

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT
COLUMBIA GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WASCO AND HOOD RIVER COUNTIES, OREGON**

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Established in 1977, Columbia Gorge Community College District now serves over 2,300 students per year at two campuses, one in The Dalles and one in Hood River.

THE COLLEGE SEEKS VOTER APPROVAL TO ISSUE BONDS ESTIMATED TO MAINTAIN CURRENT BOND TAX RATE

The Columbia Gorge Community College District Board of Education seeks voter approval of a \$13 million general obligation bond. **If this measure is approved the College estimates that property owners would continue to pay the same rate for the College's bonds as they are currently paying.**

\$5.5 MILLION IN STATE GRANT FUNDS

The Oregon legislature has made eligible up to \$5,500,000 in grant funds but only if the College provides matching funds. Passage of the bond would secure the College's matching funds.

COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

In 2023, the College formed a facilities planning committee comprised of community and college volunteers that analyzed the condition of all of the College's facilities. The committee recommended a plan to improve, update, and construct educational and workforce training facilities.

Bonds would finance capital costs including:

ENHANCING SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND STAFF

Safety and security improvements to both The Dalles and Hood River campuses, including:

- Security cameras
- Automatic door-locking systems
- Seismic upgrades



UPDATING AGING COLLEGE FACILITIES

- Updating and improving aging facilities, including energy efficiency upgrades, replacing central heating and cooling, technology upgrades, and increased accessibility for people with disabilities.

MODERNIZING CLASSROOMS AND LABS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING

- Renovating and modernizing learning spaces to provide hybrid and distant learning needs to serve users across Wasco and Hood River counties, both urban and rural.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FACILITIES

- Expansion of workforce spaces to enhance current career and technical education programs.

IMPROVING THE DALLES CAMPUS including upgrades to classrooms, labs, and buildings that provide:

- Hybrid learning opportunities
- Specialized job training, apprenticeship, and education programs
- Improved food service and cafeteria facilities

UPGRADING THE HOOD RIVER CAMPUS focused on educational (science lab and health) programs and community gathering spaces.

REFINANCING REGIONAL SKILLS CENTER AND STUDENT HOUSING LOAN THAT FUNDED CONSTRUCTION

Additional capital costs including loan repayment, site improvements, furnishings, equipment, and bond issuance costs.

OVERSIGHT FOR BOND EXPENDITURES

The Columbia Gorge Community College District Board of Education Finance and Audit Committee would provide oversight to ensure that all bond funds are used for the purposes approved by voters. Their role would include communicating project implementation to the public and overseeing spending.

BOND FUNDS CAN ONLY BE USED FOR VOTER-APPROVED PROJECTS

Law requires bond funds be used for expenses described in the ballot.

FINANCIALS

Bonds would mature within 13 years from date of issuance. If approved, the bond tax rate is estimated to maintain the current bond tax rate of \$0.27 per \$1,000 of assessed value subject to change based on interest rates and assessed value fluctuations.