

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-41**BALLOT TITLE****RENEW THREE YEAR SERIAL LEVY TO KEEP PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN**

QUESTION: Shall Multnomah County operate libraries, levy 40.34 cents per \$1,000 assessed value outside tax base for three years beginning 1996-97?

SUMMARY: Levy renewal keeps the Central Library and all branch libraries open, and provides these expanded services:

- More books and other library materials;
- Replacement of outdated and damaged library materials;
- Youth programs, including story hours for toddlers, homework help for students, and special reading programs, with attention to kids in day care;
- Special library programs for adults, senior citizens on technology and other subjects;
- Greatly expanded hours at Central and branch libraries;
- Open busiest branch libraries on Mondays for the first time in 20 years;

Renewal of three-year serial levy represents no increase in current authorized tax rate.

If the levy is not approved, library services will be reduced significantly, library hours will be shortened, and some libraries may be closed.

Levy cost estimate is about 40 cents per \$1,000 assessed value per year. Typical home pays about \$5 per month.

This serial levy revenue, dedicated to library operations, is estimated to provide \$15.25 million in 1996-7, \$16.35 million in 1997-98, \$17.46 million in 1998-99.

The estimate tax cost for this measure is an **ESTIMATE ONLY** based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate.

The levy is subject to the \$10 local government limit in Section 11b, Article XI, Oregon Constitution.

materials are borrowed from the library each year. Library staff annually responds to more than 800,000 requests for information. More than 1,000 people a day access the library by dialing in to the library's automated system.

What the Library Provides: Books and More

Renewal of the library levy will keep our libraries open, and continue to provide and add these services:

- Operating and staffing downtown Central Library, Gresham Library, Midland Library and 12 other branch libraries located throughout Multnomah County.
- Extended hours at the Central and branch libraries.
- Buying more books and other library materials and continue improvements in library technology.
- Operating and staffing two new branches, a medium-sized library in Northwest Portland and a small branch in cooperation with Parkrose School District.
- Library service to children, adults and senior citizens with special needs.
- 24-hour-a-day access to DYNA, the library's computerized card catalog and community resource and events calendar data base, and increase access to other stored computerized information and data.
- Special child and youth programs including story hours for toddlers, homework help for students, and reading programs with special attention to kids in day care.
- Adult and senior citizen programs on technology and other subjects.
- Information and reference materials for students, jobseekers, and the general public.

The renewed three year serial levy cost is about 40 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The typical home in Multnomah County pays about \$5.00 per month over three years, for library operations and the services listed above.

Submitted by
Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**No Increase in the Current Authorized Tax Rate**

Measure 26-41 will renew the library operations levy and allow the libraries to provide new services with no increase in the current authorized tax rate. The levy will help operate the downtown Central Library, Gresham Library, Midland Library, and other branch libraries throughout Multnomah County.

Increased Hours for County Libraries

It will increase the number of days and hours these libraries are open and will provide the funds to buy library books and other materials.

Who the Library Serves

The Multnomah County Library serves the people of the county by providing books and other materials to meet their informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs.

The Multnomah County Library system is among the busiest in the nation and provides services every year to over 500,000 library card holders. That is over 70% of the people who live in Multnomah County. Nearly 8 million books and other library

No arguments AGAINST this measure were filed.

Measure No. 26-41

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Dear Voters,

My name is Jenny Bedell-Stiles. I am 11 years old, and a student at Mt. Tabor Middle School. The library is very important to me, but I am too young to vote. That is why I am asking you to help kids like me by voting Yes for the libraries.

The library is important to kids for lots of reasons. I use it a lot for school. The school library is okay, but it doesn't have nearly enough for me to do a good job with my school work. The librarians are also very helpful. It's almost like having extra teachers to help you learn.

I also go to the library because it's fun. I am usually there at least once a week to get books and other things. I don't know what I would do if it wasn't there.

As much as I love the library, though, there are some things I wish were better. I go to the Belmont Branch, and it is way too crowded. I also wish that it was open more. Sometimes when I want to go, the library is closed. It would also be great if there were computers we could use. There is so much cool stuff that you need a computer to get at.

My mom tells me that if voters pass the library measures, the libraries will be open more, and have more books and computers. That's why I hope you will vote for the libraries. It would be really, really good for kids like me.

Sincerely,

Jenny Bedell-Stiles

(This information furnished by Jenny Bedell-Stiles)

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MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-42**BALLOT TITLE****THREE YEAR LEVY TO OPERATE JAILS, BOOK SUSPECTS, TRACK CRIMINALS**

QUESTION: Shall Multnomah County operate jails, levy 77.96 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation outside tax base for three years beginning 1996-97?

SUMMARY: Three-year serial levy keeps existing county jails open and operating; provides operating money for newly constructed jails, booking and transport facility, and computer criminal tracking equipment.

Levy cost estimate is about 78 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value per year. Typical home pays \$9.60 per month, to help pay for:

- Ending unsupervised release of offenders due to lack of jail space;
- Operating five existing county jails;
- Operating new jail spaces at existing facilities;
- Expanding restitution center which is a low cost corrections facility;
- Getting police back out on street by booking suspects faster.

If levy is not approved, jail operations would be cut back, and 560 beds at Inverness Jail would have to close. Hundreds of inmates per month would be released early without supervision.

This levy provides operating funds for jails, mandatory treatment and tighter criminal tracking and ends the early release of criminals.

This serial levy will provide an estimated \$24.4 million in 1996-97, \$31.6 million in 1997-98, and \$33.8 million in 1998-99 dedicated to public safety services.

This levy is subject to the \$10 local government limit in Section 11b, Article XI, Oregon Constitution.

The estimate tax cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best information available from the county assessor at the time of the estimate.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Multnomah County operates the jails that hold the people our police arrest. Nine out of ten Multnomah County jailed inmates are being held for felony charges. The existing levy that expires June 30, 1996 pays for keeping all current jail facilities open and operating.

Our Public Safety Problem

Public safety services are currently inadequate to meet demand. In 1995, 3,726 inmates were released early and unsupervised from county jails because there was not enough space. Population growth in the metropolitan area will make this problem worse. In spite of county efforts to improve efficiency and utilize a full continuum of sanctions to maximize the effectiveness of the system, public safety is already compromised due to inadequate capacity.

The Public Safety Solution

The most cost effective solution to increasing the number of

people our system can hold is through a mix of new and expanded facilities and programs. The construction of new buildings or expansion of existing buildings are proposed to be funded through a general obligation bond. The cost to operate new or expanded jails and mandatory programs is funded through this serial levy.

The Current Levy Expires

The current public safety levy expires June 30, 1996. It provides about one third of current operating costs of county jails. If we choose to operate new facilities, enforce mandatory treatment and end the early release of prisoners, we must pass a new levy.

Ending Early Release of Prisoners

The new levy will fund the operations of proposed additional jail space to increase public safety. Last year the County was forced to release approximately 3,700 prisoners without any supervision simply because of a lack of space. The new levy will end unsupervised release of offenders due to lack of jail space.

Convicted Criminals Will Serve Time

In addition to continuing operation of the 560 beds at Inverness, the increased levy will operate 120 additional beds at Inverness as well as 210 beds at a new jail that are proposed to be built in 1997 and begin operating in 1998. There will also be increased capacity at the Multnomah County Restitution Center which is a low cost corrections facility where inmates pay room and board.

Mandatory Treatment

A majority of offenders in jail are drug or alcohol abusers. Incarcerating them protects the public safety for a period of time but does not solve the problem of treatment. This levy pays for mandatory treatment for drug and alcohol abusers who can not be rehabilitated without intensive intervention.

Tracking Criminals

Offenders fall between the cracks of a complex public safety system because of antiquated computer systems that are not linked. Computer tracking technology that is currently being used by the police and Sheriff, district attorney, Courts, Juvenile Justice and Community Corrections will be upgraded and integrated in order to transfer information between the existing components of the public safety system.

How Much Will It Cost?

78 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value or about \$9.60 per month on a typical home.

Submitted by

Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County

No arguments AGAINST this measure were filed.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-42

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

THE CITIZENS CRIME COMMISSION URGES A YES VOTE ON MEASURES 26-42 & 26-45

The Citizens Crime Commission strongly urges Multnomah County voters to vote Yes on Measures 26-42 & 26-45, the public safety package for Multnomah County.

- Over the past several years, a severe shortage of jail beds in Multnomah County has caused early, unsupervised releases of prisoners, creating an unacceptable danger to our safety. Even though we have increased the number of police, the lack of jail space has undercut their effectiveness.

By adding a total of 330 jail beds to the Multnomah County corrections system, Measures 26-42 & 26-45 will help re-balance the system, end early releases, and make our community safer.

- A dramatic increase in the numbers of suspects booked into the corrections system has led to lengthy delays at Multnomah County booking facilities that were not built to handle such volume. The result is significant amounts of police time and money spent waiting in lines instead of patrolling the streets.

The Multnomah County public safety package will restructure booking facilities, making them more efficient and cutting down long lines.

- The computer systems used for criminal justice are unconnected and uncoordinated, leading to potentially dangerous gaps in communication.

Measures 26-42 & 26-45 will improve the tracking of criminals throughout the system.

These measures also contain funding for current jail operations. If they fail, funding will be lost for a total of 1080 beds in current and planned capacity, doubling early releases from their already too-high level.

Measures 26-42 & 26-45 are a tough, balanced package. The Citizens Crime Commission believes their approval is essential for a safer community.

PAUL LORENZINI
CHAIR

RAY MATHIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Citizens Crime Commission is a non-partisan, non-governmental organization dedicated to finding effective, affordable ways to make our community safer.

(This information furnished by Paul Lorenzini and Ray Mathis)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A POLICE OFFICER'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURE

I have worked for 15 years as a police officer in Multnomah County, so I have a pretty good view of what it takes to stop crime.

That is why I am asking you to vote Yes on both of the Multnomah County Public Safety Measures, 26-42 and 26-45.

The most glaring need we have is getting dangerous criminals off the street. Right now, Multnomah County jails simply don't have nearly enough room. I can tell you from personal experience that thousands of offenders being released because of lack of space. These inmates have no business on the streets, not to mention in your backyard. **The public safety package will stop early, unsupervised releases of prisoners.**

Other problems may not be as visible, but are very serious. I have personally had to wait in line at the downtown jail for hours to book suspects into the system. If you multiply that number by all the other officers stuck in line, it is a tremendous waste of time that police should be spending patrolling our streets. **The public safety measures will restructure booking facilities to get police back on the streets where we are needed.**

Finally, this public safety package will help do something about repeat offenders, which is a huge problem. Part of the problem is that over 75% of prisoners in Multnomah County have a serious drug or alcohol problem. **These measures will create secure facilities for mandatory drug and alcohol treatment of offenders with addictions.**

We can do something about crime. This package is a smart, tough and responsible way to make Multnomah County a safer place. **I urge you to vote Yes on Measures 26-42 and 26-45 for a safer community.**

Thomas Mack
Portland Police Officer

(This information furnished by Thomas Mack)

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MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-44**BALLOT TITLE****BONDS TO REPAIR LIBRARY BRANCHES; IMPROVE ACCESS TO COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY**

QUESTION: Shall Multnomah County repair, improve deteriorated branch libraries; increase access to computer technology; issue \$29 million in general obligation bonds?

If bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property not subject to the limits of section 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

SUMMARY: Improve county library branches:

- Repair deteriorated branches including roofs, electrical and heating systems in libraries throughout the county;
- Renovate busiest branch libraries: Hillsdale, St. Johns, Belmont, Hollywood
- Upgrade library computer systems, provide public Internet access, improve student access to library resources during school hours.

Measure authorizes up to \$29 million Multnomah County General Obligation Bonds to enhance library facilities, acquire land. Bonds mature in 30 years or less. Cost estimate approximately 7 cents per \$1,000 assessed value annually. Typical home pays about \$10 per year.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Multnomah County Library system includes downtown's historic Central Library, the Gresham Library, the Midland Library and 12 more branch libraries located throughout Multnomah County. It is our community's most significant information and education resource, open to all.

The system is excellent, but aging. Many facilities are reaching the end of their useful lives, and new information technology has outstripped the Library's ability to keep up. Two problems have already been solved: renovation of the historic Central library will be completed in early 1997; and the new Midland Branch opens in June, 1996. Now we need to repair and enhance our other 12 libraries to complete the upkeep and improvement of our library system.

PROTECTING OUR VALUABLE INVESTMENT

Over the years, citizens have made a significant investment in our libraries. This bond would protect that investment by making needed repairs to a number of library buildings. Deteriorated roofs must be replaced. Heating, cooling and electrical systems for many branches are obsolete, and will be replaced as well. These and other repairs will not only fix the immediate, urgent problems, but will also provide ongoing operational cost savings due to more energy efficient systems.

IMPROVING PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The best library in the world is of little use if the public cannot get to what's inside. A vast amount of information is available today, including access to the information highway beyond the walls of the library, if you have the technology to gain access to it. This bond would increase access to library materials for those who come in to one of our buildings or those who dial-in, through:

- **Purchase computers and upgrade technology** infrastructure systems and equipment to allow public access to infor-

mation electronically. This means many more people will have access to much more information in much less time—getting better use of library resources.

- **Internet access** will allow citizens free admission to the information highway. The public will have worldwide information at their fingertips in every branch and by dialing in to the library's computer system from home, school and work.

HOOKING UP WITH THE SCHOOLS

Our community faces great challenges in giving our young people a quality education. This bond will help. This measure will provide direct connections between the library and Multnomah County schools, making our community's best information resources more available to the students who need it, and helping the schools do their job.

HELPING OUR MOST CROWDED BRANCHES

This bond measure will help all branches in the system. However, four in particular have been stressed to the breaking point. The Hollywood, Hillsdale, Belmont and St. Johns branches have serious deficiencies, and are far busier than their structures can handle. The library bond will allow major renovation and/or construction at these locations so they can better meet the needs of the community.

The Library Bond would cost about 7 cents per \$1000 of assessed value. That is about \$10 per year for the owner of a typical home.

Submitted by

Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County

No arguments AGAINST this measure were filed.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-44

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR.

A Message from The Friends of the Library:

KEEP OUR LIBRARIES OPEN AND WORKING VOTE YES ON MEASURES 26-41 & 26-44

With downtown Portland's Central Library and 14 branches, the Multnomah County Library system is our community's most important educational and information resource.

We love the library, and we use it well. But all that use has taken its toll. That is why we are urging you to vote Yes for our libraries by voting Yes on Measures 26-41 & 26-44.

Keeping the Libraries' Doors Open:

By voting Yes for our libraries, you can renew the current library levy at the same authorized rate. Not only will that keep the libraries doors open, but it will increase hours at Central and the branches, and open our busiest branches on Mondays for the first time in twenty years.

Helping Children, Students, Adults and Seniors:

Measures 26-41 & 26-44 will improve programs such as story hours for toddlers, special reading programs, homework help, classes on technology for adults and a variety of seniors programs. The measures will also hook the libraries directly to the schools, offering them much-needed help.

Adding Books and Computers:

Our libraries have lagged behind in the purchase of new and the replacement of worn or damaged books and materials. They have also been unable to afford computers that will allow access to the Internet and other electronic sources of information. The Library Measures will help bring our libraries up to speed.

Repair Deteriorated Branches:

Our libraries are getting old. Many branches need to fix roofs, heating, cooling and electrical systems. If we don't fix them today, it will cost all of us much more later. By voting Yes for our libraries, we can make these needed repairs, and renovate four of our most over-crowded branches—Hillsdale, Belmont, Hollywood and St. Johns.

VOTE YES FOR OUR LIBRARIES VOTE YES ON MEASURES 26-41 & 26-44

*(This information furnished by Penelope Hummel,
Friends of the Multnomah County Library)*

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

LIBRARIES MEAN MORE THAN BOOKS

by Myrtle McGill

At 84 years of age, I've had more opportunity than most to use the libraries. I've made the most of that opportunity. I started as a youngster, for both my school work and for pleasure. Then I taught my children that the library is one of the greatest gifts a community has to offer, and they've used it well. As for the joy of watching the library help open new worlds to my grandchildren... well, you can just imagine.

It is easy to think of a library as just a collection of books, magazines, tables and chairs. But it is far more than that. Our public libraries show the best of us as a community.

That is why I am asking your support for Measures 26-41 and 26-44.

To me, the libraries are about investing in ourselves and our future. They help us become better educated and better informed, making us more prosperous and better citizens. The fact that libraries are open to all also makes us stronger as a democracy. Having healthy libraries is an important part of our quality of life.

I've seen a tremendous amount of change in my lifetime, and it seems to be getting faster everyday. Books are one avenue to knowledge, but are no longer enough: it takes computers and other new technology to gain access to the information we need today. But the library hasn't been able to afford to keep up. These ballot measures will help.

Caring for our libraries means being responsible. Many of the buildings are old and need repairs. It is the same as owning a house. What you put off today, you will pay dearly for tomorrow. The library ballot measures will make urgently needed repairs to protect our valuable investment in them.

Our Multnomah County libraries are important. I hope you will join me in supporting them.

(This information furnished by Myrtle McGill)

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MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-45**BALLOT TITLE****BONDS TO EXPAND ADULT, JUVENILE CORRECTIONS FACILITIES; IMPROVE CRIMINAL TRACKING**

QUESTION: Shall Multnomah County build jails, booking and corrections facilities; strengthen criminal tracking, by issuing \$79.7 million in General Obligation Bonds?

If bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property not subject to the limits of section 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

SUMMARY: Bonds used for:

- Ending early unsupervised release of prisoners by constructing, expanding jails, acquiring land;
- Allowing police to quickly book suspects, return to patrol;
- Secure beds for mandatory substance abuse treatment for offenders;
- Restructuring computer systems of police, corrections, prosecutors, courts for tighter criminal tracking;
- Financing additional juvenile beds
- Facilities to assist abused children.

Measure authorizes up to \$79.7 million Multnomah County General Obligation bonds maturing in 30 years or less. Cost estimate: 18 cents per \$1,000 assessed value, about \$28 annually on typical home.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Multnomah County Public Safety Bond authorizes the sale of up to \$79.7 million general obligation bonds to pay for facilities that will improve public safety.

What Measure 26-45 Will Do

Measure 26-45 will fund a balanced approach to making our community safer. The increase in jail space would allow the Sheriff to end unsupervised releases due to lack of space, meaning that criminals will actually serve time. It would restructure booking and tracking facilities to make the system more effective and accountable. The bond would fund added capacity to the juvenile system to respond to dangerous juvenile offenders. It also pursues crime prevention by effective intervention in substance abuse and child abuse and neglect.

**Increased Jail Beds to End Unsupervised
Early Release of Prisoners**

The bonds will build a new 210 bed jail and a 120 bed expansion at Inverness Jail. This responds to a 47% increase in criminal bookings in Multnomah County over the past five years (28,702 in 1991 to 42,288 in 1995.) During the same period of time, the number of jail beds has increased by only 10% (1,331 in 1991 to 1,461 in 1995).

As a result, last year the Sheriff was forced to release about 3,700 prisoners with no supervision simply because there was no room in the jails. Based on current trends, the bonds to build new jail beds will end the unsupervised release of prisoners due to lack of space.

**Secure Treatment Facilities for Mandatory Drug
and Alcohol Treatment of Offenders**

The bonds will pay for two, 75 bed secure facilities which respond to a lack of resources for treatment of offenders whose

substance abuse is a factor in their repeated criminal activity.

**Computer Systems and High-Tech Equipment
for Tighter Tracking of Criminals**

The bonds will pay for restructured and upgraded computer and technology systems that will link police, corrections, prosecutors and courts to more tightly track criminals throughout the criminal justice system.

**Restructured Booking Facilities To Eliminate
Long Delays For Police**

The bonds will pay for completely restructured booking and transport facilities, which respond to bottlenecks in the current system which often lead to hours-long lines of police waiting to book suspects, keeping them off the streets and away from their other law-enforcement duties.

Expansion of the Juvenile Justice Complex

The bonds will fund the 64 bed expansion of the Juvenile Justice Complex, which responds to the increase in dangerous crime by juveniles.

Child Abuse Center

The bonds will pay for a Child Abuse Center that responds to increased victimization of children, and the excess amount of time many children spend in police custody waiting for placement and evaluation. The facility will co-locate several important services to abused and neglected children to cut long waits and insure children's safety and care.

Submitted by

Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-45

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

MEASURE 26-45 WILL HELP ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN

As President of the Multnomah County Child Abuse Coalition, and as someone who works directly with abused and neglected children, I ask for your Yes vote on Measure 26-45.

As a community, we are suffering from an epidemic of child abuse and neglect. Over 2000 times a year, a child in Multnomah County must be removed from their home for their own safety.

Even though that action is taken to protect the child, it is traumatic. And all too often, the system adds to the trauma, instead of lessening it. Because there is no 24-hour facility consistently available to take in and care for a child, children are sometimes forced to ride in the back of a patrol car or sit at a caseworker's desk for hours, while attempts at placement are made.

Children are often further traumatized by multiple foster home placements, and little chance for visitation with birth parents for family reunification.

Measure 26-45 will provide funds to build a Multnomah County Child Abuse Center that will help care for these vulnerable children quickly and safely.

The Child Abuse Center will have a 24-hour reception center where the child's physical and emotional well-being will be immediately seen to in a safe, child-friendly environment. The Child Abuse Center will also help to make better foster care placements and assist in family reunification.

Other important elements of the Child Abuse Center will be respite care for stressed foster parents and a friendly place for supervised visits with birth parents.

The Multnomah County Child Abuse Center is a ground-breaking partnership of the County, State and private sector for children in desperate need of help.

**PLEASE VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-45
AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES
OF ABUSED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN**

CRAIG OPPERMAN, PRESIDENT
MULTNOMAH COUNTY CHILD ABUSE COALITION

(This information furnished by Craig Opperman)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Do we need more jails?

An article by American Education Association, April, 1992 issue *NEA Today*, page 4, compared *per capita* population of prisoners in prominent countries; America led all in *per capita* incarceration rate. The US incarceration rate for blacks was 494% higher than South Africa, and the overall incarceration rate for the US was 146% higher than South Africa, 169% higher than Soviet Union, and 410% higher than communist China.

Is this incarceration rate because of higher crime rates in America, or is it because various governments in America propagandizing us about political prisoner problems in other countries while hiding the truth that the political prisoner problem in America is *far worse* than in other countries?

What is a Political Prisoner?

A political prisoner is one who has not committed a crime; there's no injured party or damaged property resulting from the wrong. True crimes are evidenced by an injured party. Statutory (*political or penal*) crimes are wrong only because they are prohibited; there's no injured party.

What about Oregon law?

1993 Oregon Revised Statutes, V1, page xxlii, shows the TABLE OF TITLES; the four Code subjects are: (a) Remedial, (b) Civil, (c) *Penal*, and (d) *Political*. The Political Code is ORS Chapters 171-838. In Oregon, *anyone* who is incarcerated for violations of ORS 171-838 is a *political prisoner*! The *Penal Code*, ORS Chapters 131-170, consists of "crimes" where there's no injured party; only a subset is *Criminal Code*, violations of which produce an injured party. See ORS 161.005. If you review court proceedings published in any public record, you will find that nearly all jail sentences are for violations of the Penal or Political Code, and *not for violations of the Criminal Code*.

Do we need more jails to house political prisoners?

The *real* answer is not more jails; stop incarcerating Oregonians as political prisoners. We already have more jails than we need.

Don't throw good money after bad: Vote NO

*(This information furnished by Bruce Craig
and Don Whittenburg)*

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CITY OF GRESHAM

Measure No. 26-28

BALLOT TITLE

PROPOSED BY INITIATIVE PETITION**CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUIRING VOTER APPROVAL OF LIMITED ACCESS HIGHWAYS**

QUESTION: Should the City Charter require voter approval for location and design of major limited access roads and highways within Gresham?

SUMMARY: Adds a new section to the City Charter. Requires voter approval of limited access roads or highways of four lanes or more within City. There could be separate votes for location and design. Those votes can occur at May and November elections. Measure might apply to projects now under study.

The state owns all highways. The county owns most four lane roads in City. Oregon courts have held a local highway location vote may not bind state or county.

**SEE NEXT PAGE FOR
ARGUMENTS FOR AND
AGAINST THIS MEASURE**

CITY OF GRESHAM

Measure No. 26-28

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

In the larger scheme of things, mayors and city councilors serve us on a temporary basis, but even so, these people have the power to make decisions which can permanently affect our lives and environment.

Measure 26-28 amends the Gresham City Charter to require voter approval before any mayor and council can act to create a major limited access road within the city limits. The measure involves only the very largest kinds of projects of four lanes or more, specifically throughways and freeways.

Building these roads in already established communities can have profound effects, good and bad. Beyond the pluses of urban highway construction (increased employment during construction, improved traffic flow, commercial benefits, etc.), the construction of such roads also has huge negative consequences:

The condemnation of private property; the cutting in two of established neighborhoods and business districts; the decay of neighborhoods which are closest to the new road; long-term disruption and delays in existing traffic patterns and the corresponding loss of business to local merchants during construction; the change in the life of a city now divided by wide expanses of pavement and concrete walls; and the large increase in the noise level, especially in the rain, of high speed traffic coursing through town.

Currently, the mayor and council can commit the City to such a project and it would not be subject to voter approval. It's one thing to have our elected officials making decisions about the day-to-day affairs of the city... but another when it comes to creating something as massive and profound as a freeway. Then, it's time for all of us who live in Gresham and are invested in its future to be included in the decision.

Measure 26-28 gives us a prudent and practical method to review and pass judgement on a decision which would affect virtually every aspect of city life.

**Politicians come and go, but freeways are forever!
Vote Yes on 26-28.**

(This information furnished by Don McIntire, Chief Petitioner, Preserve Our Quality of Life Committee)

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ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Since the city currently does not own, control or plan to construct four lane roads or highways, this initiative is unnecessary and is an abuse of the initiative and referendum powers. This measure requires voter approval of all limited access roads or highways of four lanes or more within the City of Gresham. According to ORS 374.015 the State Department of Transportation has the authority to lay out, locate, relocate, adopt, establish, construct, designate, maintain and supervise the use and operation of new highways known as throughways. The Oregon Court of Appeals has held that local actions taken to participate in state siting and planning processes are advisory and administrative and not "legislative". If this measure were to be included in the city charter the city still would not have the authority to either compel or bar the construction of roads, or to approve their location and design. The State Department of Transportation is the ultimate decision maker. The initiative rights of city voters do not extend beyond the legislative authority of the city itself. Passage of this measure would 'muddy the waters' and create many legal questions and concerns for the Oregon Court System to debate and decide. We recommend a NO vote on Measure 26-28.

(This information furnished by Charles J. Becker, Treasurer, Common Sense and Sensible Government)

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