



PROPOSED POOL FACILITY BOND MEASURE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Background

The John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District referred to voters on the May 17 ballot a \$4 million proposed bond measure to build a new pool facility at the Seventh Street Sports Complex.

Q: Why is the John Day Canyon City Parks and Recreation District proposing a new pool facility?

If passed, the pool facility would provide a source of entertainment, activity and recreation, including water safety instruction and swim lessons, for local residents. The proposed pool would also be a resource for exercise.

Gleason Pool was built in the late 1950s. For decades, the pool served as a recreational, health, sports/training and social hub for generations of residents. A 2021 survey of local voters found that 69% of respondents have used the Gleason Pool.

Q: Who owns Gleason Pool and what will happen to it if the measure passes?

The city of John Day has always been the owner of Gleason Pool. In 1990, the city and the district entered into a 5-year operating agreement with John Day Canyon City Parks and Recreation to manage Gleason Park and Pool, which was extended in 1995 for another 20 years.

The city sold Gleason Park to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Gleason Park will be reimaged and rebuilt as the new home for the Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center. This project will be funded entirely by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department and will provide the community with a new economic engine in an effort to draw visitors to our business and community annually.

For more info, see: https://www.bluemountaineagle.com/news/poised-for-growth-state-plans-to-invest-millions-in-major-expansion-of-kam-wah-chung/article_5aa26b76-ae8-11ec-a740-bf80d4d40c4d.html

For more info on the Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center design, see:
https://www.bluemountaineagle.com/kam-wah-chung-feasibility-study/pdf_e79e3244-af88-11ec-b6fd-136c6f0498ab.html

Q: Were alternatives to the proposed measure considered, like renovating Gleason Pool?

Yes, several other alternatives were considered, including renovation of Gleason and creating a new pool facility. The John Day City Council elected to sell Gleason to pave the way for the new Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center, and there was not a consensus from the other cities to form a new Aquatics District. Therefore, the city requested state funding to help build the proposed new pool facility at the 7th Street Sports Complex, which would be owned and managed by the John Day/Canyon City Parks and Recreation District, should the proposed measure pass.

The Proposed Costs

Q: If the proposed measure passes, how much would it cost to build the proposed pool facility?

The cost of building the proposed new aquatic facility is estimated to be between \$6-7 million.

Q: If the proposed measure passes, how would the proposed new pool facility be paid for?

This project would be coming in at a discounted rate due to \$2 million in financial assistance approved by the Oregon Legislature last year. On May 17, taxpayers in the District boundary will vote on a proposed bond initiative that, if passed by voters, would authorize borrowing \$4 million to cover the remainder of the construction costs.

Q: If the proposed bond measure passes, how much would it cost the average taxpayer each year?

If passed by voters, the proposed bond would be paid off over a period of 20 years by adding an estimated \$0.70 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value to property tax bills. For a home in the district at the median assessed value of \$128,500, the estimated tax would be \$90 per year, or approximately \$7.50 per month. To inquire about the estimated tax impact would be for a specific property, please email jdccparks.rec@gmail.com.

- 28% of property owners will be paying less than \$50.00 a year.
- 33% of property owners will be paying between \$50.01-\$100.00 a year
- 18% of property owners will be paying between \$100.01-\$150.00 a year
- 11% of property owners will be paying between \$150.01-\$200.00 a year
- 10% of property owners will be paying \$200.01 or more a year

If passed, the tax increase would go into effect in 2023. No other capital improvement bonds currently exist within the District boundaries.

If passed, the district will establish a citizen oversight committee to review bond expenditures.

Q: Who authorized moving forward with the proposed bond measure?

The John Day Canyon City Parks and Recreation District and the City of John Day have long been supportive of the idea of exploring options for replacing Gleason Pool. After several years of study, feasibility reports and deliberating costs, both governmental bodies voted unanimously in early March 2022 to move forward with the proposed bond measure.

The District Board voted 4-0 and The City Council voted 6-0 and in favor of a resolution that:

- Authorizes a proposed ballot measure referring to voters a \$4 million proposed bond for construction costs of the pool facility.
- Formally accepts \$2 million in state funds appropriated by the Legislature specifically for the construction of a new pool facility.
- Gives the City Council voted 6-0, and District and the City permission to apply for an additional \$750,000 in grant funding support for the project.
- Formalized an agreement between the District and the City that, if passed, would require the District to take care of operating and maintaining the proposed pool facility, while the City would be responsible for the proposed pool facilities utility costs.

Q: How much would it cost to operate the proposed new pool and could the District afford the operation and maintenance?

The short answer is Yes. Please refer to the proposed pool budget for more details.

As per the Inter-Governmental Agreement, the City would cover utilities, estimated at \$16,000 per year. These services come at minimal cost to the City due to the fact it operates its own water, sewer and broadband services.

The District would cover the remainder of the expenses, estimated at \$46,000. The District would intend to pay for this from annual tax receipts. Currently, the District generates about \$240,000 in annual tax receipts, meaning costs for a pool facility would account for about 19% of the annual operating budget. Because the City is taking care of the utilities, the cost of the proposed new pool facility would be on par with what it cost to run Gleason Pool.

The Proposed Bond Election

Q: When will residents have the opportunity to vote on the proposed measure?

The proposed ballot measure will appear on the May 17, 2022 election ballot. This proposed \$4 million capital improvement bond is for construction costs only. Operations would be paid for by the District and City, as well as from user fees.

Q: Who will have the opportunity to participate in the election?

Voters who live in John Day, Canyon City, and within the boundaries of the Parks and Recreation District are eligible to decide whether the proposed pool facility is built. The District's boundaries extend west almost to Mt. Vernon, to the north nearly to Magone Lake, to Keeney Fork Road in the east and south to Starr Ridge.

Q: What happens if the proposed bond measure does not pass?

If the proposed bond measure does not pass, the \$0.70 cents per \$1,000 would not be assessed, and the proposed new pool facility would not be built. The sale of Gleason Park will move forward as planned to make way for the new Kam Wah Chung interpretive center.

Proposed Pool Facility Details

Q: Where would the new pool facility be located?

The proposed new pool facility would be built on the west end of the City of John Day's 7th Street Complex, a 23-acre recreation hub that stretches along the river and already features baseball and softball fields, walking and running trails, playgrounds and tennis and basketball courts and more.

Q: What is included in the plans for the proposed pool facility?

The proposed plans include building an ADA-accessible, six-lane, 25-yard outdoor pool with an adjoining, L-shaped building that would house indoor changing rooms, a multi-purpose room, office space for District employees, storage and mechanical facilities. The blueprint is about 23% larger (3,200 sf vs. 2,600 sf) than the Gleason Pool and would include improved infrastructure and more efficient operating systems, if passed.

A future warm water/therapy pool is also planned for the site, which would be 30% larger (523 sf vs. 400 sf) than the small wading pool at Gleason. It would also be about 4 feet deep to allow for water aerobics and swim lessons to be taught there.

Q: Would the proposed new pool facility be open year-round?

No, adding a roof and other infrastructure to accommodate for year-round operations was not affordable right now.

That said, architects have designed the proposed pool facility to one day add a roof and other components to accommodate an indoor pool and year-round operations. These design adjustments include expanded deck space and an increased footprint for the lobby to accommodate year-round swimming in the future.