

City of Portland

Measure 26-240

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**Vote Yes on 26-240
Renew The Portland Children's Levy to
Help Keep Portland's Kids Safe and Successful**

In 2002, Portland voters created the Portland Children's Levy, to make the needs of our community's children a higher priority. Over the last 20 years, the Children's Levy has invested in 91 community programs in the following areas:

- **Child abuse prevention and intervention:** protecting children from terrible circumstances, which also addresses juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse and homeless youth.
- **Early childhood programs:** Ensuring children arrive at school ready to learn and prepared for success and making quality childcare more affordable.
- **After school, summer, and mentoring programs:** promoting academic achievement, reducing the number of juveniles victimized by crime and increasing graduation rates.
- **Children in foster care programs:** giving foster children a better chance at success with educational support, mentoring and access to mental health services.
- **Child hunger prevention:** improving children's access to nutritious meals, leading to better physical and mental health, as well as academic success.

As we emerge from the pandemic and its damaging impact on students, the Children's Levy is more critical than ever. Voting YES on 26-240 means that children will continue to receive the academic support, mentoring, mental health treatment, and nutritious meals they need.

No Increase in Tax Rate

Measure 26-240 renews the Children's Levy at the same tax rate we are paying now.

Effective and Accountable

Measure 26-240 will continue the Children's Levy's strong accountability measures:

- Only supports programs that are cost-effective and proven to work
- Oversight by a citizens committee
- Administrative expenses are limited to 5% or less
- Annual independent audits

Renewing the Portland Children's Levy is an important way to say that in Portland, we care about our kids – and put those values into action every day.

PLEASE VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-240

Learn more about the Levy at portlandchildrenslevy.org

(This information furnished by Dan Ryan)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Why has the Portland Children's Levy been so

effective?

Because it is a true partnership with Portlanders.

The Portland Children's Levy was established in 2002 by Portland voters who believed that the best investment we can make in our future is to help ensure that children are safe and successful.

Serving as both the Chair of the Portland Public School Board and Executive Director of the Portland school foundation, All Hands Raised, I've seen firsthand the unique and powerful role the Children's Levy plays in our community.

The Levy is designed to be different:

- It has true citizen oversight, with funding decisions made by an allocation committee drawn from both the public and local government.
- The Levy invests in programs that are proven to address the most urgent needs of our community's children and youth.
- It is financially responsible: fully 95% of every Levy dollar goes to the services helping those who need them.

As the Chair of the Portland Children's Levy Allocation Committee, I can tell you these are important reasons why it has been so effective. The Levy is a true partnership between Portlanders, local government and the incredible array of children's organizations who provide the hands-on services that make a real difference in the lives of children.

Renewing Measure 26-240 continues this essential work, without increasing the tax rate we are paying today. In these challenging times, the Children's Levy is something we are doing right as a community – a responsible, accountable investment in our kids and our future. It's a model of how we can come together to make things work.

And given the deep impact of COVID on the education and mental health of our children, that work has never been more important.

Let's keep it going by voting Yes on Measure 26-240!

Dan Ryan
Portland City Commissioner
Chair, Portland Children's Levy Allocation Committee

(This information furnished by Dan Ryan)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A Message from Portland Fire Chief Sara Boone The Portland Children's Levy Keeps Our Kids and Our Community Safer

As Fire Chief, my job is to keep Portlanders – especially our kids – safe and healthy. That's exactly what the Portland Children's Levy does, by investing in programs that support vulnerable, at-risk children.

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As firefighters, we do more than respond to fires. We are the first responders for medical and other emergencies. All too often we see the result of children not getting the support they need to be safe and healthy. Providing that support is what the Children's Levy does for thousands of Portland children every year.

Nowhere is the Children's Levy more important than in its work to prevent the tragedy of child abuse.

For those of us who work in public safety, there is nothing more devastating than being confronted by cases of the abuse and neglect of children. The long-term impact of child abuse is monumental. The chances of child abuse victims becoming involved in crime, failing in school, abusing drugs and alcohol, or becoming homeless is much higher than children who are not abused.

For 20 years the Levy has helped break the cycle of abuse by investing in cost-effective and proven child abuse prevention and intervention programs that have made a huge difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

The Levy also funds proven programs that help children succeed in school, mentorship and after school programs that keep kids safe in the hours they are at greater risk from violent crime.

By voting to renew the Portland Children's Levy, we will continue make our community a safer place and keep children on a productive path towards successful lives. Voting yes also says something important about who we are as a community.

Please join me by voting YES on Measure 26-240.

Sincerely,
Sara Boone
Portland Fire Chief

(This information furnished by Sara Boone)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

The Children's Levy Helps Portland's Students, Schools and Teachers

As educators, there is nothing more satisfying than being able to help a child reach their full potential. But working with schools and classrooms every day, we see very clearly that some children have much steeper hills to climb over the course of their education careers.

The Portland Children's Levy is there to help them climb those hills in all Portland's school districts: Centennial, David Douglas, Parkrose, Portland, and Reynolds. That is why Portland's educators are such enthusiastic supporters of the Levy and hope that you will join us in voting to renew it.

A child coming to school healthy and ready to learn is

critical to their chances of success. That is a challenge for too many children: hunger, abuse or neglect and the lack of early childhood education have a terrible cost to their future.

The Levy supports critical programs, including early childhood development and education, child abuse and neglect intervention and prevention and support for kids in foster care. It also funds programs that feed hungry children in a state that has unacceptable rates of child hunger.

These programs are important for children, but they are important for teachers and schools as well – especially as all of us try to recover from the losses forced upon us by the pandemic.

At this critical moment the Children's Levy provides support that means less disruption in the classroom, with fewer children facing a daunting gap to catch up with their classmates. This improves the quality of education for everyone in the classroom.

The Children's Levy is also important to students throughout their academic career, providing after-school and mentoring programs that keep kids safe and increase their odds for success.

Measure 26-240 simply renews the levy: it will not increase the tax rate we are paying today.

Please vote Yes to continue helping our schools, our kids and our future.

(This information furnished by Michael Lopes Serrao)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Why this Older Portlander is Voting Yes to Help Younger Portlanders

At the age of 81, I might not be the first person you would think of as a passionate advocate of the Portland Children's Levy. But as someone who has had a lifetime commitment to this community, I see voting Yes on Measure 26-240 as an important expression of who we are, and what we stand for.

With children who grew up in Portland and with young grandchildren here as well, I have a personal interest in making sure that this is a safe and healthy place for children. But we all have a stake in the Portland Children's Levy because a community in which children are supported, nourished, and successful is a safer, healthier community for all of us.

The Portland Children's Levy:

- **Increases opportunities for early learning,** which are a tremendous investment: for every dollar we spend on early childhood education, we save \$17 in long-term cost.
- **Keeps children safe by funding child abuse**

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prevention and intervention – which helps address juvenile crime, homelessness, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse. It also funds afterschool programs during the times kids are most likely to become victims of criminal activity.

- With rising food insecurity, **the Levy provides food to children who would otherwise go hungry.**

As we emerge from the pandemic and its damaging impact on students, it's more critical than ever that children continue to receive these supports. Losing them now would lead them to fall even further behind.

The Portland Children's Levy helps thousands of families. has demonstrated measurable, positive outcomes, is held accountable with strong citizen oversight and spends less than 5% on administrative costs. There are few organizations, public or private, with a similar financial track record.

Voting Yes on 26-240 will not raise our tax rate: it simply renews the current Levy. It's a good value that supports our values.

Please join me in voting Yes on 26-240

Carol Turner

(This information furnished by Carol Turner)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A Message from Julia Brim-Edwards

The Children's Levy Supports Portland's Kids It's needed now more than ever!

As a mother, volunteer school board member, and a longtime advocate for East Portland's kids and families, I've had the opportunity to see firsthand the tremendous amount of good that has been accomplished by the Portland Children's Levy over its 20 years.

As we emerge from the devastating impact the pandemic has had on young people, the Children's Levy provides critical safety net services for our children and youth most in need.

Importantly, the Children's Levy's focuses on early education – helping thousands of children get to the start of their educational journey ready to learn and more likely succeed. And the work supported by the Children's Levy goes far beyond that, by:

- Preventing and intervening in child abuse
- Keeping children engaged and safe through afterschool and mentorship programs, which promote academic achievement, increase graduation rates, and support transitions to college and careers for youth.
- Fighting childhood hunger by providing healthy food for families in need.
- Supporting children in the foster care system.

The Portland Children's Levy also provides accountability for how its funds are spent. The fund was established directly by voters in 2002 and has an effective community oversight committee and annual audits, which build trust and accountability as a partnership between voters and local government in support of some of our most vulnerable children and youth.

I hope you will join me in voting Yes to renew the Portland Children's Levy. **And, thank you for your past support!**

Julia Brim-Edwards

Parent and local school board member

Candidate for Multnomah County Commissioner, District 3

(This information furnished by Julia Brim-Edwards)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Oregon Food Bank urges you to vote YES on Measure 26-240

Child hunger has never been a more urgent problem. That's why the Portland Children's Levy has never been more important.

Older siblings asking for extra food to bring home to a hungry brother or sister.

Parents skipping meals so their children can eat.

Kids knowing that school-provided breakfast and lunch are the only meals guaranteed.

These stories are heartbreaking and are far too common in our community. As pandemic related supports like the Child Tax Credit and increased SNAP dollars end, families are struggling to make ends meet. One in 7 children in Multnomah county are food insecure. In 2023, one third of people accessing food assistance in Portland were children.

The impacts can be seen in too many ways. Children who are hungry get sick more often and have trouble learning. Hunger negatively impacts a child's academic performance, cognitive development, growth and physical and psychological health. Without intervention, these impacts stay with a child throughout their entire life.

Yet childhood hunger is solvable. Food assistance programs and emergency food help children successfully develop and mature, increasing the likelihood they will grow up to be healthy, thriving adults.

The Portland Children's Levy provides a significant resource in the fight against hunger. Last year, Levy funding:

- Provided emergency food for more than 17,000 children.
- Distributed over 3.6 million pounds of food.
- Distributed food at 56 community locations.

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The Portland Children's Levy's effective and efficient investments in our community help ensure that no child goes to bed hungry.

Your support of the Children's Levy shows that Portland continues to care about its kids, and wants them to grow up to be healthy, safe, successful and fed.

Please vote YES on Measure 26-240

Susannah Morgan, CEO Oregon Food Bank

(This information furnished by Susannah Morgan, Oregon Food Bank)