

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

BALLOT TITLE

TEMPORARY SURCHARGE ON BUSINESS INCOME TAX, DEDICATE REVENUE TO SCHOOLS

QUESTION: Shall Multnomah County increase current Business Income Tax by .5% to provide approximately \$12 million to County public schools?

SUMMARY: This measure will increase the existing Multnomah County Business Income Tax (BIT) from 1.45% to 1.95% for one year. Businesses that currently pay less than \$100 in BIT (approximately 65% of Multnomah County businesses) will be exempt from the surcharge.

All revenues raised by this increase (an estimated \$11.9 to \$12.6 million) will be dedicated to public school districts within Multnomah County. Receipts from the Temporary Educational Surcharge shall be directed toward maintaining or reducing class sizes by preventing teacher layoffs in Fiscal Year 1998-99.

Public school districts with projected budget shortfalls in Fiscal Year 1998-99 must submit lists of teacher or other state certified positions that would otherwise be eliminated. Public school districts without budget shortfalls shall also submit lists of additional positions and materials directly related to instruction. Multnomah County will distribute receipts from the Temporary Education Surcharge based on the list submitted by each school district according to a formula approved by the Board of County Commissioners.

from the temporary educational surcharge to local schools, the County is making available the services of the Multnomah County Auditor to conduct performance audits of programs and operations of any public school district in the County to help ensure that educational resources are being maximized.

Submitted by
Multnomah Board of
County Commissioners

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Measure 26-68 will impose a temporary, one year surcharge of .5% on the current Multnomah County Business Income Tax (BIT) for the purpose of raising short-term funding for county public school districts. This surcharge is estimated to raise \$11.9 to 12.6 million county-wide in 1998.

The current Multnomah County BIT of 1.45% will be raised to 1.95% for one year. Businesses that currently pay less than \$100 in BIT (approximately 65% of Multnomah County businesses) will be exempted from the temporary educational surcharge.

As education funding in Oregon has shifted from local sources to the State in recent years, several school districts in Multnomah County have seen their operating budgets reduced. This has resulted in the loss of teaching staff, administrators and special programs. Class sizes have increased.

In July 1996, as a result of discussions with school funding activists and business leaders, four members of the Board of County Commissioners and the Portland City Council pledged their support of a temporary business income tax increase if the 1997 Legislature did not fund local school districts at 1995-96 service levels. The November, 1997 passage of the state's lottery-backed education bond completed the state's allocation of educational funding through 1999. However, several school districts in the County still face budget cuts in the next two years that will reduce their service levels below existing levels. Further teacher layoffs, loss of innovative programs and increased class sizes will result.

This measure will provide *partial emergency funding* for all school districts in Multnomah County for one year. It is intended to reduce the effects of diminished budgets until the 1999 Legislature can address educational funding inadequacies. In addition to providing revenues

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**A MESSAGE FROM DAN SALTZMAN
ON MEASURE 26-68**

As a Multnomah County Commissioner, I voted to refer Measure 26-68 to you for your approval. I wanted to share with you some of my reasons for doing so, and why I hope you will join me in voting yes.

This temporary increase in the Multnomah County Business Income Tax is an unconventional tool to provide critically needed help to our schools. But while it is unusual, it is the right thing to do. A crisis—and our schools are in crisis—pays no heed to arbitrary divisions between governments. Neither should our response. Whether the issue is schools, public safety or other vital services, we need to be able to cross boundaries to find solutions.

Measure 26-68 is one way we can come together to say that preventing teacher layoffs is a community priority.

Measure 26-68 also includes specific language I authored to ensure that the money it raises will be used as we intend: the proceeds can only be used to keep teachers in the classroom, it is not for administration or other expenses.

We also made every effort to make sure that Measure 26-68 was fair: every school district in Multnomah County will benefit from the money the BIT increase will raise.

Finally, I want to be clear that this is not a permanent solution to our school funding problems—we must continue to push Salem for long-term reform. But Measure 26-68 is an urgently needed "bridge" that will stop many destructive classroom cuts over the next year. Without the passage of this measure, the outlook for our schools and our children will be bleak indeed.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I hope you will consider this measure carefully, and join me in voting yes for our schools, our community, and our kids.

***If you have any questions about Measure 26-68,
please feel free to call me at 225-1018***

(This information furnished by Dan Saltzman)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

FROM MULTNOMAH COUNTY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS:

As Superintendents of local school districts, we know we ask a lot of our communities. But we do it **for the children**.

Now, we ask you yet again for **help**.

Please **support Measure 26-68**, the Business Income Tax. **Measure 26-68 is a step we can take as a community that will make a real difference.** The BIT won't solve the financial problems of our schools—we can't tell you it will. What it will do is take us **one more step** towards finding a permanent solution.

The BIT is **fair**. The BIT is a one-year tax on business income. Not personal income. Not property. It exempts approximately 2/3rds of the County's businesses.

The BIT is **short term**. This is not a permanent tax increase. It is a temporary surcharge.

The BIT is **necessary**. It will help prevent increases in class size. It will help our efforts to keep area schools at the levels your children deserve.

The BIT is the **only option** for the 1998-99 school year. Then we can work for long-term, stable funding on the state level.

For your children, your grandchildren, and your neighbors' children, please approve just a little BIT for our schools.

The following Superintendents **thank you**.

Mike Barry, Corbett	Hud Lasher, Reynolds
Jim Carlile, Gresham-Barlow	Thomas Ruhl, Sauvie Is
Jacki Cottingim, Parkrose	Diana Snowden, Portland
Yvonne Katz, Beaverton	

(Organization for identification purposes only)

*(This information furnished by Marianne Fitzgerald,
A Little BIT for Schools)*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Vote YES for A Little BIT for Schools YES on Measure 26-68

As parents and advocates for public schools, we urge our neighbors to support Measure 26-68. As state funding has failed to keep pace with local needs, our kids have suffered: Classes have been eliminated, teachers have been laid off and kids share tattered books in overcrowded classrooms.

Most schools in Multnomah County face even more cuts in the 1998-99 school year. **Without Measure 26-68, class sizes in Multnomah County will be even larger!**

Once again our community is called together to support our schools. Measure 26-68 is a vital bridge to the long term solution that we all seek.

- **Measure 26-68 meets an emergency need.** Our schools face a crisis now. Measure 26-68 places a temporary, one-year Business Income Tax surcharge on businesses in Multnomah County that is dedicated to county schools.
- **Funds from Measure 26-68 go straight to the classroom.** In most schools, the funds can only be used for teachers who would otherwise be laid off.
- **Measure 26-68 is fair.** Nearly two thirds of Multnomah County businesses will not pay any BIT increase at all. Businesses and individuals that currently pay less than \$100 in BIT will be entirely exempt from the surcharge.
- **Measure 26-68 is good for our community.** Oregonians want a high quality of life with strong communities, safe places to raise their children, stable places in which to retire, good places to locate their businesses, and strong property values for their futures. Good schools are the foundation for good communities.

Our kids can't wait. Vote YES on Measure 26-68.

Marianne Fitzgerald
Francie Royce
Jane Ames
"The 3 Moms"

Russ Plaeger
Portland Citizens
for Oregon Schools

Will Fuller
Schools for the City

Kathryn Humes
Active Parents Network

(This information furnished by Francie Royce, A Little BIT for Schools)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

GOOD SCHOOLS FOR GOOD NEIGHBORHOODS!

Dear Neighbor:

My name is Bobbi Gary. My children and grandchildren have graduated from Portland Public Schools and I currently volunteer at Vernon Elementary School.

I must tell you what I see happening to our public schools breaks my heart. Children that need extra help can't get it when there aren't enough teachers. Some children need just a little more attention and they'd do fine. But there isn't any extra help.

A strong public school system is the foundation of our democracy. Strong schools ensure that *all* children have an opportunity to succeed. This is especially true in our community, where the overwhelming majority of school aged children attend public schools. Other cities aren't so fortunate.

But over the past few years, something almost unbelievable has happened: in most schools we are actually spending *less* while we are asking the children to do more. We are cutting teachers, cutting programs, and cutting the education that our children and grandchildren are counting on to give them a good life.

If nothing changes, the deterioration of our schools will affect our whole community with horrendous results. That has happened in city after city. We must not allow it to happen here.

Measure 26-68 won't fix all our school finance problems: that will have to happen in the legislature. But it will buy us some valuable time, especially for the children in school today. A fourth grader will only be in the fourth grade once.

As a senior, I think a good deal about the kind of legacy we will leave to the next generation. There is no promise we make that is more important than our promise to give our children and grandchildren the tools they need to succeed in life. **Let's keep our promises, and vote yes to help save our schools.**

Sincerely,

Bobbi L. Gary
Portland Grandmother

(This information furnished by Bobbi L. Gary)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR****Small business owners urge you
to vote YES on Measure 26-68**

As owners of small businesses in Multnomah County, our support of the temporary increase in the Multnomah County Business income tax might seem surprising. Yes! We believe that a Yes vote is vital to our schools, our children and our future.

There are several reasons why we support Measure 26-68:

- **Our schools desperately need it.** Over the last 5 years, schools in Multnomah County have suffered almost 100 million in cuts. This means lost teachers, lost programs and larger class sizes. Worst of all, it has meant lost opportunities for children. Over the next year, most schools face further, devastating layoffs. Measure 26-68 will help reduce these losses.
- **Our community is at risk.** Strong schools are the bedrock of our community, making it a place we can all be proud to live in. They underpin strong neighborhoods and are the greatest predictor of a healthy economy. Without Measure 26-68, our community will be damaged.
- **Measure 26-68 is accountable.** The emergency funding raised by this temporary increase in the Business Income Tax will primarily be used to prevent teacher layoffs.
- **Measure 26-68 is fair to small businesses.** Businesses currently paying less than \$100 in Business Income Tax are completely exempt from the increase. A business with net income approaching \$70,000 will pay less than \$100 in additional taxes.

Like any other business, our schools and communities must make wise investments if they are to prosper. Please join us in supporting the temporary increase in the BIT.

**VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-68
It's a Smart Business Decision**

Peter DeGarmo, Pastaworks	Ron Hinckley & Matt Labadie, Northwest Bicycles
Clarice Johnston, DMD	Paulette Wittwer, Trade Roots
Ron Paul, Ron Paul Charcuterie	Jon Hagen, Longfellow's Books

*(This information furnished by David Milholland,
Small Business Coalition "Save Our Schools")*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**Teachers Support Kids
Yes for Measure 26-68**

As teachers, we see everyday what the school funding crisis is all about. We see too many faces. We see too few supplies. We have outdated textbooks. In some classrooms there aren't enough materials to do the kinds of projects we know would engage kids. Field trips and lab experiments—the kinds of things that will grab a kid's interest forever—often are lacking. Most of all, it's nearly impossible to give every child what is needed to meet the rigorous new standards. **Kids deserve better.**

But it's not getting any better. **Most schools in Multnomah County face more cuts next year.** And that's on top of what we've already experienced. It puts our community's future in peril.

We became teachers because there are few things as fulfilling as helping children reach their potential, giving them the best possible chance to become successful adults. The cuts of the past few years have made that task far more difficult. While it is certainly hard to lose talented and committed colleagues to other school systems, **the real tragedy is the lost opportunities for children that next year's cuts would represent.**

Measure 26-68 will benefit every school district in Multnomah County. It is a fair, temporary increase in the Business Income Tax. Most businesses in the County won't pay any increase. Of those that will, the vast majority will pay \$100 or less. But that small amount will make a big difference to our classrooms.

Please, support our children. **Vote Yes on Measure 26-68.**

Larry V. Callister,
Reynolds High School Science Teacher

Richard Barasch,
Portland Middle School Mathematics Teacher

Recipients of Presidential Awards for Excellence in
Mathematics Teaching:

Dick Brannan,
Portland Middle School Mathematics Teacher
Fred Rectanus,
Portland Middle School Mathematics Teacher

(This information furnished by Richard Barasch)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Vote Yes for Our Schools

To the Voters of Multnomah County:

Students are the ones most affected by the school budget cuts of the past few years. **We have more crowded classrooms, obsolete text books and fewer class offerings.** Teachers are working hard but they are struggling to keep up. It is hard to get the individual help we need.

As a senior in high school, I have an interest in what happens in my classes over the next few months. But frankly, my public school career is almost over. I am much more worried about what is going to happen to my younger sister and her friends. They are why I am asking you to vote yes on this emergency school funding measure.

As bad as the cuts have already been, the cuts next year will be really bad if something isn't done. That is especially unfair to younger kids, who will have their entire education hurt.

As young people we have a responsibility to study hard and make the most of the education we are given. But one thing we cannot do is vote. I hope that you will think about what is happening to our schools, and vote for us. Please remember to vote yes on Measure 26-68 and put your ballot back in the mail so your vote counts.

Thank you for reading this.

Signed:

Davin Sweeney,

President, Associated Student Body
Lincoln High School
Portland Public Schools

*(This information furnished by Davin Sweeney, ASB President,
Lincoln High School)*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Vote Yes for Measure 26-68 Good Schools are Good for Business

The health of a business is closely tied to the health of the community it serves. We believe that a healthy public school system is the foundation of healthy communities. And great communities are good for business.

As businesses and as individuals, we encourage you to support the temporary increase in the Multnomah County Business Income Tax dedicated to our schools.

We all need good schools. They educate our children and provide the underpinning of a healthy economy. The teacher layoffs and increased class sizes facing our schools in the next year present an unreasonable and unnecessary threat to the health of our community.

Measure 26-68 is not a permanent fix for our school funding problem. But right now our schools have no other option. Our schools need this measure to get through the next year without suffering damage that would take many years to undo.

We know where our money is going with Measure 26-68. Funds can only be used for retaining teachers and helping to prevent increases in class size. If we pass this measure, we will get what we are paying for.

Our educational system is the most important legacy we leave for the future of our communities. **Please join us in voting Yes on Measure 26-68.**

Stan Amy, President
Nature's Fresh Northwest

Michael Powell, Owner
Powell's Bookstore

Sho Dozono, President
Azumano Travel

(This information furnished by Stan Amy, Nature's Fresh N.W.)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR****Why Paloma Clothing
Supports Measure 26-68**

To our neighbors and customers:

As neighborhood business owners in Multnomah County for almost 23 years, we want to make it clear that this surcharge for education is not a hardship for our small business. It will cost us less than \$100, an excellent investment in averting ever greater increases in class sizes in our public schools.

- Businesses making less than \$28,000 per year in net income do not pay this surcharge.
- Even businesses making up to \$70,000 per year in net income will pay less than \$100 in additional taxes.
- It is a **temporary** one-year surcharge.
- All funds from Measure 26-68 go directly toward keeping class sizes as low as possible.

Public schools are among the most basic of building blocks in our community. Therefore, all businesses benefit when healthier public schools foster a healthier community.

Virtually all businesses in Multnomah County are connected to public schools either through the children of their employees or the children and grandchildren of their customers.

We respectfully ask our customers and fellow business owners to honor this connection to children and public schools by joining us in voting for Measure 26-68.

Thank you.

Mike Roach and Kim Osgood, Owners
Paloma Clothing

*(This information furnished by D. Michael Roach and Kim Osgood,
Paloma Clothing)*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**Joseph Tam, Portland School Board Member,
asks for your support.**

Dear Voter:

I urge you to support school kids in Multnomah County by voting for a temporary surcharge of 0.5 percent in the Multnomah County Business Income Tax (BIT).

As a member of the Portland School Board, I am facing the difficult decision of cutting at least 50 teaching jobs from the current school budget because of a \$7 million budget shortfall. The budget gap for the next school year is estimated to be about \$20 million, which could lower the quality of our educational system even further. The BIT surcharge will fill much of this gap.

The BIT surcharge is necessary. There is no alternative. Already we have had to cut 300 teaching positions before this school year, and 79 at the beginning of this school year. For years we have been cutting away at the core of our educational programs.

Ask any teacher, parent or child involved in public school how these cuts are impacting their education, and you will know like I do that this surcharge is desperately needed. My own two children at Lincoln High School tell me about ever-growing class sizes, elimination of courses and programs, and a general feeling that the adults of our community are not standing up for the kids.

The BIT surcharge is fair. My wife Ronee is a small business owner so I am sensitive to the pressure small businesses are under. However, the BIT surcharge will largely be paid by corporations that have received most of the benefits of property tax limitation measures we have passed in this decade. It is time they gave back to our community.

This surcharge is necessary and fair. It will prevent teachers from losing their jobs which will **stop further erosion of our children's education.** Please join me in voting YES!

Joseph Tam
Portland School Board Member
Candidate, Multnomah County Commissioner - District 1

(This information furnished by Joseph Tam)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

For the past six years Portland Public Schools and other schools in Multnomah County have been under the knife. This past January, we learned that another 50 positions would have to be cut. Our schools need this ballot measure to stop the bleeding.

Our schools are doing the best they can despite all the cuts. As the Oregonian recently reported, Portland's schools are still among the best urban schools in the country, because of the investments we made in the past. But every system has a breaking point and that point is nearing for our schools.

We are proud that progressive Portland businesses are supporting this measure. They understand that unless today's kids get a good education our businesses will not have a strong workforce in the future. We urge everyone to vote yes on Measure (the BIT).

Serena Cruz, Candidate,
Multnomah County Commission District 2

Deborah Kafoury, Candidate, House of Representatives
District 18

Steven Novick

Diane Rosenbaum, Candidate, House of Representatives
District 14

Erik Sten, Commissioner, Portland City Council

(This information furnished by Steven Novick)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Dick, Jane, and Sally deserve good schools. So do Ricardo, Tanisha and Tuan. And they deserve newer textbooks than ones that tell them to See Dick Run!

Dick, Jane, Sally, Ricardo, Tanisha and Tuan deserve to learn about reading, writing and arithmetic, but they also deserve music, art, history, computers, and athletics.

Dick, Jane, Sally, Richardo, Tanisha and Tuan will grow up to work for corporations who will benefit from their education. And they deserve to have corporations invest in their education.

These children's parents and neighbors already pay enough taxes to support their education. In fact, despite two tax cuts in less than ten years, most Oregonians are paying more taxes now than before they voted to cut their taxes.

So why isn't there enough money? Corporations' taxes have been CUT IN HALF!

In fact, now the Oregon rate of corporate taxation is 43rd in the nation! The individual rate is 5th! That means that individuals pay more than 60% of Oregon's taxes and corporations pay less than 40%. Is this fair? Dick, Jane, Sally, Richardo, Tanisha and Tuan don't think so, and neither do we.

Remember, corporations have had their tax burden CUT by 50%! Don't let them persuade you into thinking that paying an additional one-half of 1% is going to bust their budget. Most businesses won't even have to pay it since it affects only the top 35% out of 39,000 corporations in Multnomah County.

It is time for corporations to stop talking about supporting education and take a baby step forward to actually do it!

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-28

(This information furnished by Jan Mihara, Portland Rainbow Coalition and Oregon Action)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

In 1997 the Oregon Legislature passed the largest school budget in the state's history. Also, Ballot Measure 52 increased school funding by providing for an additional \$150 million.

Now Multnomah County voters are being asked to impose a tax increase on local businesses to throw even more money at the problem. But what is the problem? Is it that our schools don't have enough money, despite record budgets? Or is it that existing resources are not being allocated wisely? Will a new tax solve the problem?

Because of the incompetent fiscal management of the Portland Public School District, this county-wide tax will be used to obtain more revenues from outside that district, and at a time when enrollment is dropping and expenses rising. The Jan. 10, 1998 issue of the Oregonian stated the situation clearly: "The district has such antiquated technology for budget and payroll that it cannot determine how much it is spending each month and how actual expenditures might be varying from budget projections."

Further taxing businesses will increase the amount you pay for goods and services.

Rather than extorting more money from taxpayers with what amounts to a hidden sales tax, the education establishment needs radical change. No one, not even an easy target to tax such as a business, should be forced to reward these bureaucrats for their failure to manage.

(This information furnished by Michael Wilson, Libertarian Party of Multnomah County)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

City and County pay nothing. Does this pass the smell test? Can you believe with half billion dollar combined budget, that not one dollar is important enough for this education issue?

Also why do small employers continue to be taxed to an unfair advantage with large employers. Is it because local politicians believe they can get away with it?

We already have a draconian tax scheme where small employers can pay many times more than equally profitable large employers.

This school tax is less fair.

To explain the current 1.45% county tax rate, for large companies it's primarily just against profits. However, small companies can frequently in effect have two taxes. Besides profits can be 1.45% tax on certain wages paid to owners.

The example below combines the County 1.45% rate with the City 2.2% (total 3.65%) because they are so similar. (Actually City manages both taxes under Commissioner Francesconi; formerly under Commissioner Hales).

Note small guy example, effective tax rate is not 3.65% but 10.95% With 0.5% county increase, small firm example increase 3.0% for 12.4% total.

EXAMPLE: BOTH FIRMS \$25,000 PROFIT:

LARGER FIRM, President owns little or no stock. \$100,000/yr pay

	Fed. 15%	State 6.6%	City/Cty 3.65%	City/Cty 4.15% proposed
Tax rate X's \$25,000	\$3,750	\$1,650	\$912	\$1,037
Tax rate times pay over \$50,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Tax (Tax Bracket)	\$3,750	\$1,650	\$912	\$1,037
			3.65%	4.15%

SMALL FIRM, President owns 100% stock. \$100,000/yr pay

	Fed. 15%	State 6.6%	City/Cty 3.65%	City/Cty 4.15% proposed
Tax rate X's \$25,000	\$3,750	\$1,650	\$912	\$1,037
Tax rate times pay over \$50,000	N/A	N/A	\$1,825	\$2,075
Total Tax (Tax Bracket)	\$3,750	\$1,650	\$2,737	\$3,112
	(15%)	(6.6%)	(10.95%)	(12.4%)

(Note: 12.4% local rate almost size of federal rate!)

Don't be fooled by the exemption if under \$100. The few bucks for some is merely tokenism.

County Commissioner Kelley voted against even putting this on the ballot. We have had many past leaders insist on fairness. Don't further erode this legacy. VOTE NO. Next demand tax fairness.

(This information furnished by Robert Butler)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

If this 34% tax increase were to pass it will have negative affects felt by, of all people, the children of Portland. You cannot just remove \$12 million from the community and have no negative side effects.

To the contrary, this increase will take away someone's raise next year, someone's Christmas bonus, or even someone's job. Who will the community look to, to support their little league baseball and soccer teams? You could in fact call this the "Little League" tax, as it targets the income that business people earmark to help community activities.

In November the County passed a \$100 million levy. In North Portland the County is borrowing at minimum \$5 million to pay for a new building. The County is paying at least \$5 million a year in loans that have not been authorized by voters.

Two times in 6 months the County has been taken to court for deceptive ballot language. Two times a Judge has ruled against the County. 3 individuals from the board of commissioners are facing elections. A recent audit found millions of dollars of county money was misappropriated.

Does this sound like the institution we can trust to solve this problem? It more closely resembles election year politics than good policy. Individuals running for office on the backs of small businesses.

The County board of Commissioners took aim at small business. However instead of using a rifle it is a shotgun. Instead of just hitting businesses the little league teams were hit, boy scouts were hit, school athletic sponsorships were hit.

You have the opportunity to take the shotgun out of the socialistic politicians hands here and now! So I encourage you, save the little leagues. Oppose this 34% tax increase. Vote No on measure #26-68.

Atlas Oregon,
11919 N. Jantzen Ave. Ste. #205
Portland Or. 97217

(This information furnished by Ted Piccolo, Atlas Oregon)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Karen Rutledge and Sallie LaValley sit on the Parkrose School Board because they are pro education and pro kids. They each have children of their own in the Parkrose school system. Like all parents, they too have hopes and dreams for their children. But they've learned that their dreams for their own children are compromised daily by the poor financial decisions being made by District personnel. Giving the Parkrose School District more money at this point, they say, won't help.

Rutledge and LaValley cite these recent examples of wasteful spending:

-Last month the highest paid Parkrose administrators received 7%, 9%, and 21% raises. According to Rutledge, "Many of our Parkrose business owners do not make anywhere near the \$65,000 to \$85,000 we now pay our school administrators. Our business manager now makes more than Governor Kitzhaber."

-The District spent \$74,000 on a water pump system that could have been installed for about half the amount. Three board members voted to use borrowed bond money to pay for the expensive pump. According to LaValley, "Not only will the interest costs on the project be more than the City of Portland estimated our water savings to be, the District refused to get competitive bids. We learned the entire system could have been installed for about \$40,000 less."

-The District Superintendent, without board approval, has made numerous questionable expenditures. For example, giving a private investigator \$4,800 to see if a board member was curt to a couple of administrators, spending \$4000 per month on a PR firm, taking the District's highly paid attorney out to expensive lunches on her expense account, the list goes on.

According to Board members Rutledge and LaValley, "We love our children very much. We want them to receive the best education in the state. We believe wasteful spending needs to be stopped, not put on the backs of our small businesses."

To speak with Karen Rutledge or Sallie LaValley call 254-9309.

(This information furnished by Karen Rutledge and Sallie LaValley)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Measure No. 26-68

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

According to long time school supporter and restaurant owner Patricia Sandoval:

"A high quality educational system is vital to small businesses like mine. I own two restaurants in Parkrose, the *El Sombrero* and the *La Iguana Feliz*. To run my restaurants I rely on the school system to provide me with a pool of qualified applicants. When the school system suffers, is in chaos, wastes money, or is otherwise dysfunctional, it hurts my businesses. There is a direct link between the success of our educational system and that of the business community."

This is why Patricia has been an ardent supporter of the Parkrose School system. This is why she has donated space to pass bond levies, repeatedly given money to school causes, offered training opportunities for students, and done a host of other things to come to the aid of education in Parkrose.

Why then does Patricia Sandoval now oppose this tax?

"First, the tax is patently unfair. The taxes my 28 employees pay into the system *result from the jobs I provide*. I personally pay a host of additional business and other taxes. Even with my successful restaurants, I already make less money than the lowest paid Parkrose school administrator."

"Secondly, the problem in Parkrose is not lack of money. It is the poor financial decisions being made by the Superintendent and three members of the board. If I ran the *El Sombrero* and the *La Iguana Feliz* like the Parkrose School District, I would soon go bankrupt."

"For example, is it cost effective to have someone with a doctorate degree making over \$70,000 per year *running the bus barn*? **NO!** Is it cost effective to have 18 administrators for 3400 students? **NO!** Is it cost effective to give a poorly performing superintendent a \$170,000 severance package? **NO!**"

Please join with Patricia and other long time school supporters in opposing this tax. To reach Patricia please call 257-9875.

(This information furnished by Patricia Sandoval)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

TEMPORARY DISCRIMINATION IS STILL DISCRIMINATION.
EDUCATION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS.

Measure 26-58 discriminates against employers by isolating companies as the small group to tax for getting back school budget cuts.

Yes vote is the WRONG MESSAGE TO:

EDUCATORS & STUDENTS: A yes vote means its sometimes okay to discriminate. Not true. Employers can't help but be out voted unless we all vote against unfair discrimination.

LOCAL POLITICIANS: We should be ashamed not proud. Already we are a national embarrassment.

"Portland is the nation's "Worst Tax Hell Hole" for small employers based on a special survey of 44 major cities. (National Federation of Independent Businesses, News Release May 10, 1993)

Small Employers provide half our jobs.

Shamefully, Multnomah County and Portland jointly impose a 'double hit' tax mainly at small employers. First profits are taxed. Secondly and very strangely they tax certain wages paid to owners that also work in the company. Most large businesses avoid the second hit because their employees rarely have ownership.

The school tax has the same double tax hit.

EMPLOYERS: Employers vote with their feet. Too many will 'walk out' if they have to pay for every ones school problem. A yes vote threatens of more tax measures just against employers. Employers need only 'walk out' a few miles to Washington, Clackamas, or Clark County. Many will go further.

COMMUNITY: It is dangerous to hold any group unequally responsible for educational funding. Effective and fiscally efficient education is best achieved if all voters fairly share the financial burden.

LEGISLATURE: A "yes" says we don't support our statewide education nor the Legislature responsible for it.

EDUCATION IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION IS ALWAYS WRONG

EDUCATION SHOULD BE MANAGED STATEWIDE

REJECT ANOTHER EDUCATION TAX HIT ON JUST EMPLOYERS.
VOTE NO.

(This information furnished by Russell Bennett)

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.