state's wacky tax laws, the School District can raise taxes for school buildings but not to actually keep them open. We're skeptical that the district would actually lose the \$15 million in federal funding if it were not on the ballot now. Even if that's true, the district could have gone with a \$15 million measure that could have secured the match without making the operating measure harder to pass. That said, we won't take out our frustration with the board decision on kids trying to learn in 4J's ramshackle buildings. Roofing, plumbing, heating, seismic safety, technology improvements and new classroom configurations for kids are clearly needed. If you absolutely have to choose, though, the income tax Measure 20-182's funding to actually run the schools is clearly more important.



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