

Bond: School district is preparing for another round of phone surveys

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Lewis and Clark Elementary School, constructed with money from the 2000 bond, would receive \$420,000 to fix exterior issues and upgrade technology.

The improvements add up to \$75 million between the five campuses. The district will receive a \$4 million match from the state if the bond passes. The facilities committee recommended using \$1 million in interest earnings from the bond to cover the remainder of the project.

The 2000 bond, expiring next year, originally cost voters \$2.53 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. Because of property value increases and bond refinancing, the tax rate has decreased to \$1.83 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.



The Daily Astorian

A proposed \$70 million school bond would include a \$44.9 million modernization of Astoria Middle School.

The school district is preparing for another round of phone surveys after the May election, said Astoria Superintendent Craig Hoppes. The survey will focus more on specific project amounts and what voters are comfortable paying, he said.

A final recommendation will be brought to the school board next month, and the board will likely decide in July whether to pursue a bond.

\$2.53 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, Bates said, the same rate voters supported in 2000. Shortening the bond to 25 years would increase the tax rate to \$2.83 per \$1,000. The district could also insert steps into a 30-year bond, lowering the tax rate paid after 20 years in anticipation of another bond, Bates said.

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Election: Democrats compete to replace Boone in state House

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Josi's total. But the case management coordinator for the state Department of Human Services has since raised her haul to more than \$92,000.

Her top donor — more than \$20,000 — is the Oregon League of Conservation Voters. Cash contributions account for \$13,000 of those donations. Oregon AFSCME Council 75 — a public employees union — gave \$10,000.

Orr, an attorney, has raised less than \$3,000 in the past three weeks, bringing his total to more than \$16,000. His largest donations have not exceeded \$1,000.

Vineeta Lower, the only Republican candidate who has filed, has raised more than \$8,000. Her donors include the Clatsop County Republican Central Committee — \$300 — and Oregon Right to Life PAC — \$500.

Independent candidate Brian Halvorsen has not established a candidate committee.

County commission

In the race for three seats on the Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, half of the eight candidates have received more than \$1,500

in contributions, while the rest have not reported any donations.

In District 1, former Warrenton Mayor Mark Kujala has raised \$3,500 — including \$2,500 from Hampton Lumber. Andy Davis, a data analyst, and George McCartin, a former attorney, have not reported any donations.

Pamela Wev, a land use planner and economic development consultant, leads the District 3 race with more than \$2,800 in donations — including \$200 from Clatsop County Planning Commissioner Chris Farrar. Peter Roscoe, a former Astoria city councilor and restaurateur, trails with \$1,800. Kurt and Jon Englund, who run Englund Marine & Industrial Supply, have given a combined \$700 to Roscoe's campaign. Pepsi of Astoria gave \$200.

Doug Thompson, a former Astoria city councilor, does not have a candidate committee.

In District 5, Commissioner Lianne Thompson has raised about \$2,500. Donors include Boone's candidate committee and the Democratic Party of Oregon.

Her opponent, Susana Gladwin, a farmer, has not reported any contributions, but she did take out a \$300 loan.

Venue: 'We have to make enough money to cover the costs'

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Odd Fellows Hall in the middle of town.

The foundation bought the dilapidated property in 2008 using a \$500,000 donation from the late C. Keith Birkenfeld, an educator and descendant of regional pioneers, and eventually began a four-year capital campaign that raised more than \$3 million for renovation.

"What we learned is we're able to get that much in grant funding, but we needed that buy-in from the local community," said Deborah Hazen, the former publisher of The Clatskanie Chief newspaper, who serves as vice president of the foundation and facilities coordinator for the cultural center.

The Clatskanie Foundation received much of the capital from larger foundations while gathering numer-

ous donations from local businesses and families. It offered multiyear pledges and memorial plaques in the Birkenfeld Theatre, named after the first donor to the project. Clatskanie, in need of new offices, donated nearby property for a parking lot and \$175,000 in property tax repayments from Georgia-Pacific Wauna Mill in exchange for a 30-year lease in the building.

The cultural center has

become a popular performance space and event venue, Hazen said, hosting weddings and performing arts events for the Clatskanie Arts Commission, which helped with fundraising and operates the building.

"We operate the building on a nonprofit basis, but we have to make enough money to cover the costs," she said, adding the cultural center breaks even.



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