

December 2009

YES vote in January preserves \$400 per student in K-12 funding

Voters are about to be bombarded with information about ballot Measures 66 and 67 on the ballot on January 26, 2010. Oregon PTA members know what we are protecting:

- Education, health care and public safety make up over 90% of the state budget which is paid for mainly by our income taxes.
- M66 and 67 preserve \$733 million in funding for the current school year, keeps teachers in classrooms and protects services to children and other vulnerable Oregonians. \$200 million in matching Federal dollars will flow if we keep our state commitment
- The current corporate minimum tax is \$10. The average Oregon family pays \$3100 in state taxes.

What can you do?

- Hold a PTA meeting to inform your community about a YES vote on the measures. Find out what it means for your schools. <http://voteyesfororegon.org/2009/11/whats-at-stake-education.html>
- Join the YES campaign by signing the pledge. Get involved in phone banking, canvassing and efforts to get out the vote. <http://voteyesfororegon.org/getinvolved.html>
- Make sure you and your PTA members are registered to vote (if you have moved or not voted in a while, you may need to update your registration) <http://oregonvotes.org/>
- VOTE YES on M66 and M67 and mail your return early so campaign resources can be devoted to turning out other voters.

Plan a "turn in your vote" event for your PTA and school; create positive encouragement for your voters to join us in supporting a YES vote.

Oregon is \$2.35 billion short in meeting the Quality Education Model (QEM) goals and needs of Oregon students and schools.

Legislative Joint Committee confirms short fall in funding Oregon schools

..."It is the determination of the Joint Special Committee on Public Education Appropriation that the amount of moneys appropriated for the 2009-2011 biennium for K-12 public education is insufficient to meet the recommended funding levels of the QEC (Quality Education Committee). The QEM estimates that state funding of \$8.35 billion for K-12 is required for 90 percent of Oregon students to meet the state's academic standards.¹⁷ The state appropriation for K-12 public education funding was \$6 billion; a difference of \$2.35 billion."...

[Click Here for the full report](#)

Oregon School Boards Association and Oregon PTA partnerships strengthen

Sandy Bell, Oregon PTA president brought greetings to the OSBA convention. OSBA has been a long time coalition partner of Oregon PTA. Our coalition has supported parent involvement and strong, high quality public schools for every Oregon child.

Sandy joined incoming OSBA president Beth Gerot of Eugene School Board and outgoing president Annette Mattson of David Douglas board.



L to R Beth Gerot, Sandy Bell and Annette Mattson

Portland Council PTA Clothing Center chair wins Spirit of Portland award

The Portland Spirit award is bestowed by the City Council on volunteers who do great things for the Portland community. Sharon Meigh Chang, past president of Portland Council PTA and clothing center chair received the award and much deserved recognition she and the many clothing center volunteers deserve. Each year the Clothing Center serves over 2000 children, providing clothing, connection to critical services and a little boost in their self esteem. Congratulations Sharon and all the volunteers.



L to R Katie Essick of Portland Public schools who nominated Sharon and Sharon Meigh Chang, Spirit of Portland award winner