

Multnomah County

Measure 26-238

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Providing free legal representation to tenants, like Measure 26-238 does, saves money and keeps people housed. Eviction filings in Multnomah County continue to rise. This indicates growing amounts of displacement and housing insecurity in Multnomah County. The last thing we can afford to do is to continue allowing our neighbors to be priced out and displaced.

In 2022, even with some targeted programs available, only 9% of tenants had a lawyer in eviction court in Multnomah County. Evictions lead to homelessness, but many evictions are preventable if we address the imbalance of power and knowledge between landlords and tenants in court. Tenants facing eviction need time to access rent assistance and make an agreement with the landlord that will allow them to stay in their homes. Having a lawyer on their side makes that possible.

Guaranteeing tenants a lawyer in eviction court has already proven successful in jurisdictions across the country. Similar programs have reduced evictions and saved local governments millions by preventing the downstream costs of eviction and displacement.

Let's bring this **proven solution** to our community. **Vote YES** on Measure 26-238.

Endorsed by:

- Representative Khanh Pham, District 46
- Representative Farrah Chaichi, District 35
- The Democratic Party of Multnomah County

Community Organizations:

- Community Alliance of Tenants
- Urban League of Portland
- League of Women Voters
- Unite Oregon
- East County Rising Community Projects
- Portland: Neighbors Welcome
- Portland Gray Panthers Submitted by: Lew Church, Coordinator
- Oregon Food Bank
- Next Up Action Fund
- Sunrise PDX
- Bernie PDX
- 350PDX

Faith Communities:

- Multnomah Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Economic Justice Action Group at First Unitarian Church
- Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition

Legal & Civil Rights Organizations:

- Portland Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild
- National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel

Labor Unions (Full list on Labor Union Statement):

- Portland Jobs With Justice
- SEIU Local 503
- AFSCME Local 88
- Michael Stewart, President, AFSCME Local 328

Educators & Health Professionals

See full lists on additional statements

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Economists for Eviction Representation for All

Solid research shows:

- Evictions are surging in our county. Nearly 4 times as many cases were filed in January 2023 as in January 2022. Just one in 50 tenants in court had an attorney in January 2023.
- Evictions increase the likelihood of homelessness, lower incomes, poverty and family breakup.
- Eviction damage spans generations, because poor children tend to become poor adults: with less education, more unemployment, worse health and more involvement with the justice system.
- Evictions increase public spending on shelters, health care, foster care and other services.
- Women, children and people of color are more often evicted than others in similar circumstances.
- The vast majority of evictions are due to people temporarily falling behind on the rent.
- Having an attorney in eviction court dramatically increases tenants' ability to negotiate a reasonable agreement with their landlords. In New York City, 84% of tenants provided attorneys avoided eviction.
- Right to counsel programs more than pay for themselves. In Cleveland, every \$1 spent saved about \$3, without counting known savings for which good data was lacking.
- Funding with a capital gains tax reduces economic and racial inequality. 85% of all capital gains go to the highest income 5% of Oregonians; 92% goes to white, non-Latino households, nationally.
- Tax rates on the affluent are much lower than for most of the twentieth century. Reagan cut the top income tax rate nearly in half.
- County Commissioners can ensure that middle class families working to build wealth are not affected. They can adopt the state's capital gains tax exemptions, after passage – similarly to the tax break they created for the preschool tax.

YES on 26-238 for our children, families, community and economy!

Peter Bohmer, PhD	Martin Hart-Landsberg, PhD
Mark Brenner, PhD	Mary King, PhD
Todd Easton, PhD	Rhiannon Patterson, PhD
Mitch Green, PhD	Leopoldo Rodriguez, PhD
John Luke Gallup, PhD	Rajiv Sharma, PhD

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We urge you to vote Yes on Measure 26-238 to keep Oregonians housed!

Eviction is a direct cause of homelessness. When families and individuals are threatened with eviction, they are at risk of losing their homes, housing vouchers, and ability to successfully rent in the future. All these losses perpetuate Oregon's ongoing housing crisis: between 25%-62% of evictions lead to shelter needs, with many evictions leading directly to unsheltered homelessness.

This needs to stop.

Eviction Representation for All will ensure people have the resources to stay housed in the midst of intimidating, unjust eviction processes.

Renters and homeowners who have access to legal counsel are more likely to keep their homes, but lawyers are currently only available to those who can pay. Measure 26-238 will provide free legal representation for every tenant in eviction court in Multnomah County, effectively defending individuals and families, especially those with marginalized identities.

Evictions in Multnomah County mirror eviction trends across the United States - they disproportionately harm Black, Indigenous, Latine tenants and tenants of color, households led by women, families with children, tenants with disabilities, and queer and trans renters. These same communities often face greater risk of homelessness and are disproportionately represented in Multnomah County's unhoused statistics. Eviction Representation for All would help combat these inequities by providing counsel and resources to all Oregonians, not just those who know how to access them.

The city has been unable or unwilling to solve the ongoing housing crisis. We have the power to protect tenants from being evicted and becoming homeless.

Ensure fair hearings. Help break the cycle of homelessness. Vote Yes on Measure 26-238.

Endorsed by -
Sisters of the Road
Stop the Sweeps PDX

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Portland: Neighbors Welcome endorses a YES vote on Measure 26-238.

Our organization works to make housing abundant and affordable for every Oregonian across the city and state. We push for innovative policy solutions to keep our neighbors housed, to increase housing production, and to stabilize our community through tenant protections.

Tenant protections are consumer protections.

Every Multnomah County resident deserves a legal advocate to fight for their right to stay in a stable, warm, dry place to live with their family. Measure 26-238 asks our community to invest in protections that ensure all of our neighbors are afforded their full rights.

A YES vote on Measure 26-238 ensures every one of our neighbors has access to the full extent of the law, minimizing evictions and displacement.

Measure 26-238 will address a root cause of homelessness.

A YES vote on Measure 26-238 is an investment in keeping more Oregonians housed and not living on the streets. Every dollar we spend to give tenants their full legal rights of representation is a dollar spent tackling one of the most significant root causes of homelessness.

Keeping people housed is morally and economically the right thing to do.

Evictions are one of the key drivers of homelessness. They destabilize our neighbors' safety, health, job prospects, access to education, and connection to family. These disruptive events make it more difficult and more expensive for the government to help our neighbors get back into housing than it is to keep them in stable housing. Ensuring tenants have their legal right to counsel is both a cost-effective and a moral investment in our regional effort to resolve our housing crisis.

Vote Yes on Measure 26-238 for an affordable Portland

Written by Portland: Neighbors Welcome

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Faith communities have led the charge to compassionately respond to the needs of the poor and homeless. The work cannot stop at simply sheltering and feeding; we have to prevent homelessness before it happens. **A proven method of preventing homelessness is to prevent evictions.**

We know that nearly 2 in 5 people experiencing homelessness became homeless after being evicted. We also know that evictions increase inequality. Black women are more than twice as likely as white renters to be evicted. Eviction rates are also higher for Latinx renters than for white renters, and women of all ethnicities are more likely to be evicted than men. Neighborhoods with the most single mothers and children also have the highest rate of eviction filings.

We also know the eviction process is not fair. No one should find themselves in court alone, especially when they

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are already worrying about the threat of displacement or homelessness. The systems put in place by Measure 26-238 would give tenants the guidance and support they need to navigate eviction court and fight for their lawful rights.

Multnomah County has a moral obligation to solve the growing housing crisis. If passed, Measure 23-238 would help keep tenants in their homes and prevent homelessness.

Join Portland faith communities in supporting Measure 26-238!

Endorsed By -

- Faith and Labor Committee, Portland Jobs with Justice
- Economic Justice Action Group at First Unitarian Church
- Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition
- Rev. Dr. W. J. Mark Knutson, Pastor, Augustana Lutheran Church

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Portland Association of Teachers is proud to endorse Ballot Measure 26-238: Eviction Representation for All.

We know that children struggle to learn when they are experiencing the stress of housing instability and homelessness. The Oregon Department of Education Report Card identified over 6,600 students currently unhoused or in temporary housing attending Portland Public Schools alone.

We are in the midst of a housing crisis which demands bold action. Providing free representation to anyone facing eviction is one humane and sensible measure we can take immediately to begin to address that crisis. This is a first step toward protecting historically and currently underserved residents of our county.

Voting Yes on Ballot Measure 26-238 will help our students and families come to us ready to learn and engage in their learning as partners. Covid closures taught all of us that the conditions outside of our schools deeply impact our ability to serve our communities within our schools. Providing all children a free and quality public education means we also have the duty to create the conditions necessary for every student to thrive in public school. By providing our student's families legal representation during the stressful and complicated eviction process, this ballot measure is a step towards getting our students' essential needs met.

Housing is an essential, basic need. We support the policies and systems that guarantee the right to housing through a fair and equitable process. Keeping our neighbors housed protects our most vulnerable and supports our students and families. It's a necessary step

toward equity and justice in our school district and in our county as a whole.

Join us in voting Yes on Ballot Measure 26-238!

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Local landlords see the benefit in addressing unfair eviction courts.

As local people who rent out housing we will be voting Yes on Measure 26-328 and strongly support the program this measure would create. It's a common-sense measure to stop illegal evictions. Unfair eviction records prevent us from finding people to rent to and exacerbates the housing crisis we all find ourselves in.

It's important for all landlords to acknowledge that while this may be a business to us, we can't ignore that our tenants have the human right to safe and secure housing. Evictions should only ever be a last resort and until we are ready to truly make housing a right for all, **universal eviction representation is a good and necessary step forward that our community is ready to take.**

Endorsed by -
Emily von W. Gilbert
Hyung Nam

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Tenants Organizing Against Displacement urges you to vote Yes on Measure 26-238 to protect survivors of Domestic Violence

We are a coalition that includes advocates and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Advocates hear the real needs of survivors in our community every day. We understand that domestic violence is a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over another, and that people who are female, transgender, and gender non-conforming experience a higher rate of violence perpetrated against them, as do people of color.

We know that shelter is one of the most common needs expressed by those trying to stay safe from abuse. Evictions play a key role in many of these cases. Abusers may intentionally cause damages, disturb neighbors, or violate lease agreements, which can lead to entire families being forced out. An eviction on a survivor's record can prevent them from accessing housing independently, creating more dependency on the abuser.

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This is preventable

Survivors have protections under the Violence Against Women Act against being evicted due to the action of their abusers. However, survivors often don't have access to the information and support they would need to enact those rights. An incredibly common tactic of abusers is to isolate victims from those that could support them. Even organizations who are there to support survivors often don't have the legal knowledge, access, or capacity to ensure that survivors are protected in court.

Measure 26-238 would give survivors the legal resources they need to stay safe and housed. **Join the community of survivors and advocates in voting Yes on Measure 26-238!**

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Housing justice is climate justice. Measure 26-238 would help move Multnomah County towards a future where all of our communities are vibrant, healthy, and protected from climate change. Renters face high risks from climate disasters, and tenant protections can interrupt cycles of eviction and poverty that make people more vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

As climate change increases the frequency and severity of wildfires, heat waves, storms, and more, the most vulnerable people, such as unhoused people, currently face the worst impacts and have the fewest resources to recover. In 2021, 72 people died from heat in Multnomah County. They were mainly people living in areas without urban greenery, elderly people living alone, and people in multifamily buildings. These people did not have to die. Across the country, climate disasters are leading to increased evictions, homelessness, racial inequality, and gentrification, but Measure 26-238 would help prevent that in Multnomah County.

For instance, in 2022, a new law established Oregon tenants' rights to air conditioning in their units. Even so, some landlords continue to threaten fines and eviction for tenants who install AC as they try to survive in heat waves. The Tenant Relations Office that Measure 26-238 creates would help tenants know their rights, and the legal representation would protect renters from illegal eviction as they try to take care of their families.

Everyone deserves safe, healthy housing and fairness in the legal system. Eviction Representation for All would offer security for renters to invest more time, money, and energy in their homes and communities, to build additional resilience and joy. **Vote YES on Measure 26-238.**

Endorsed by -
Sunrise Movement PDX
Breach Collective
350PDX

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

LET'S KEEP MORE PEOPLE IN HOUSING

We are members of the Multnomah County Democratic Party. By a strong majority, our party endorsed "Eviction Representation for All" (Measure 26-238) on March 9, 2023.

SO MANY EVICTED

It is crucial that we quickly address our county's astronomical increase in evictions. Over eight thousand county evictions were posted in the last 14 months (per "Evicted in Oregon"). While 60% of owners had legal representation at eviction court this January, tenant legal assistance dropped to 2% (www.pdx.edu/urban-studies/eviction-defense-and-diversion-evaluation). Rent control caps are inadequate, as 2023 rents were allowed to rise by 14.6%.

TENANT LEGAL HELP LIMITED

Multnomah County provides funds for the "Eviction Defense Project" through the Oregon Law Center (OLC). But media reporting and others' personal accounts indicate that these funds are insufficient. At our March 9th meeting, a party member reported that he and a neighbor were both under threat of eviction. They were unable to arrange services through OLC in a timely fashion, after trying to do so by telephone and online.

PANDEMIC RELIEF ENDING

Important pandemic relief—rental assistance and giving renters more time to challenge eviction—expired in 2022 (www.evictedinoregon.com/numbers-at-a-glance). M.26-238, in addition to strengthening our county's commitment to eviction representation, will also include essential rental assistance.

A GOOD COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Let's back this measure to help our neighbors and neighborhoods. The funds raised, by a 0.75% net capital gains tax, will address an urgent need. This enhanced tenant service can aid neighborhood livability and reduce the future number of newly homeless.

From the Multnomah County Democratic Party:

1. Nancy Hedrick, retired social worker, Precinct Committeeperson, HD44
2. Sally Joughin, Precinct Committeeperson, HD42
3. Nan Stark, Campaign & Candidate Liaison Committee Chair, HD46

- Overview: "Portland Campaign to Require Free Legal Representation for Tenants Facing Eviction Eyes November Ballot," Portland Mercury, 2/9/22.
- Rent Hike: KGW News, "Oregon renters, Landlords react to next year's 14.6% rent increase cap," 9/14/22.

(This information furnished by the Multnomah Democratic Party)

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Portland Association of Teachers is proud to endorse Ballot Measure 26-238: Eviction Representation for All.

We know that children struggle to learn when they are experiencing the stress of housing instability and homelessness. The Oregon Department of Education Report Card identified over 6,600 students currently unhoused or in temporary housing attending Portland Public Schools alone.

We are in the midst of a housing crisis which demands bold action. Providing free representation to anyone facing eviction is one humane and sensible measure we can take immediately to begin to address that crisis. This is a first step toward protecting historically and currently underserved residents of our county.

Voting Yes on Ballot Measure 26-238 will help our students and families come to us ready to learn and engage in their learning as partners. Covid closures taught all of us that the conditions outside of our schools deeply impact our ability to serve our communities within our schools. Providing all children a free and quality public education means we also have the duty to create the conditions necessary for every student to thrive in public school. By providing our student's families legal representation during the stressful and complicated eviction process, this ballot measure is a step towards getting our students' essential needs met.

Housing is an essential, basic need. We support the policies and systems that guarantee the right to housing through a fair and equitable process. Keeping our neighbors housed protects our most vulnerable and supports our students and families. It's a necessary step toward equity and justice in our school district and in our County as a whole.

Join us in voting Yes on Ballot Measure 26-238!

Portland Association of Teachers

(This information furnished by the Portland Association of Teachers)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Evictions are rising fast in our community, and we need to take action now to keep people housed. Research shows that we can save public tax dollars by intervening early when a renter is struggling, before an eviction can lead to homelessness and add to the cost of public services such as shelters and foster care. Measure 26-238 funds legal representation and other eviction-prevention services through a small increase in the tax on capital gains.

The measure only allows the county to collect the tax-revenue needed to fund this program. The county is required to right-size the tax rate, as needed, based on the mandatory annual program reports. As the number of tenants facing eviction decreases, the tax rate should also

decrease. The tax rate may also increase in order to ensure compliance with the program objectives.

In combination with other important legislation and programs coming online in Multnomah County and across the state, Measure 26-238 has the potential to save the county and tax-payers money in the short and long-term. We have to keep people in their homes while new housing is being built and the housing crisis is alleviated.

Vote YES on Measure 26-238.

Endorsed by -
Representative Travis Nelson, Democrat - District 44

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

The Portland Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) wholeheartedly supports the Eviction Representation for All initiative. The NLG's mission is to use law for the people, uniting lawyers, law students, legal workers, and jailhouse lawyers to function as an effective force in the service of the people by valuing human rights and the rights of ecosystems over property interests.

The NLG believes that housing is a fundamental human right. Many of our members provide legal support to low-income tenants, tenant organizers and tenant unions. We support struggles for housing justice to fight gentrification and displacement; challenge racist discrimination by landlords; ensure safe, habitable and affordable housing for all; and to further the de-commodification of housing through the creation of more social housing (including public housing, cooperative housing, and Community Land Trusts). Our Chapter knows how critically important it is for all tenants to have a guaranteed right to legal counsel in eviction proceedings. ERA will increase funding for this work and ensure that this right is enshrined in law and not subject to budget fluctuations or the whims of particular elected officials.

Evictions disproportionately impact and result in the forced displacement and homelessness of BIPOC tenants, tenants with children, survivors of domestic violence, seniors, and tenants with disabilities. Attorneys can assist with negotiating settlement agreements; identify possible legal defects in termination notices; and develop defenses / counterclaims for issues such as uninhabitable conditions, unlawful rent increases, discrimination, and retaliation.

We believe that funding ERA through an extremely modest capital gains tax is fair and just. The tax will primarily affect the wealthiest county residents, who already benefit from other housing-related government subsidies (such as the Mortgage Interest Deduction, which often benefits owners of multiple rental / vacation properties).

As members of Portland's progressive legal community, we strongly encourage everyone to vote yes on Measure 26-238!

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Endorsed by -

Portland Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild
People's Law Project
The Commons Law Center

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Unions fight to improve conditions at work, for better pay and benefits, safer work environments, and against discrimination. But our wages have not kept up with skyrocketing rent prices. Oregon's rent control law allows a 14.6% increase this year. Are you getting a 14.6% raise this year? Many benefits our unions provide, like the right to have a shop steward represent you in a grievance process, aren't currently available to us as renters. Imagine negotiating with the boss' lawyers to reach a settlement to a grievance in 3-5 mins, with no one to guide you. That's what tenants face in eviction court.

Measure 26-238 provides tenants the legal representation they need to fight for their rights in court, all paid for by a small increase in capital gains taxes. It also creates an emergency rental assistance fund. Together, that's a proven solution to help keep tenants in their homes.

Capital gains are profits on things like the sale of businesses, interest gains, and the sale of secondary real property. Sales of primary residences and wages are not capital gains and are not subject to capital gains taxes. The wealthiest 1% of Oregonians make more than half of all capital gains, while 80% of Oregonians made none at all. This is a tax on corporations, bosses, and landlords—not middle or low-income workers.

Portland Jobs with Justice and labor unions across Multnomah County agree that Measure 26-238 is good for our members and good for Multnomah County.

Join us in voting Yes on Measure 26-238.

Endorsed by -

- Portland Jobs With Justice
- SEIU Local 503
- AFSCME Local 88
- Michael Stewart President AFSCME Local 328
- CWA Local 7901
- IATSE Local 28
- PSU AAUP
- PSUFA AFT Local 3571
- PROTEC17
- David Douglas Education Association
- Portland Association of Teachers
- Reynolds Education Association
- Parkrose Faculty Association
- National Association of Letter Carriers, Branch 82
- National Writers Union: Oregon Chapter

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

As educators, we know that our **students' well-being is fundamental to their ability to learn**. What happens outside the classroom—in our students' homes and communities—impacts what happens inside the classroom. **When students (or teachers!) experience housing instability, their learning (or teaching!) is disrupted.**

That's why we, as Multnomah County educators, urge you to vote YES on Measure 26-238—Eviction Representation for All.

The same **profound economic inequality** that threatens school funding and the very viability of teaching as a profession also threatens our housing and the housing of our students. According to an issue brief, published on January 4, 2023 titled "Capital gains drive record breaking inequality" by the Oregon Center for Public Policy, 84.5 percent of all capital gains income in 2020 went to the top 5 percent of Oregonians. And available data indicates the inequality only worsened in 2021. You don't have to be a math teacher to understand that this inequality is incompatible with a world where our students can thrive.

A very modest tax on **capital gains—a form of income that goes overwhelmingly to the wealthiest in society**—is a small price to pay to ensure Multnomah County parents and children have a fighting chance in eviction court.

This is **especially important for members of our community who are Black, Indigenous, people of color, and immigrants, and for low-income families**. These groups, as well as women, face higher rates of eviction than do white men. We see firsthand the increased barriers to education children from these families experience. We won't stand by while their housing stability is sacrificed to corporate greed as well.

Join Multnomah County educators and VOTE YES on 26-238!

Endorsed By -

- Portland Association of Teachers
- Reynolds Education Association
- David Douglas Education Association
- Parkrose Faculty Association
- Centennial Education Association
- Katrina Doughty, Vice-Chair, Multnomah Education Service District & Board Member, Oregon School Boards Association

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Don't Evict PDX has been a part of the Eviction Representation for All campaign since the beginning. We are a collective of tenants working to prevent, delay, and reduce the harm of evictions and build a tenant movement in Portland. Tenants need lawyers to have a fair shot in

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eviction court and have our rights upheld.

In 2019 and 2020, landlords were 10-15 times more likely to have a lawyer in eviction court than their tenants in Multnomah County. Landlord/tenant law is extremely complex and it is nearly impossible to win a case without legal support. Without a lawyer on their side, tenants are extremely vulnerable, even in cases they could win. Eviction court is designed to pressure tenants into move-out agreements or unconscionable payment plans, and tenants who lack legal expertise cannot exercise their rights.

Measure 26-238 also takes other steps to help tenants navigate evictions before the court process begins. Many tenants who receive eviction notices feel forced into decisions like vacating prematurely or searching for new housing hastily. These choices are made instead of going through a legal process that tenants know will be unfair. We call this process extralegal or coerced eviction. If tenants knew they could have guaranteed access to a lawyer, this would be less common and help prevent the destabilization caused by evictions. Eviction Representation for All will help to alleviate these causes of homelessness through the establishment of a Tenant Resource Office to provide educational materials and financial assistance, and by requiring that eviction notices include information about these resources. NYC and San Francisco have passed similar measures and seen positive results.

Measure 26-238 will give tenants the resources they need to greatly reduce the harm caused by evictions, keeping more tenants in their homes and off the streets. We urge you to vote yes!

Endorsed by -
Don't Evict PDX

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Portland Democratic Socialists of America Says: Vote Yes on Measure 26-238

Capitalism puts the rights of private property ahead of all other rights. As democratic socialists, Portland Democratic Socialists of America believes the right to a safe, secure home outweighs the right to profit from owning property.

Power in our society is stacked against working people. Almost half of Portlanders are renters, and most renters are workers. Just as we have little say over our working conditions unless we organize, as individuals, we don't control the cost of rent. Price gouging by the landlord class has made rents rise faster than wages for decades.

Further tipping the scales against working people, targeting Black mothers the most, the courts that govern landlord-tenant disputes and eviction proceedings disfavor renters, because most tenants can't afford a lawyer, and nearly all landlords have one.

Measure 26-328 will enable tenants to have a voice too.

In addition to providing legal counsel, the renter services provisions create alternative resolutions to evictions that can help renters facing financial and other difficulties stay in their homes, as has been shown across the country in localities that have adopted similar laws.

A vote for Eviction Representation for All is a vote for self-defense, and vote for the right to a voice, and vote for solidarity with working class renter neighbors.

The Portland Democratic Socialists of America is a founding coalition member of the Eviction Representation for All campaign. We urge you to vote Yes on Measure 26-238!

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Vote Yes on ballot measure 26-238, because the housing crisis is a health crisis.

Health professionals know that housing is a social determinant of health. Recent studies have identified bad health effects of poor housing, of no housing, and of unstable housing, including both the threat of eviction and eviction itself.

Poor housing and no housing cause harmful exposures to diseases, pollutants, agents like mold, and to cold, heat and dampness. High rents and mortgages, the threat of eviction and actual homelessness cause stress, anxiety, and depression. These can start or worsen substance use problems. A vicious cycle can arise that obstructs health care and new housing, harms bodies, and contributes to accidents and suicide.

Stress also causes or worsens heart and blood vessel disease, obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases. Housing-based ill health interacts with other inequalities and their stresses, concentrating effects among women, LGBTQ people, racially and ethnically oppressed people, people with disabilities, poor and working-class people, and especially children.

Public health studies and the experiences of doctors, nurses, and therapists who treat individuals all support the old saying, "**An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.**" By preventing legally indefensible evictions, Measure 26-238 will prevent avoidable health-harming homelessness, and reduce avoidable health-harming worry and fear of losing one's home. Studies of the impact of similar laws in numerous cities that implemented a 'Tenant Right to Counsel' found that more than 90% of tenants avoided disruptive displacement. **Vote Yes on 26-238.**

Endorsed by -
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility
Portland Jobs with Justice, Healthcare Committee
Portland Democratic Socialists of America, Health Justice Working Group
Katrina Doughty, Health Innovation Specialist

(This information furnished by Amelia Stier, Tenants Organizing Against Displacement)

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