



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Amendment

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: /

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Tony Morse / Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-939-9672

Email: tony@swiftpublicaffairs.com

Contact information for authorized changes: Tony Morse

Phone: 503-939-9672

Email: tony@swiftpublicaffairs.com

This information furnished by: Tony Morse

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-939-9672

Email: tony@swiftpublicaffairs.com

Formatted Statement

**City Club of Portland's Research Finds:**

**Measure 26-267's proposed participatory budgeting approach is "nearly unprecedented" and "difficult to justify"**

Since 1916, City Club of Portland has produced nonpartisan research to inform voters. On March 15, 2025, after a six-month study, City Club released a 96-page report on participatory budgeting ("PB"): *Participatory Budgeting for Portland: A City Club Research Report*.

On the exact approach Measure 26-267 takes, City Club's conclusion is notable:

"Proposals to adopt and institutionalize PB as a city-wide program funded through a charter change or citizen initiative appear to be nearly unprecedented in the U.S. and difficult to justify from the available evidence about PB's benefits."

City Club also found: "municipalities that implement participatory budgeting rely on its appealing promise rather than on evidence of its concrete benefits."

More specifically, City Club found:

**Actual participation in participatory budgeting is low**

- "Chronically low participation rates... cast doubt on whether the results of a PB vote actually represent the true preferences of a community."
- "Typical participation rates in PB projects are 5% or fewer of eligible voters."

**Administrative costs are high**

- "A consistent finding is the reported high cost of administering a PB program," consuming up to 20 percent or more of the funds set aside in other cities.

**A charter-mandated program — like Measure 26-267's proposal — "creates unnecessary risks" and diverts tax dollars from "more strategic purposes"**

- "Instituting a PB program that captures a portion of the general fund, that privileges PB above most other priorities, and that requires hefty new expenditures for administration creates unnecessary risks, especially when the city budget is under such pressure."
- "With a PB program in place, those funds will be unavailable for more strategic purposes."

After this extensive study, City Club recommended a small, carefully designed pilot — not a permanent charter mandate.

**This measure ignores that research. Vote No.**

Read the report: [protectourcityservices.org/cityclubreport](http://protectourcityservices.org/cityclubreport)

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or

to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Tony Morse

Date Signed(or amended): 9/6/2026 9:14 PM

# Joint County Voters' Pamphlet

## Measure Argument

RECEIVED

2026 SEP -1 AM 11:15



**Important! Read all instructions before completing this form.**

Please note that each county produces a separate County Voters' Pamphlet. **MULTNOMAH COUNTY** If the Measure Argument is located in more than one county, a separate JCVP-03 form must be filed with the appropriate fee or certified petition (JCVP-04) to each county where the Measure Argument is to be printed.

### 1. Filing Information

Election Date: 11/3/2026
☐ Amended Statement


Argument in Favor



Argument in Opposition

Measure # 26-267

Order # \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Filer Checklist for County Voters' Pamphlet (VP) Measure Argument



Typewritten &amp; signed JCVP-03 form + attached Measure Argument



Fee or JCVP-04 certified petition (Petition ID # \_\_\_\_\_)

(If applicable) JCVP-02 Statement of Endorsement(s), #: 2

Word Count (325 MAXIMUM)

### 3. Argument Paid for or Petition Provided by

Bob Weinstein

Phone: 907-617-4979

Name of person/organization paying or submitting petition for Measure Argument

Email: bobalaska@gmail.com

### 4. Contact Information for Authorized Changes

Bob Weinstein

Phone: 907-617-4979

Name of person authorized to make changes to Measure Argument

Email: bobalaska@gmail.com

### 5. This Information Furnished by "Name of person" required: ORS 261.365(2). Name(s) will be printed in the Voters' Pamphlet as provided.

Name of Person (Required):

Organizational Name (If Applicable):

Bob Weinstein

Phone: 907-617-4979Email: bobalaska@gmail.com

### 6. Attestation

By signing this document, I hereby state I am responsible for the content of this argument. (ORS 261.415)

Name of Organization person(s) Is (are) authorized to represent, If applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Bob Weinstein

08/31/2026Printed Name of Person Furnishing Argument  
(Must match Section 5)Signature of Person Furnishing Argument  
(Must match Section 5)

Date

Printed Name of Person Furnishing Argument  
(If applicable)Signature of Person Furnishing Argument  
(If applicable)

Date

Note: If this argument is not being filed by a registered Oregon Political Committee, you may be required to register as a political committee with the Secretary of State. Refer to the Campaign Finance Manual for further details.

### For Office Use Only

Required in 03? Yes No

Signed? Yes No

Endorsement? Yes No

Next Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Word Count (325 max)

Providing digital copy? Yes No

Received digital copy? Yes No

Review Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED

**\$16 Million Reasons to VOTE NO on Community Budgeting for All (Except You and Me)!!**

At first glance, this measure sounds fair: let residents decide how public money is spent. Who could oppose giving Portlanders a greater voice? But on closer look, it just doesn't add up!

The proposal would amend Portland's Charter to require the city to forever hand over at least 2% of discretionary spending — initially \$16 million — to a participatory budgeting process, no matter what else the city needs.

Portland is already facing an estimated \$160 million budget shortfall. There is no spare \$16 million. The result will mean fewer 911 dispatchers, slower fire and police response, more people sleeping unsheltered, plus cuts to parks, transportation, housing, and more layoffs.

Ask proponents, including council candidates who support this measure, a simple question: What will you cut to pay for it? They've refused to answer, asking voters to trust that the money will simply be found later, at everyone else's expense.

There's another troubling problem: who's actually bankrolling this campaign and hiding it from you? Reporting shows dark money flowing through nonprofits that don't have to name their donors. Voters deserve to know who is funding this scheme to permanently change how their tax dollars are spent. Portlanders shouldn't be locked into a permanent \$16 million commitment by people unwilling to show their faces.

Lastly, claims that the community decides are intentionally misleading. Not all Portlanders receive a ballot. In Seattle, fewer than 1% of registered voters took part in deciding how millions in public money were spent. A tiny, self-selected group deciding how millions get spent isn't democracy.

Our elected council answers to all Portlanders. Our budget should remain transparent, accountable, and flexible enough to meet the needs of the whole community—not permanently siphoned off for a process dominated by an unrepresentative few.

**VOTE NO on Community Budgeting for All (Except You and Me)!**

Mike Lindberg  
Bob Weinstein  
Vadim Mozyrsky



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: 11/3/26

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: 3

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Jason Williams, Taxpayers Association fo Oregon

Phone: 503-643-1400

Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com

Contact information for authorized changes: Jason Williams

Phone: 503-643-1400

Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com

This information furnished by: Jason Williams

Organization Name: Taxpayers Association of Oregon

Phone: 503-643-1400

Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com

Formatted Statement

Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges

Vote NO on Measure 26-267.

5 REASONS TO OPPOSE PORTLAND'S PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING MEASURE

**#1. \$16–17 Million a Year, Outside Normal Budget Review**

The City's own estimate puts this program at \$16.4 million in FY 2027-28 and \$17.0 million the year after — spent through a process **separate from the Council's normal budget hearings.**

**#2. It's Permanent, Written Into the Charter**

This isn't a pilot program the City can end if it doesn't work. It's a **permanent charter amendment** requiring at least 2% of discretionary spending every year, indefinitely.

### **#3. Unelected Committees Make Binding Decisions**

An **unelected** "oversight committee" and "budget delegates" — not the elected Mayor or Council — assess, refine, and advance spending proposals to a **binding vote**.

### **#4. Nobody Says What Gets Cut**

The Charter change lets Council "identify funding from the entire city budget" to meet this obligation — meaning any **city service could be trimmed** to make room for it.

### **#5. Portland Already Struggles With Budget Accountability**

Adding a new binding spending process on top of an already-stretched city budget isn't reform — it's a **new layer of bureaucracy** nobody voted to fund directly.

Portland doesn't need another permanent spending mandate baked into its Charter.

VOTE NO on Measure 26-267.

**Join the movement to keep taxes low**

**& stop government waste, fraud and abuse**

**at OregonWatchdog.com (since 1999)**

#### **Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Jason Williams

Date Signed(or amended): 9/3/2026 1:46 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: 11/3/26

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: ~~2~~ 4

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Jason Williams, Taxpayers Association of Oregon

Phone: 503-643-1400

Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com

Contact information for authorized changes: Jason Williams

Phone: 503-643-1400

Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com

This information furnished by: Jason Williams

Organization Name: Taxpayers Association of Oregon

Phone: 503-643-1400

Email: oregonwatchdog@gmail.com

Formatted Statement

Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges

Vote NO on Measure 26-267.

**\$16.4 MILLION IN YEAR ONE — AND IT NEVER GOES AWAY**

Measure 26-267 amends Portland's Charter to permanently require at least 2% of the city's General Fund discretionary ongoing expenses be spent through a new "participatory budgeting" process.

The City's own preliminary estimate: \$16.4 million in FY 2027-28, rising to \$17.0 million the very next year.

That's real money, decided not by the elected Council after public hearings, but through a separate structure of an **unelected** "oversight committee," **unelected** city staff, and **unelected** neighborhood "budget delegates" who advance proposals to a binding, citywide vote.

Because this is a Charter amendment, it isn't a program the Council can simply defund if it underperforms or if the city hits a budget crunch.

The obligation is **permanent**, and the measure explicitly allows the Council to pull the required funding from "the entire city budget" — meaning police, fire, parks, or any other city service could be the ones trimmed to make room.

Portland residents deserve a say in city spending. But a **permanent, unelected, binding** process layered on top of the existing budget — one that starts at \$16 million a year and locks in future councils regardless of the city's fiscal condition — isn't accountability. It's a blank check with extra steps.

VOTE NO on Measure 26-267.

**Join the movement to keep taxes low**

**& stop government waste, fraud and abuse**

**at OregonWatchdog.com (since 1999)**

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Jason Williams

Date Signed(or amended): 9/3/2026 1:54 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: 5

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Portland Fire Fighters' Association, IAFF Local 43

Phone: 503-201-0963

Email: imclennan@iaff43.org

Contact information for authorized changes: Isaac McLennan

Phone: 503-201-0963

Email: imclennan@iaff43.org

This information furnished by: Isaac McLennan

Organization Name: Portland Fire Fighter' Association, IAFF Local 43

Phone: 503-201-0963

Email: imclennan@iaff43.org

Formatted Statement

**Fewer firefighters.**

**Fewer fire trucks.**

**Slower response.**

**That's the price of Measure 26-267.**

When you dial 911, Portland's firefighters answer. Some calls are fast-moving fires. Most are medical emergencies: a heart attack, a stroke, an overdose, a crash. Portland firefighters, paramedics, and EMTs, trained and ready for every call.

And whether it's a house on fire or someone who has stopped breathing, seconds make all the difference. Every engine, every station, every firefighter on duty means a faster response, and a faster response saves lives.

**That's why Portland's Fire Fighters are asking you to vote NO on Measure 26-267.**

Earlier this year, North Portland came dangerously close to losing a fire engine at Station 22. It wasn't because the need for the engine went away, but the city simply did not have enough money to maintain existing services. Firefighters and community members fought to keep that engine in service, and the City Council made tough choices and cut elsewhere to save it. That's how close to the edge Portland's public safety budget already is.

**Measure 26-267 would permanently remove at least \$16 million every year from the same General Fund that pays for fire and emergency response.** This mandatory set-aside would be locked into the city charter, with no dedicated funding source — an experiment no other American city has tried.

For perspective: \$16 million is roughly what it costs to operate six fire engine companies for a year. That's roughly one in five of Portland's fire engines.

With resources for our public safety bureaus already stretched too thin, **we can't afford more cuts.**

**Measure 26-267 risks cuts to basic city services, including essential fire and emergency services.**

**Portland Fire Fighters' Association, IAFF Local 43, urges you to vote NO.**

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Isaac McLennan

Date Signed(or amended): 9/7/2026 9:13 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: 7

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Laurie Wimmer

Phone: 503-235-9444

Email: est@nwolc.org

Contact information for authorized changes: Laurie Wimmer

Phone: 502-235-9444

Email: est@nwolc.org

This information furnished by: Laurie Wimmer

Organization Name: NW Oregon Labor Council

Phone: 503-804-5362

Email: est@nwolc.org

Formatted Statement

**Portland's working families urge you:**

**Vote NO on Measure 26-267!**

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council represents tens of thousands of working people across our region — including the city workers who maintain your parks, answer your 911 calls, respond to your emergencies, and keep Portland running every single day.

**Our council has voted to oppose Measure 26-267, and we urge every Portland voter to reject it.**

Here's why: Portlanders depend on the city to prioritize essential services. But this measure would permanently divert at least \$16 million every year — written into the city charter, forever — out of the same General Fund that pays for firefighting, parks, community centers, Portland Street Response, and homeless services.

It comes with no dedicated funding source. Not one dime of new revenue. That means *every dollar* it takes is a dollar cut from something else — and from someone's job.

We've seen this before. In 2023, Cleveland voters faced a nearly identical charter amendment. Cleveland's firefighters, paramedics, and city workers warned that without a dedicated funding source, departments like Fire and EMS would face cuts to pay for the program, with no guarantee a single dollar would come back. Cleveland voters listened and said no. Portland should too.

Our city just grappled with a record \$170 million shortfall. Roughly 100 city employees lost their jobs this summer. **Measure 26-267 would tie the City Council's hands permanently and take Portland's budget situation from bad to worse.**

Working Portlanders can't afford fewer services, longer response times, and more layoffs — all to fund an undefined process with *no rules* written yet.

**Please join the Northwest Oregon Labor Council**

**in voting NO on Measure 26-267**

**by November 3.**

*Laurie Wimmer, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Northwest Oregon Labor Council*

See the full list of endorsers: [protectourcityservices.org](https://protectourcityservices.org)

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Laurie Wimmer

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 12:46 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: 87

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Sgt. Aaron Schmautz

Phone: 971-221-6651

Email: aaron@ppavigil.org

Contact information for authorized changes: Aaron Schmautz

Phone: 971-221-6651

Email: aaron@ppavigil.org

This information furnished by: Sgt. Aaron Schmautz

Organization Name: Portland Police Association

Phone: 971-221-6651

Email: aaron@ppavigil.org

Formatted Statement

**Portland's Police Officers Urge You to**

**Vote NO on Measure 26-267**

Portland is a great city facing a hard truth: We don't have enough police officers. Portland has roughly 1.2 officers per 1,000 residents, about half the national average for a city our size.

When Portlanders call 911, average response times for priority calls have stretched to roughly 20 minutes — about twice what they were just a few years ago. Understaffing also means fewer detectives to work cases, fewer officers serving neighborhoods through community policing, and fewer officers available to pair with mental health professionals so the right responder shows up in a crisis.

Portlanders have made clear they want this fixed. So ask yourself, is now the time to **permanently divert** at least \$16 million, every year, from the very fund that pays for police officers, detectives, and 911 dispatchers?

Unfortunately, that's what Measure 26-267 does.

This measure would lock a **mandatory set-aside** into the city charter, with **no dedicated funding source**. The money comes from the General Fund, the same fund that pays for police, fire, parks, and other essential city services.

\$16 million can fund **more than 100 police officers**. But once this amendment is in the charter, no future council can adjust it — not during a crime wave, not during a recession, not when federal funding disappears.

The measure doesn't even define the process for deciding what will happen with the diverted taxpayer funds. There are **no rules on who votes, how votes are verified, or where the money ultimately goes**. Those decisions all come later, if voters approve this measure.

Portland's public safety system is stretched to the breaking point. **This measure would stretch it even further.**

Fewer officers.

Slower response times.

Fewer cases solved.

That's not the Portland any of us wants. **Please vote NO on Measure 26-267.**

Portland Police Association

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Aaron Schmautz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 2:55 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

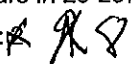
Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Amendment

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: 

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [campaign@protectourcityservices.org](mailto:campaign@protectourcityservices.org)

Contact information for authorized changes: Amy Ruiz

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

This Information furnished by: Amy Ruiz

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

Formatted Statement

**Portland can't afford Measure 26-267. Vote No.**

Portland is on the path to resurgence. We're delivering a cleaner, greener, safer city — and we're doing it while navigating the harshest budget environment in a generation. This year we closed a record \$170 million shortfall. We made painful cuts to core services and about 100 dedicated city employees lost their jobs.

**But we protected what matters most:** we kept every fire station open, every park and community center running, and every officer and investigator on the job.

**Measure 26-267 would undo that work.**

This measure writes a permanent and mandatory budget set-aside into our city charter, **something no city in America has ever done**. It would take at least \$16 million the first year, and likely grow every subsequent year, draining the same General Fund responsible for our most essential city services — park maintenance, fire stations, shelter beds, and first responders — and hand millions

to a program the measure doesn't even define. There are no specifics on who would vote, or who could qualify to receive your taxpayer dollars. Those rules would all be written later.

And because it's in the charter, no future mayor or council could adjust it — no matter what needs or opportunity Portland faces.

**I believe deeply in public participation.** Portlanders shape our budget every year through hearings, listening sessions in every district, surveys, advisory committees, and by voting for Mayor, Auditor, and City Council. We should make this voter representation stronger, not add another layer of bureaucracy and uncertainty.

**To succeed as a city, we must treat every public dollar like a precious investment in our future.** Locking an unfunded, undefined mandate into our charter is not stewardship. It would be a stumble, right when Portland is finally moving forward.

I'm asking every Portlander to join me in voting no on Measure 26-267 this November.

Keith Wilson, Mayor of Portland

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Amy Ruiz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 4:43 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: ~~X~~ 189

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: campaign@protectourcityservices.org

Contact information for authorized changes: Amy Ruiz

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com

This information furnished by: Amy Ruiz

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com

Formatted Statement

**We respectfully ask you to vote NO on Measure 26-267**

As City Councilors representing every district in Portland, we deeply value citizen participation in city budgeting. Portlanders have an important role in shaping the budget through public hearings, listening sessions in every district, advisory committees, and community surveys. And we are always looking for ways to make participating more accessible.

We understand why the idea of participatory budgeting appeals to many Portlanders. This is a good-faith disagreement about how best to serve our city, and we offer our view in that spirit.

**Here is our concern: We are already struggling to support basic city services.** This measure puts those services at further risk of cuts.

The measure does not have a new source of revenue. Approximately \$16 million a year would come out of the same General Fund that pays for essentials we all count on, including 911 dispatch, parks maintenance, firefighters and other first responders, and homeless services.

This mandatory set-aside will likely mean cuts to these basic city services. **Based on what we heard during the most recent budget process, Portlanders want these basics protected.**

Two years ago, voters redesigned our city government. We now elect councilors, district by district, to weigh the needs of both our district and the whole city. When we listen to Portlanders, debate trade-offs, and make tough budget decisions, **we are ultimately accountable to you.**

But Measure 26-267 takes us in a different direction. Binding spending decisions would be made through an undefined process; we would be required to fund the results. And if this doesn't work as everyone hopes, we can't simply fix it, because it's a charter amendment. Only a future citywide vote can change it.

Please join us in voting NO on Measure 26-267

**Portland City Councilors**

Loretta Smith (District 1)

Dan Ryan (District 2)

Steve Novick (District 3)

Olivia Clark (District 4)

Eric Zimmerman (District 4)

Learn more: [protectourcityservices.org](http://protectourcityservices.org)

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Amy Ruiz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 3:52 PM



## Joint County Voters' Pamphlet

Measure Argument

JCVP-03

ORS 251.335

### Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: ~~X~~ 10

### Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [campaign@protectourcityservices.org](mailto:campaign@protectourcityservices.org)

Contact information for authorized changes: Amy Ruiz

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

This information furnished by: Amy Ruiz

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

### Formatted Statement

### Vote No on Measure 26-267

Measure 26-267 would lock up at least 2% of Portland's discretionary budget every year – some \$16 million next year – for an ill-defined and unaccountable “participatory budgeting” process. It is badly drafted, runs counter to the charter reforms Portland just implemented, and would siphon scarce discretionary dollars away from responsible budgeting of city services.

Public involvement in Portland's budget is vital. But Measure 26-267 has nothing to do with community engagement on the actual city budget. In 2024 recommendations to the new city government, Portland's Government Transition Advisory Committee recommended earlier outreach, clearer communication, district-centered budget town halls, stronger relationships with community-based organizations, and restructured budget advisory committees. Some of these reforms are well underway while others await implementation. Measure 26-267 advances none of them.

In Portland's new, more representative form of government, the responsibility for raising and spending tax dollars is designed to remain with the people we elect. Accountability means our elected representatives must explain their decisions, debate the issues in public, and ultimately face voters at election time. However, measure 26-267 would move spending decisions into a vaguely defined process that mandates public expenditures without giving voters the same clear ability to hold decision-makers responsible for the results.

Meanwhile, budget priorities and revenue conditions change from year to year. Portland faces competing needs involving public safety, housing, homelessness, parks, transportation, city services and affordability. Our elected officials need flexibility to weigh the needs and set priorities accordingly. Simply locking away millions of tax dollars every year so that an unaccountable process can spend them is not "budgeting."

**A "no" vote on Measure 26-267 is not a vote against public participation. It is a vote for accountability, flexibility, representative government, and responsible budgeting. Vote NO.**

Terry J. Harris

Former chair, Budget Engagement Workgroup, Government Transition Advisory Committee

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Amy Ruiz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 3:56 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: *18 11*

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [campaign@protectourcityservices.org](mailto:campaign@protectourcityservices.org)

Contact information for authorized changes: Amy Ruiz

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

This information furnished by: Amy Ruiz

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

Formatted Statement

**I want more Portlanders involved in our budget.**

**And I'm voting no on Measure 26-267.**

Every budget season, I wish more Portlanders could see what City Councilors see: the trade-offs, hard choices, needs that outnumber dollars, and the things we could do for our City if we had the funds.

Portlanders deserve real opportunities to understand and shape those trade-offs — your input makes our city stronger. Here's what that could look like:

- First, a budget-balancing exercise inviting Portlanders to work with real numbers, and wrestle with real trade-offs across the whole budget, not just a small pot sectioned off for your input.
-

- Second, more transparency about what you proposed and what we ultimately decide: a public dashboard of Portlanders' input and what you asked us to prioritize, and clear communication about where our decisions aligned with that input, where they diverged, and why **so you can hold us accountable** — again, across the *whole* budget.

Meaningful participation looks like trusting you to advise us on the big decisions. It's what I asked our budget office to do last year, and will continue to press for. I need your help building pressure to make it happen!

Measure 26-267 does something different. **I know it's well intentioned, but I can't support it.** It locks a spending requirement of at least \$16 million annually into the city charter while we are still behind on funding basic maintenance and core services. Pulling money out of the budget for new projects before we've caught up on the basics isn't opportunity — it's irresponsible. We can't budget a small portion of our funds separately from everything else — Portlanders must be able to weigh in on all of it.

Please join me in voting NO on Measure 26-267, and building a tool that allows Portlanders to engage in making recommendations across the whole budget. Let's grow public participation in ways we can build on, correct, and improve — together.

Elana Pirtle-Guiney, City Councilor, District 2

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Amy Ruiz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 3:59 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: ~~X~~ 12

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [campaign@protectourcityservices.org](mailto:campaign@protectourcityservices.org)

Contact information for authorized changes: Amy Ruiz

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

This information furnished by: Amy Ruiz

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

Formatted Statement

**No new taxes?**

**Read the fine print on Measure 26-267.**

The Measure 26-267 campaign promises no new taxes, saying this measure only changes who decides how the money we already have gets spent.

That's technically true — and that's exactly the problem.

Measure 26-267 creates a permanent, mandatory set-aside (about \$16 million dollars to start) written into the city charter, with no specific funding source. No new revenue. No dedicated stream of tax dollars. Nothing earmarked to cover this new program.

This is Budgeting 101. When you create a new funding obligation with no way to pay for it, one of two things must happen: Cuts to existing services, or new taxes down the road.

**Measure 26-267's supporters won't say which one they'd choose, but it's a choice we'll be forced to make.**

As for "the money we already have"? ***Portland doesn't have it.***

The city just closed a record \$170 million budget shortfall. It cut homeless services by \$18 million and parks by more than \$11 million. Roughly 100 city employees lost their jobs this summer.

There is no extra \$16 million. Every dollar in the General Fund is already paying for firefighters, police officers, 911 dispatchers, parks maintenance, shelter beds, and other essential city services. "Changing who decides" how that money gets spent means taking it away from those services.

Here's the thing: if this measure really cost nothing, it wouldn't need to be locked into the city charter, beyond the reach of every future mayor and council. You only lock an experimental program into the charter when you know it couldn't survive an honest budget process — where it would have to compete, on the merits, against fire engines and 911 dispatchers.

**A bill with no way to pay it isn't free. It's just unpaid. Vote No on Measure 26-267.**

Learn more: [protectourcityservices.org](http://protectourcityservices.org)

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Amy Ruiz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 4:03 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: ~~1~~ 13

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: campaign@protectourcityservices.org

Contact information for authorized changes: Amy Ruiz

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com

This information furnished by: Amy Ruiz

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com

Formatted Statement

**No other city does participatory budgeting the way Measure 26-267 proposes.**

The Measure 26-267 campaign says participatory budgeting is proven elsewhere, citing New York, Boston, Paris, Seoul, and Mexico City.

Here's what they don't tell you: not one of those cities — not one city *anywhere* — has done what this measure would do: permanently lock a mandatory budget set-aside into its charter.

City Club of Portland's research committee searched for precedents. Its conclusion: proposals to institutionalize citywide participatory budgeting through a charter change are "**nearly unprecedented in the U.S.**"

Look at the cities proponents name:

- New York amended its charter in 2018 to require a program, but there's no mandatory set-aside.

- 
- **Boston** amended its charter in 2021 to create a participatory budgeting office, but there's no mandatory set-aside.
- 
- Outside the U.S., **Paris, Seoul, and Mexico City's** programs are adjustable when budgets get tight. None have a mandatory set-aside in their city's constitution, like Measure 26-267 proposes.
- 

One city did consider the approach in Measure 26-267: In 2023, **Cleveland voters rejected** a charter amendment that would dedicate 2% of their general fund to a participatory budgeting program.

The closest example may be **Seattle**, which began with a \$3 million no-bid contract the Washington State Auditor said showed "only the bare minimum of accountability and transparency." Three years passed before a dollar reached the community. Seattle has about 780,000 residents; only 4,092 people voted. *The Seattle Times* concluded the \$27 million experiment was "not worth repeating."

"Everybody's doing it" is rarely a good argument. **But the truth is, nobody is doing participatory budgeting this way.**

Vote NO on Measure 26-267.

Learn more: [protectourcityservices.org](https://protectourcityservices.org)

Sources: "Participatory Budgeting for Portland: A City Club Research Report," City Club of Portland, March 14, 2025; Washington State Auditor Pat McCarthy, *The Seattle Times*, August 23, 2021; "Seattle's \$27 million experiment in participatory budgeting is not worth repeating," *The Seattle Times*, November 14, 2023.

#### Measure Argument Filing Attestation

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Amy Ruiz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 4:13 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: 11/03/2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: ~~14~~ 14

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Vikki Payne / Future Portland Action Fund

Phone: 971-801-0256

Email: [info@futureportland.org](mailto:info@futureportland.org)

Contact information for authorized changes: Vikki Payne

Phone: 971-801-0256

Email: [info@futureportland.org](mailto:info@futureportland.org)

This information furnished by: Vikki Payne

Organization Name: Future Portland Action Fund

Phone: 971-801-0256

Email: [info@futureportland.org](mailto:info@futureportland.org)

Formatted Statement

"Your 2 Cents" sounds harmless. It isn't. This measure locks up 2% of Portland's general fund discretionary budget, which is roughly \$16 million a year. For a small group of participants to spend, no matter what the whole city actually needs.

Ask yourself: if the city had to find \$16 million this year, where should it come from? Slower police response times, or fewer park rangers? Fire staffing, or open community centers? Homeless services, or paved streets? This measure doesn't create new money. It takes money already committed to public safety, parks, and other core services and hands the spending decisions to whoever shows up to a separate process, with no guarantee that reflects what the whole city needs.

Portland already has an annual budget process with public hearings, community budget oversight committees you can volunteer to join, City Councilors we elected who vote on our behalf, and accountability every election. This measure builds a second, parallel budget system. One that grows automatically every year, is exempt from normal budget tradeoffs, and gets locked into the City Charter, where it's nearly impossible to undo if it doesn't work.

We don't have to guess. Other cities have piloted participatory budgeting at a much smaller scale. Let's learn from them and adopt what works through the normal budget process, with real oversight, before locking \$16 million a year into the Charter forever.

Portland's budget is already stretched thin, coming off a historic \$169 million shortfall and facing continued pressure from declining downtown revenue and federal funding cuts. Every dollar this measure diverts is a dollar not available for the fire truck that arrives on time, the park bathroom that's open, or the Portland Street Response team member who answers the call for help.

Don't force Portland to choose between public safety and parks. Vote NO.

[www.futureportlandactionfund.org](http://www.futureportlandactionfund.org)

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Vikki L Payne

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 4:58 PM



Joint County Voters' Pamphlet  
Measure Argument

JCVP-03  
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: November 3, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-267

Order: *11/15*

Contact Information

Argument paid for or petition provided by: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [campaign@protectourcityservices.org](mailto:campaign@protectourcityservices.org)

Contact information for authorized changes: Amy Ruiz

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

This information furnished by: Amy Ruiz

Organization Name: Protect Our City Services

Phone: 503-929-1036

Email: [amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com](mailto:amy@swiftpublicaffairs.com)

Formatted Statement

**Protect the Portland people choose to call home. Vote No on Measure 26-267.**

Every day, Realtors® in Portland help people make the biggest investment of their lives: a home to call their own. And every day, we hear why they choose this city — the parks and community centers, the walkable neighborhoods, the great small businesses. People don't just buy a house. They put down roots in a city.

**But all of this depends on one thing: a city that takes care of the basics.**

Measure 26-267 would permanently remove at least \$16 million every year from Portland's General Fund — the fund that pays for exactly those basics: parks maintenance, community centers, 911 dispatch, fire response, police investigators, and homeless services. It's written into the city charter forever, with no dedicated funding source, so every dollar diverted to this new program must be cut from something else.

Consider where Portland stands. The city just closed a record \$170 million shortfall — cutting parks by more than \$11 million and homeless services by \$18 million, and laying off roughly 100 employees. Community centers, parks maintenance, and the public safety services that every neighborhood depends on all come from this same fund. **When dollars are diverted from that fund, the basics our neighborhoods need compete for fewer dollars.**

Safe streets, clean parks, and fast emergency response aren't extras — they're the foundation of every neighborhood, and of every family's investment in their home and this city. This measure takes money from that foundation and hands it to a process with no written rules, locked in the charter where no future council can fix it.

**Portland's promise depends on getting the basics right. Please join us in voting NO on Measure 26-267.**

Portland Metropolitan Association of REALTORS®

**Measure Argument Filing Attestation**

By typing my name below, I am attaching my electronic signature and I hereby state that:

1. I am the author of this Measure Argument (ORS 251.415)
2. All of the information provided by me in this filing is true
3. I have read and understand the instructions for submitting this Measure Argument

Warning: Any person who supplies information in the Required portion of a Voters' Pamphlet statement, knowing it to be false, is subject upon conviction of a Class C felony, to imprisonment for up to five years or to a fine of \$125,000, or both. ORS 260.715 (1); 260.993; 161.605; and 161.625.

Note: Language which violates any provision of ORS 251.415 will be excluded from the Voters' Pamphlet.

Signature: Amy Ruiz

Date Signed(or amended): 9/8/2026 4:38 PM