Ballot Measure 6-232:
North Bend Municipal Pool Levy

OFFICIAL TITLE
Five-Year Local Option Tax for Pool Operations and Maintenance

QUESTION
Shall North Bend impose $0.56 per $1,000 of assessed value for pool operations and maintenance for five years beginning 2027-2028? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

REFERRAL
This measure is referred to the voters by the City Council, where it was approved by a vote of 5–0, with Mayor Engelke absent.

FINANCIAL IMPACT
Property owners in North Bend would resume paying a tax of $0.56 per $1,000 of assessed value beginning July 1, 2027, and ending June 30, 2032. A home with an assessed value of $200,000 would continue to pay $112 per year for pool operations and maintenance. The measure is estimated to raise a total of $2,404,200 during the levy period. The estimated cost for pool operations and maintenance during the upcoming five-year levy period is $3,290,000.

NOTE: Assessed value is the value used to calculate property tax. It is shown on the property tax statement. It is NOT the same as real market value, which is the market price of the property.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A “YES” VOTE
If passed, this measure would authorize a levy on North Bend property owners at the same level as the previous levy. The levy would support pool maintenance and operations at the current level. Taxes would not increase.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A “NO” VOTE

The proposed local option property tax would not be imposed. The municipal pool would not have a dedicated property-tax funding source. Taxes for this district would decrease.

BACKGROUND

The pool was originally built in 1957 under a cooperative arrangement between the North Bend School District and the City of North Bend, with the school district assuming responsibility for operations. In 1994, the school district returned responsibility to the city.

In 2021, North Bend voters approved a five-year local option property tax levy for pool operations and maintenance. That levy expired on June 30, 2026. The new levy would be at the same amount. According to the City Council's Resolution 3384, "levy proceeds would be dedicated solely to pool operations, including staffing, utilities, equipment maintenance, and program costs, and could not be used for other City purposes or capital improvements."

Since the last levy was approved, the City Council has considered the following alternative options for funding pool operations:

(1) Turn over the pool to a nonprofit or another organization. To date, such an organization has not been found.

(2) Raise user rates to cover the expenses. Many users of the pool are not North Bend residents, and some are institutional users such as the Coast Guard and Southwestern Oregon Community College. These users contribute to defraying the operating costs, but do not generate sufficient funds to cover the expense of maintaining the pool. In June 2026, the city assessed that increasing user fees would backfire by resulting in reduced use.

(3) Reduce programming. The State of Oregon has basic requirements for pool operation and maintenance; these are fixed costs that cannot be eliminated. The June 2026 city analysis concluded that reducing programming would not bring costs down enough to permit the city to forgo a levy at this time.

(4) Create a regional Parks and Recreation District. The city might realize economies of scale if communities in the region joined to create such a district. But voters would have to approve its creation in every jurisdiction, and the formation process is lengthy. This might be a long-term option.

PROPOSAL

This measure would authorize a new five-year local option property tax levy to fund operations and maintenance of the North Bend Municipal Pool. Revenue would be used solely for pool operations, including staffing, utilities, equipment maintenance, and program costs, and not for other city purposes or capital improvements.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

• If the levy is not approved, the North Bend Municipal Pool would not have a dedicated property-tax funding source, which might result in reduced hours, reduced programming, or closure.

• Alternative options have been thoroughly explored, but none is sufficient without the levy, or can be implemented in the short term.

OPPONENTS SAY:

• Instead of taxing all property owners in the city to pay for the pool, its costs should be paid through increased fees by those who use it, many of whom do not live in North Bend.

• The city should seek a private partner such as the YMCA to run the pool.