

Q: When was the last time the library asked for a bond measure?

A: The library made a promise to the taxpayers in 1997 that we would not ask for additional taxes for 10 years, and we more than doubled that promise, not asking for a new tax initiative for 23 years. The library currently carries no debt and owns all of its existing buildings except for the leased East Bend Library.

Q: Why did the library put a bond measure on the ballot?

A: Deschutes County has undergone significant growth since the 1990s. Since that time, the library has not expanded our buildings even though the population has more than doubled. The Deschutes Public Library is seeking to pass a bond measure on November 3rd to address the need for additional space and infrastructure improvements to accommodate our growing population. Our libraries were built in pre-wifi days and are very traditional in their use of space. New upgrades will make the spaces more modern and accommodating and offer more resources to our community.

Q: What will happen to the existing libraries throughout Deschutes County?

A: We love our neighborhood libraries in East Bend, Downtown Bend, La Pine, Redmond, Sisters and Sunriver. They will remain open and in their current locations while they are updated with infrastructure improvements including technology, space for more books and materials, exciting interactive children's learning and development centers, free and accessible meeting and program/performance spaces, and flexible spaces for creative endeavors.

Q: Does the bond measure include the construction of any new facilities?

A: Yes, bond funds will pay for the design and construction of a Central Library that will provide a discovery center for children to learn and play; substantial space for an expanded book and materials collection; free and accessible community and small-business spaces for learning, creativity, and collaboration; flexible space for larger programs and events; and a high-efficiency book/material processing and distribution center to speed delivery of materials to all of the libraries in Deschutes County.

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Q: What kind of changes will be made to expand and modernize our existing libraries?

A: Bond funds would pay to significantly increase the size of the existing Redmond Library to provide for children’s spaces, free and accessible meeting, tutoring and creative spaces, as well as an expanded materials and book collection.

Bond funds would also cover remodeling and upgrading the Downtown Bend, La Pine, Sisters and Sunriver Libraries, including expansion of interior public spaces, modernization for improved technology and much-needed infrastructure updates. The East Bend Library, the newest building in the District, would also receive upgrades to bring technology, infrastructure, and resources up to the standards of the other libraries.

Q: How much is the bond and what will homeowners pay annually?

A: The estimated tax rate is 34 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value (not market value) in 2021 when the first bond payment is expected to be due. For example, a property with an assessed value of \$200,000 would pay approximately \$68 in 2021. The actual levy rate may differ due to interest rates and/or changes in assessed value over the 20-year life of the bond.

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IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

- ✓ **10/13/20** Last day to register to vote
- ✓ **10/14/20** Local ballots mailed
- ✓ **10/27/20** Recommended last day to mail ballots to County Clerk
- ✓ **11/03/20** Election Day: Ballots must be received by 8 pm on Election Day to be counted, postmarks do not count

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