

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE

Date:

Contact name and info:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Headline: _____ District to consider excise tax on development

The Oregon Legislature passed a law this year to help school districts pay part of new facility costs. At its _____ (date) meeting, the _____ School Board will consider taking advantage of this law.

Senate Bill 1036 allows school boards, in cooperation with cities and counties, to tax new residential and non-residential development. This excise tax option was created with bipartisan support by the Oregon Legislature. Agencies and groups supporting it include the Oregon Home Builders Association, the Oregon School Boards Association, the Confederation of Oregon School Administrators, Stand for Children and the Oregon PTA.

The [name of district] School Board will consider implementing an excise tax on residential, commercial, and industrial development. The revenue would allow the district to purchase and prepare sites for future schools or to help defray the cost of new school facilities. (SUGGESTION: EXPLAIN YOUR LOCAL SITUATION HERE, WHETHER IT'S ENROLLMENT GROWTH OR CAPITAL NEEDS FOR EXISTING FACILITIES).

The tax would be \$1 per square foot on residential construction and 50 cents per square foot on non-residential construction, not to exceed \$25,000 per building permit or \$25,000 per structure, whichever is less.

The public is invited to comment on the excise tax proposal at the board's _____ (date) meeting. The board will vote on _____ (date). Both meetings will be held at _____ p.m. at _____ (address).

Implementing the excise tax on new construction would involve intergovernmental agreements among the school district and several government entities, including _____ (list them).

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