

Submitter: Tia Nordstrand

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On  
Capital Construction

Measure, Appointment or SB5531  
Topic:

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature,

I write to respectfully request your support in funding critical repairs for the Osborn Aquatic Center in Corvallis. In the fall of last year, the city engineer identified structural damage to the beams supporting the facility's roof, necessitating its immediate closure. Since November, the indoor pool has remained closed, with only limited access to the outdoor pool. The impact on the Corvallis community has been profound and far-reaching.

Osborn Aquatic Center is the only public swimming facility in Corvallis and serves as an essential hub for people of all ages and abilities. It is home to two high school swim teams, the Corvallis Aquatic Team, and offers swim lessons to hundreds of children and adults each week. The facility also supports adaptive water therapy, open swim hours, and job opportunities for local youth. In addition, its community rooms host vital programs such as first aid and CPR certifications, meetings for Boy and Girl Scouts, ROTC trainings, and gatherings for local organizations that rely on accessible municipal space.

Osborn is one of only two long-course indoor facilities in Oregon capable of hosting large swim competitions—the other being in Tualatin. Its closure has had a statewide impact, straining other facilities and disrupting both swim and water polo events throughout the winter.

Although I do not live in Corvallis, I have witnessed firsthand the importance of this facility. As a swim coach in the Eugene area for the past 12 years, I know that the value of Osborn extends well beyond competitive swimming. Swimming is a critical life skill and a fundamental safety measure, particularly in a state like Oregon, which is home to an abundance of lakes, rivers, and coastlines. Each year, 4,000–4,500 people drown in the U.S. Many young people in Corvallis and surrounding communities now lack access to a safe environment where they can learn to swim—a risk with potentially devastating consequences.

Osborn also plays a crucial role in the health and well-being of seniors who rely on the pool for low-impact exercise. It brings economic benefits to Corvallis by drawing thousands of swimmers and their families to the city for competitions, contributing to local tourism and small businesses. The closure has delayed swim lessons, limited recreational opportunities, and discouraged youth from joining swim teams due to the

lack of a practice facility.

This is more than just a pool. It is a community cornerstone that supports health, education, safety, inclusion, and economic development. I hope this letter illustrates the depth of Osborn's value—not only to Corvallis but to the entire state. I would be honored to serve on any committees dedicated to advancing the repairs. What we need now is financial support from the state to begin the restoration process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Tia Nordstrand