

EDITORIALS

Districts dodge bullet this time

"In these tough economic times" is a phrase we haven't heard in a while, and we liked it that way.

Now, with the state Senate and House of Representatives approving a school budget for \$7.255 billion — which sounds like a lot, but isn't when you divide it between 197 school districts in Oregon — it feels like we've slid a bit back down the hole of recession.

The number isn't far from the hoped-for \$7.5 billion, which would have allowed our local school districts to maintain recently restored programs and even add a few things back, but when talking dollars and cents at the government level, it's miles away.

Fortunately for Dallas, Central and Perrydale districts, the amount won't hurt too badly. They'll be able to continue the good fight. But in Falls City, the news was grim.

Falls City Superintendent Jack Thompson compared this budget to putting the district back on life support. Cuts will have to be made. In a such a small district, where one senior can make a significant difference in graduation rates, cuts will also be felt on a grander scale than in a larger district.

And this budget is not considering that districts are going into negotiations with their teachers and certified staff. Last time, teacher negotiations came to a stalemate in Central and are ongoing in Perrydale. One of the issues at stake in both districts was increases in wages.

We'd wager that will happen again. Teachers, administrators and certified staff members have gone a long time through the dry spell created by the recession, and want some compensation for past pay freezes.

Politicians in Salem whisper hope of better forecasts in May, which may increase the school budget, but no one is thinking that will come to fruition.

It feels like more empty promises from the leaders of our state made to our schools. The worst part about it is it's not being made to our school boards, administrators and teachers as much as to our kids who are our future leaders. It's time for those in the Capitol to pay it forward for these kids to get a better education.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Public Agenda is a listing of upcoming meetings for governmental and nongovernmental agencies in Polk County. To submit a meeting, send it at least two weeks before the actual meeting date to the *Itemizer-ObsERVER* via fax (503-623-2395) or email (ionews@polkio.com).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

- **Monmouth Library Advisory Board** — 7 a.m., Monmouth Public Library meeting room, 168 S. Ecols St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.
- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Board** — 6 p.m., USDA Service Center, 580 Main St., Suite A, Dallas. 503-623-9680.
- **Monmouth Park and Recreation Board** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.

THURSDAY, APRIL 9

- **Polk County Fire District No. 1 Board** — 6 p.m., Central Station 90, 1800 Monmouth St., Independence. 503-838-1510.
- **Luckiamute Watershed Council** — 7 p.m., Henry Hill Educational Support Center, 750 S. Fifth St., Monmouth. 503-837-0237.
- **Falls City City Council** — 7:30 p.m., Falls City Community Center, 320 N. Main St., Falls City. 503-787-3631.

MONDAY, APRIL 13

- **Dallas School Board** — 6:30 p.m., Dallas School District office board room, 111 SW Ash St., Dallas. 503-623-9664, ext. 2334.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Dallas Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., City Hall, 187 SE Court St., Dallas. 503-831-3502.
- **Kings Valley Charter School Board** — 7 p.m., Kings Valley Charter School, 38840 Kings Valley Highway, Kings Valley. 541-929-2134.
- **Independence City Council** — 7:30 p.m., Independence Civic Center, 555 S. Main St., Independence. 503-838-1212.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

- **Polk County Board of Commissioners** — 9 a.m., Polk County Courthouse, 850 Main St., Dallas. 503-623-8173.
- **Monmouth Planning Commission** — 7 p.m., Volunteer Hall, 144 S. Warren St., Monmouth. 503-838-0722.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Polk County should live with budget

The spoiled child is yelling that their multi-million dollar allowance is not enough and junior (Polk County) wants more.

It's time for tough love and say this is what you have; live with it; there is no more!

Our leaders are asking you to live with less, work harder, and spend less so you can give more to junior.

So when junior runs out of its allowance again, the spoiled child will start yelling again.

It's time to say no and mean it. Take control. Please vote no on all levies.

Sandra Mayer
Dallas

'Yes' vote for same day protection

I, for one, will vote 'yes' on the additional property tax increase for Public Safety. We need proper law protection 24 hours a day, especially since the Oregon State Police are also understaffed throughout rural Oregon.

With our high crime rate and high domestic issues in this county, we need the proper police coverage and full court staff to prosecute and sentence these people to keep them off the street. It could be you or your family that needs critical help quickly, not the next day.

Bill J. Kluting
Monmouth

Levy would be endless tax cycle

The Public Safety tax levy will assess higher property

taxes for five years, but that won't be the end of it.

They will want to extend it for consecutive five-year terms up to 20 years.

Why doesn't Polk County be more aggressive about bringing in new businesses that will provide tax revenues.

Economic development is the answer to tax revenue.

Polk County voters cannot afford this levy and should, again, vote "no" in May.

Debbie Pickering
Dallas

Levy would help all in Polk County

I'm a senior living in Dallas and I will vote "yes" on the public safety levy. I own my home and live on a small fixed income.

Yet, I am still willing to pay a little extra so the DA's (district attorney) office can prosecute crimes that every police department brings forth, and so the county jail can safely and effectively house inmates as well (brought forward by every police department in the county, too).

I want a system that works and holds people accountable. Everyone deserves to be safe in their homes and in their travels throughout Polk County. Vote yes.

Jo Domaschofsky
Dallas

Money available to improve crossings

In regards to Dennis Bouchard's letter about a crosswalk at Walmart ("Crosswalk would improve safety," March 25).

I called Weldon Ryan at the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) about this because at night, if you're going east, a car's lights coming west blind you and you can't see the crosswalk.

He said there were funds for this and to talk to the city about it too, which I did.

I also told Weldon something needs to be done about all the wrecks on East Ellendale, lots of people upset.

Does someone need to lose their life before something is done?

Pat Jeske
Dallas

'No' protects folks on fixed income

I live in Falls City and oppose the Public Safety Tax Levy.

Our small town is economically depressed and many homeowners are on a fixed income.

They do not have excess funds to pay to Polk County, especially since the recent property tax increases.

What little money people on a fixed income have left each month is spent on food and utilities.

The Polk County Commissioners should be more sensitive to those on a fixed income.

We definitely do not need a five-year tax increase. Vote "no."

Jack Sylsberry
Falls City

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

WANT TO WRITE A LETTER?

Letters to the editor are limited to 300 words. Longer letters will be edited.

Election-related letters of all types are limited to 100 words. Writers are limited to one election-related letter per election season. Election letters from writers outside of Polk County are not accepted.

Each writer is restricted to one letter per 30-day period. Letters that are libelous, obscene or in bad taste will not be printed. Attacks by name on businesses or individuals will not be printed.

Letters to the editor that are obvious promotions for a business, products or services will not be printed.

The *Itemizer-ObsERVER* does not guarantee the accuracy of facts presented by letter writers; dissenters are welcome to respond. Letter writers who disagree with other published letter writers should maintain a civil discourse and address the subject, not the author.

Letters, like all editorial material submitted to the newspaper, are edited for length, grammar and content.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number. This includes letters submitted via the *I-O's* website. Names and cities of residence are published; street addresses and telephone numbers are used for verification purposes only.

Letters must be submitted from individuals, not organizations, and must be original submissions to the *I-O*, not copies of letters sent to other media.

Letters of thanks to businesses, individuals and organizations are limited to 10 names. The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. Letters submitted may not be retractable after this deadline.

Reach us at:
Mail: Editor, *Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER*, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, OR 97338.
Fax: 503-623-2395.
Email: ionews@polkio.com.
Office: 147 SE Court St., Dallas.

How to Contact Officials

GOVERNOR
Gov. Kate Brown (Dem.)
160 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-378-4582
Email: via website,
<http://governor.oregon.gov/>

STATE LEGISLATORS
Sen. Arnie Roblan
(District 5, Democrat)
5-417 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1705
sen.arnieroblan@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/roblan

Sen. Jackie Winters
(District 10, Republican)
5-301 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1710
sen.jackiewinters@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/winters

Sen. Brian Boquist
(District 12, Republican)
5-305 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1712
sen.brianboquist@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/boquist

Rep. David Gombert
(District 10, Democrat)
H-471 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1410
rep.davidgombert@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/gombert

Rep. Paul Evans
(District 20, Democrat)
H-281 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1420
rep.paul.evans@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/evans

Rep. Mike Nearman
(District 23, Republican)
H-378 State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
503-986-1423
rep.mikenearman@state.or.us
www.oregonlegislature.gov/nearman

U.S. CONGRESS
Sen. Ron Wyden (Dem.)
221 Dirksen SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-5244
Fax: 202-228-2717
Salem office: 707 13th St. SE,
Suite 285, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-589-4555
Email: via website,
www.wyden.senate.gov

Sen. Jeff Merkley (Dem.)
313 Hart SOB
Washington, D.C. 20510
Phone: 202-224-3753
Fax: 202-228-3997
Salem office: 495 State St. SE,
Suite 330, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-362-8102
Email: via website,
www.merkley.senate.gov

Rep. Kurt Schrader (Dem.)
108 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: 202-225-5711
Fax: 202-225-5699
Salem office: 544 Ferry St. SE,
Suite 2, Salem, OR 97301
Phone: 503-588-9100
Fax: 503-588-5517
Email: via website,
www.schrader.house.gov

POLK COUNTY Board of Commissioners
850 Main St.
Dallas, OR 97338
Phone: 503-623-8173
www.co.polk.or.us

CITIES
Dallas
187 SE Court St.
Dallas, OR 97338
503-623-2338
www.ci.dallas.or.us
Falls City
299 Mill St.
Falls City, OR 97344
503-787-3631
www.fallsctyoregon.gov
Independence
555 S. Main St.
Independence, OR 97351
503-838-1212
www.ci.independence.or.us
Monmouth
151 W. Main St.
Monmouth, OR 97361
503-838-0722
www.ci.monmouth.or.us

HOW TO REACH US

NEWSROOM

Nancy AdamsPublisher/Editornadams@polkio.com
Lukas Eggen.....Sports Editor.....leggen@polkio.com
Jolene Guzman.....Dallas/Falls City/Polk County Reporterjguzman@polkio.com
Emily MentzerMonmouth/Independence Reporterementzer@polkio.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Heidi LeppinDisplay Advertising Managerhleppin@polkio.com
Rachel BestDisplay Advertising.....rbest@polkio.com
Karen SanksClient Servicesksanks@polkio.com

CLASSIFIED LINE ADVERTISING

Dawn Ohrenioads@polkio.com

PRODUCTION

Kathy Hugginsiosales@polkio.com
Karyn Presseliosales@polkio.com

BOOKKEEPING

Pat Letschpletsch@polkio.com

Web: www.polkio.com **Phone:** 503-623-2373 **Fax:** 503-623-2395

Polk County
Itemizer-ObsERVER

Vol. 140, No. 14

(USPS) - 437-380

The official newspaper of Polk County • Serving Polk County families since 1875

Winner of 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2014 General Excellence Awards from the Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association

Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, OR, Independence, OR and Monmouth, OR. Published weekly at 147 SE Court Street Dallas, Oregon 97338 Phone: 503-623-2373 Fax: 503-623-2395

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
Polk County — One Year \$27
Other Oregon Counties — One Year \$33
Outside of Oregon — One Year \$38

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to: Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER, P.O. Box 108, Dallas, Oregon 97338

The Polk County Itemizer-ObsERVER assumes no financial responsibility for errors in advertisements. It will, however, reprint without charge for the portion of an advertisement which is in error if the Itemizer-ObsERVER is at fault.