



State of the North Bend Municipal Pool

A Civic Report Card on Operations, Stewardship, and Future Funding

A Community Cornerstone Since 1957

For generations, the municipal pool has served as a life-safety training ground and recreation hub for the South Oregon Coast.

When it closed in 2020, the facility was facing a \$250,000 annual operating deficit and severely aging infrastructure.

1957: Built with
90% voter approval

Early 1960s:
Transferred to
City ownership

March 2020:
Shuttered due to
the global pandemic



The 2021 Rescue Effort

To keep the pool running, voters approved a five-year levy strictly dedicated to maintaining daily operations and keeping the facility open for the community.



\$0.56

per \$1,000
assessed value.



\$101 / year

Example tax impact for
a home assessed at
\$170,000.



\$2.02 Million

Projected 5-year revenue
dedicated strictly to
operations.



An Unexpected Setback

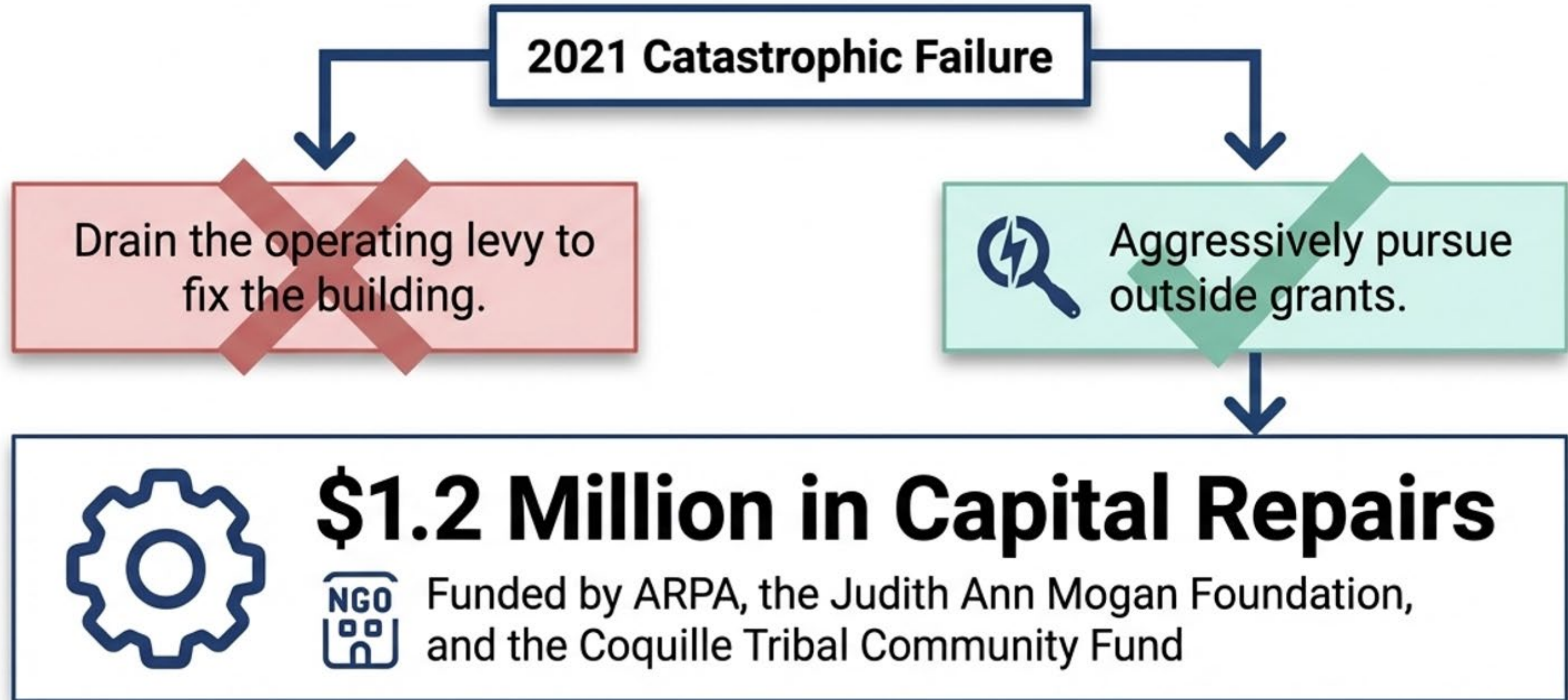
Almost immediately after the levy passed, the facility suffered a catastrophic pump failure. Nearly 70-year-old parts broke down, forcing an extended closure from September 2021 to May 2023.



2021: Pump Failure



Securing Outside Funds for Major Repairs

Every cent of levy revenue remained in a restricted account dedicated solely to pool operations. The city protected local taxpayers by securing external funding to fix the broken infrastructure.



Capital Costs vs. Operating Costs

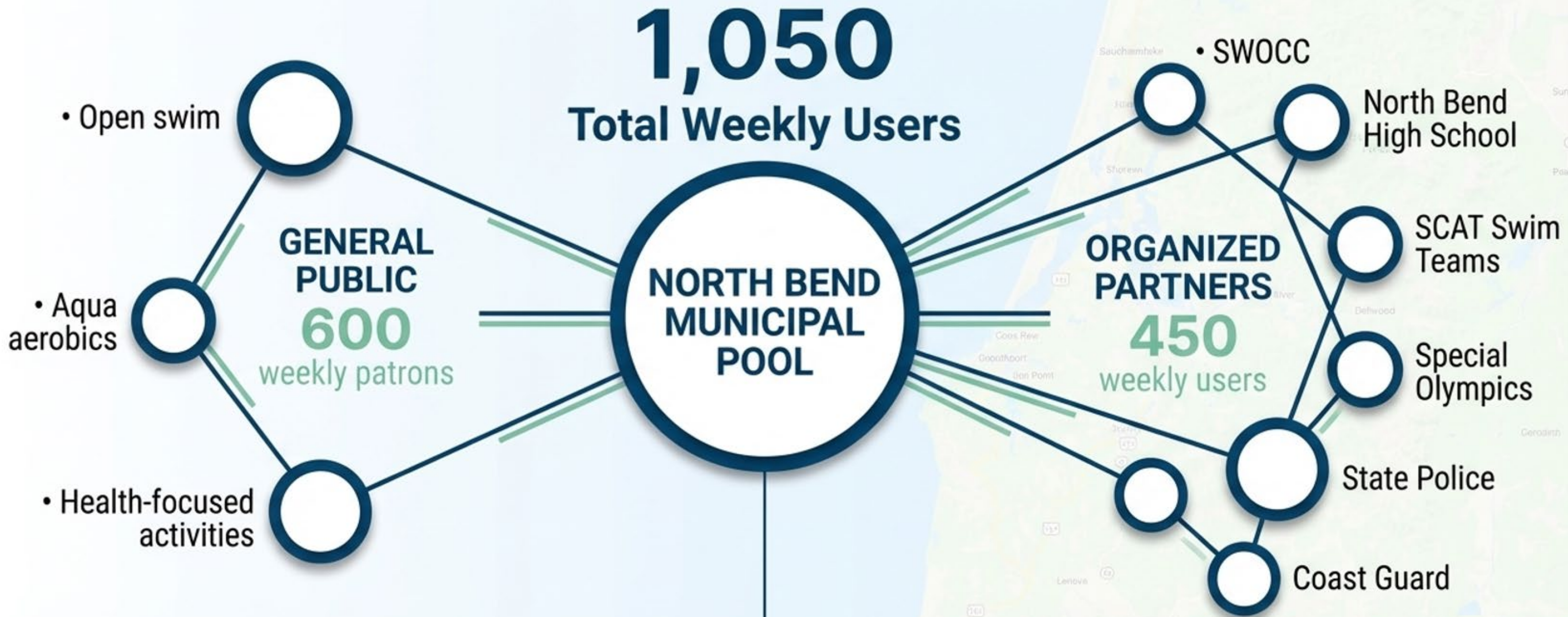
Fixing a building is a one-time cost. Keeping the water warm and the doors open is a permanent daily expense.

	Building It (Capital Repairs)	
What it is: Replacing pumps, pipes, and 70-year-old concrete		
Funding Source: \$1.2M from federal ARPA and private grants		
Local Tax Dollars Used:	\$0	
Status:	Complete.	

	Running It (Daily Operations)	
What it is: Staffing, heat, power, chemicals, and insurance		
Funding Source: The 2021 Local Levy		
Status:	Ongoing daily need.	

Who Uses the Pool Today

Since reopening in 2023, the pool serves as a vital hub for recreation, health, youth activities, and public-safety training across the South Coast.





The Real Cost of Daily Operations

An aging facility costs real money to keep open year-round. These are the unaudited FY25 costs required to maintain reliable staffing, safe water chemistry, and basic utilities.

Anatomy of a Pool



\$268,838

(Temporary services & staffing)
+ \$82,698 (Benefits)



\$34,167

(Heating fuel)



\$30,732

(Building and plant supplies)



\$22,070

(Lights and power)

The Operating Math (FY25 Unaudited)

Currently, the 2021 property tax levy covers almost the entire cost of daily operations. Without a dedicated tax source, the pool immediately returns to a massive annual deficit.



Bucket 1: Current Reality



Bucket 2: Future Reality without Levy

The 2025 Crossroads

Recognizing that the current levy expires soon, the City proposed Measure 6-223 in 2025. This measure would have replaced the property tax levy with a monthly utility-bill fee. The voters rejected this funding model, leaving the long-term funding question unsolved.

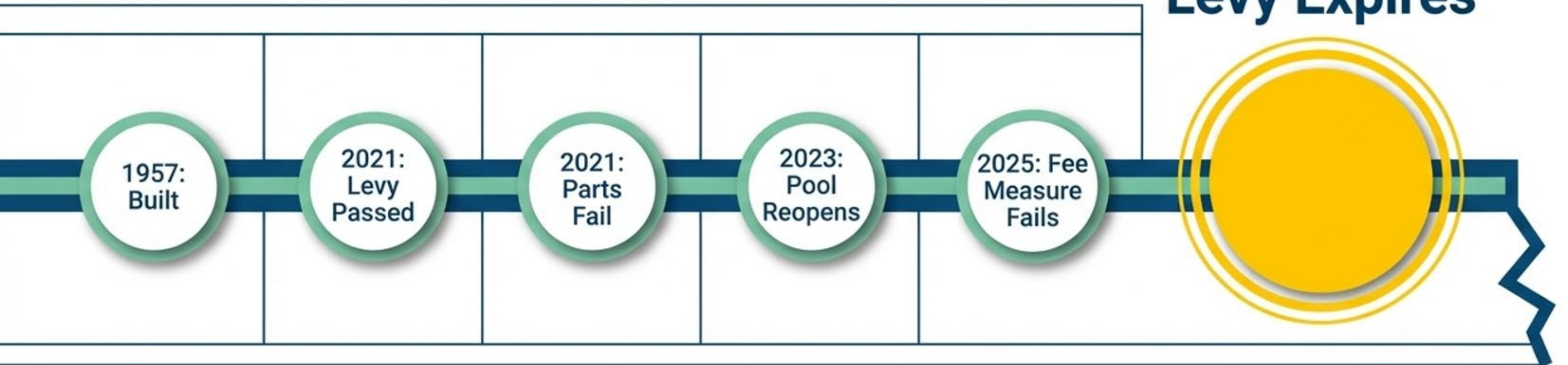
71.23% NO

28.77% YES

Approaching the Deadline

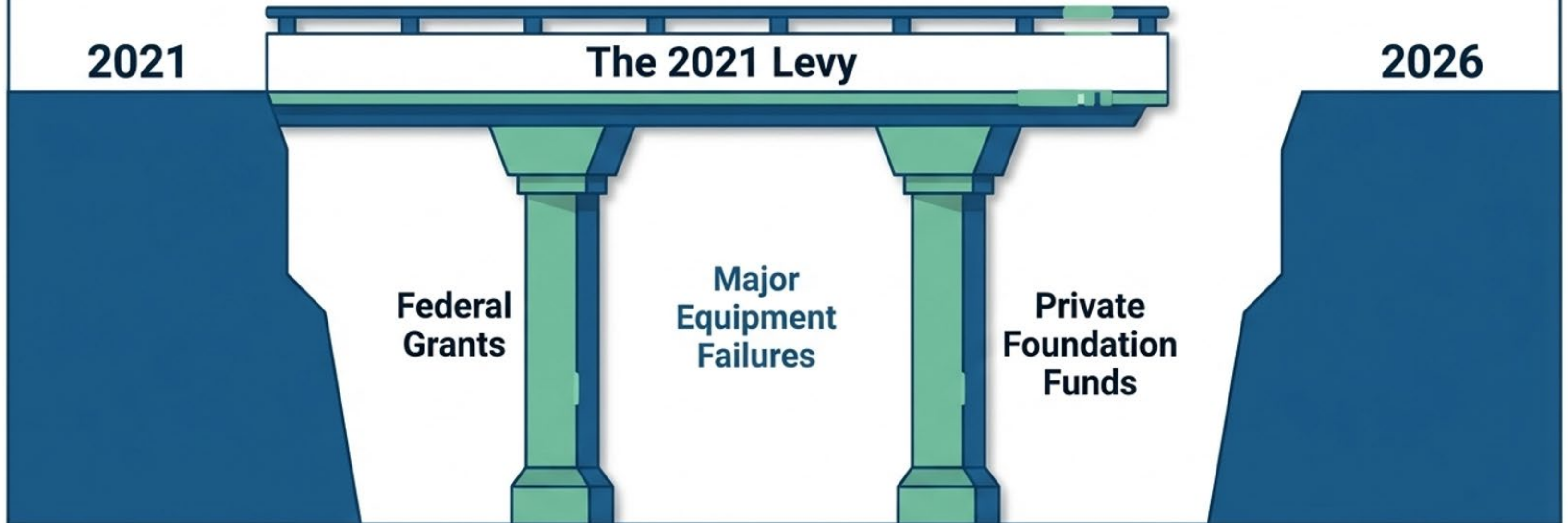
The facility is repaired, fully operational, and heavily used. However, the temporary financial mechanism keeping the doors open runs out next year.

**2026:
The 2021
Levy Expires**



The 2021 Levy was a Five-Year Bridge

The 2021 levy successfully bought the City time to secure outside funds, rebuild the infrastructure, and reopen the doors without raising local taxes. But that bridge ends in 2026. Because the 2025 replacement measure failed, there is currently no road built for the future.



Key Facts to Navigate Together

- ✓ The pool is a heavily used community asset serving 1,050 users weekly.
- ✓ Major capital repairs (\$1.2M) are complete and were funded entirely by outside grants, not local taxes.
- ✓ The pool costs roughly \$447,000 a year to operate, driven by staffing, heating, and utilities.
- ✓ The 2021 levy currently funds these daily operations.
- ✓ The proposed 2025 utility fee replacement model was rejected by voters.
- 🕒 The current operating levy expires in 2026, leaving the facility without dedicated funding.