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Christine Drazan Joins Calls to Protect Neighborhood Schools

Drazan Stands With Students and Families as Portland and Salem-Keizer Consider Closing Up to 20 Schools

CANBY, Ore. – Today, gubernatorial candidate **Senator Christine Drazan (R-Canby)** joined parents and community members calling on school district leaders to protect neighborhood schools in Portland and Salem-Keizer. Both districts are considering school closures amid declining enrollment and mounting budget pressures, with proposals that could disrupt thousands of students and families.

"Neighborhood schools are the fabric of our communities, and decisions to close them have far-reaching consequences that cannot easily be reversed. School districts need to listen to families, slow down and exhaust every alternative before closing schools that communities depend on," said **Drazan**. "Taxpayers have invested millions in some of these schools through voter-approved bonds, and parents deserve to know whether closures will actually deliver meaningful savings. Governor Kotek needs to step up and help these districts find a better way forward. As governor, I will be at the table working with districts to keep neighborhood schools open."

Portland Public Schools is considering closing up to 14 schools, while Salem-Keizer has proposed closing six. Several schools under consideration have recently been improved by millions of dollars in voter-approved bond investments, while others have renovations planned or underway. Parents have raised concerns about wasted taxpayer investments, larger class sizes, longer commutes and disruptions to dual language immersion programs.

This week, more than 300 Portland Public Schools parents called on state and local leaders, including Governor Kotek and Senator Drazan, to intervene.

"Declining enrollment is part of a much bigger problem. Homelessness, public safety concerns, rising costs and a struggling economy are making Portland and communities across Oregon less attractive places to live and raise a family," continued **Drazan**. "As governor, I'll restore livability, rebuild our economy and bring families back to Oregon. We need to fill our classrooms, not close them."

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