

Senator Chuck Riley – Senate District 15

Vote YES on SB 123 – The Children’s Special Districts Bill

Currently, Oregon has 28 special districts for issues ranging from irrigation, to parks and recreation, to cemeteries, to health. But, there is no special district to fund programs for children. Senate Bill 123 would establish a new type of special district to provide Children’s Services outside of school time. “Children’s Services” are broadly defined so that a community can customize the services being offered to best meet their children’s unique needs.

What is a Children’s Special District?

- Examples of Children’s Services include, but are not limited to: cultural, arts & music, physical recreation, civics, health & well-being, technology, and development of skills services for children.
- This is a new tool to provide local funding for Children’s Services that occur outside of school time.
- How big is a Children’s Special District? As large or as small as the community wants it to be. The boundary could be a neighborhood, a school district, a town, part of a county, a whole county, or parts of multiple counties.
- Communities that are uninterested are under no obligation to form a Children’s Special District, just like they are not obligated to form an irrigation special district under existing law.

How is a Children’s Special District Formed?

If a community wants to establish a Children’s Special District to run one or more services for children outside of school time, they must:

1. File a petition to form the district
2. The petition must be signed by either 15% of registered voters within the proposed district boundary or a minimum of 100 registered voters within the proposed district boundary (whichever is greater)
3. If enough signatures are gathered the petition is voted on by all registered voters in the proposed district area
4. If passed, a Children’s Special District is formed, and a board of directors is elected to run the district
5. The voters living inside the new district’s boundary line can vote to pass a levy to fund the district, or can raise funds in other ways (through donations or use fees, for example).