

My name is Dylan Dhakhwa, a previous member of the Corvallis Aquatic Team, but more importantly a strong supporter of providing the necessary funding to repair Osborn Aquatic Center. From preschool until graduating high school, I had been a regular at Osborn through swim lessons and swim club practices, and over that span I was able to see how important Osborn was for the community. Osborn provides the Corvallis with a social space that promotes healthy living, basic survival skills, and opportunities for the community.

Beyond my personal experience, Osborn Aquatic Center has long served as a cornerstone of the Corvallis community. It is far more than just a pool—it's a vital public space that brings people together across all ages and backgrounds. Whether it's families attending open swims, seniors participating in low-impact water aerobics, or children enrolled in swim lessons, Osborn acts as a hub of social connection and wellness. The importance of having a space where people can gather, move, and thrive cannot be overstated, especially in a time when so many are seeking opportunities for physical and mental well-being.

Crucially, Osborn also teaches life-saving skills. Swimming lessons are not a luxury — they are an essential public service. Every year, children and adults alike gain the skills they need to be safe around water, a basic yet critical form of survival education. With drowning continuing to be a leading cause of accidental death for young children, the ability for a facility like Osborn to offer accessible and affordable swim instruction can literally save lives.

Additionally, Osborn plays an important economic role in the community by providing jobs to residents, particularly youth. From lifeguards and swim instructors to maintenance staff and administrative support, the center offers valuable employment and training opportunities that teach responsibility, leadership, and teamwork. For many, working at Osborn represents their first job or a stepping-stone to a long-term career in public service, education, or health.

Repairing and maintaining this facility is not merely an expense — it's an investment in public health, safety, and the social fabric of our community. The value Osborn Aquatic Center provides is immeasurable when you consider the lives it touches, the skills it imparts, and the community it strengthens. I urge you to support the funding necessary to restore this essential space for current and future generations.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the well-being of Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Dylan Dhakhwa