

Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District

Measure 26-243

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

It's Cheaper to Prevent a Flood Than To Clean One Up Vote YES on Measure 26-243

Our region is at risk of major flooding – potentially costing lives and billions of dollars in damage to property and infrastructure like the PDX airport.

By voting YES on Measure 26-243 we can make an affordable investment now to prevent billions in flood damage costs later.

Measure 26-243 is the AFFORDABLE OPTION

At just \$2.19 a month, or \$26.27 a year, for the average homeowner, Measure 26-243 is an affordable way to invest in life-saving infrastructure. This local investment would make our community eligible for nearly \$100 million in federal matching dollars.

The RISKS ARE BIG!

A lot is currently at stake in our floodplain. At risk in the event of a major flood would be:

- 8,000 residents
- The 2nd largest source of drinking water in the state
- The Portland International Airport
- Access to the I-5, I-205, and I-84 freeways; rail lines for freight; and major distribution centers for shipping, materials, and consumer products
- 2,000+ acres of natural habitat and open space

And FLOODS ARE EXPENSIVE

When the levees failed during Hurricane Katrina, it cost HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS of dollars in disaster relief, recovery, and restoration. As taxpayers, we will pay these costs one way or the other. Let's pick the smart option and prevent a major disaster now.

Vote YES on Measure 26-243

The rising cost of housing, groceries, and medicine is impacting many of us. But our region NEEDS reliable core infrastructure.

Even for those of us who don't live inside the floodplain, there are major components of our region at risk that we rely on everyday.

By coming together to make this small investment now, we can save our region billions of dollars down the line! Vote yes on Measure 26-243.

**Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann
Home Building Association of Greater Portland
Gerry Heslin**

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We All Benefit From Our Flood Protection System VOTE YES ON 26-243

Many of us enjoy the beauty of the Columbia River without realizing the important work happening to keep us safe. The reality is a system of flood-control infrastructure protects our region from devastating floods. The bad news is that the system is over 100 years old, and does not meet federal standards implemented after Hurricane Katrina.

While you may not live in the floodplain, the truth is we all benefit from flood protection because items we all depend on are located in the floodplain. This area includes infrastructure that you and I rely on daily and that we would need in the case of a disaster like a major flood.

Risks to the Portland International Airport

The PDX Airport transports 16+ million passengers annually, including tens of thousands of tourists interacting with many sectors of our economy while in Portland, as well as transporting goods. Additionally, the Airport serves as its own economic hub, employing 10,000 people and housing more than 80 businesses.

In the event of major flooding, effective operation of the airport and moving people and goods would be impacted. Critical infrastructure that we rely on for effective response in a disaster like a major flood, is at risk. Our ability to move people and supplies could be compromised, worsening the impacts of extreme weather events on our region.

Other Infrastructure At Risk

- 2nd largest source of drinking water in Oregon
- The I-5, I-205, and I-84 freeways
- Railways for freight
- Major distribution centers for clothing and household goods
- 50% of the region's manufacturing and warehouse jobs

The truth is that wherever you live in our region, the infrastructure along the Columbia River is critical to daily life. Vote YES on Measure 26-243: an affordable option to upgrade this infrastructure and prevent major floods.

**Metro Councilor Ashton Simpson
Washington County Commissioner Pam Treece
Evan Oneto, FedEx
Curtis Robinhold**

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

We Must Prepare for a Changing Climate: Vote YES on Measure 26-243

Climate change is causing extreme weather events up and down the West Coast, including major floods caused by

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unprecedented rain, rising temperatures, and accelerated snow melt.

We've experienced more extreme weather here with heat domes and ice storms taking lives and damaging property. We've learned from these events that we need to be prepared, which is exactly what Measure 26-243 does.

We Are At Risk

Our current flood safety infrastructure along the Columbia River is over 100 years old. It does not meet the federal standards implemented after Hurricane Katrina. In the event of a major flood, water quality, communities, businesses, and the environment are at risk.

Urban Flooding Causes Ecological Damage

An uncontrolled urban flood would spread surface pollution from industrial operations and other sources of hazardous waste across the flood area. Cleaning up this pollution would be a slow, costly process that would cause long-term damage to ecosystems, nature, and wildlife.

How Measure 26-243 Will Help

Measure 26-243 will provide the funding to upgrade our flood safety system to handle climate induced flooding. That includes improving systems for flood control like raising levees, upgrading floodwalls, pumps, pipes, and drains; as well as increasing the resilience of natural flood protection, such as the restoration of wetlands to store floodwaters and upgrade fish and wildlife habitat.

Measure 26-243 is an Affordable, Preventative Solution

Measure 26-243 is low-cost, about \$2.19 a month for the average homeowner, and will save us billions of dollars if we have to recover from a major flood event. It will also unlock \$100 million in federal funding!

Vote YES on Measure 26-243

Let's not wait until it's too late. Let's take this reasonable and necessary step to upgrade our flood safety infrastructure and prepare, as much as possible, for climate change.

**Oregon League of Conservation Voters
1000 Friends of Oregon
Portland Harbor Community Coalition**

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

ANTIQUES MAKE GOOD FURNITURE, AND RISKY FLOOD SAFETY INFRASTRUCTURE

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-243 TO MODERNIZE OUR SYSTEM

When it comes to protecting our community, the risk of floods probably doesn't come to mind. But currently, our risk is high – especially given that much of the flood control infrastructure along the Columbia is nearly a century old - leaving us at risk of a catastrophic flood.

Systems Are Inadequate and Outdated

Like in most areas, we've made a lot of progress in the past century improving technologies and techniques to prevent floods. Measure 26-243 will help us bring those improvements to the Columbia River to correct problems like:

- A key area of the levee system was actually built to be a railroad embankment - not to stop water. It is built of the wrong materials and is not available for regular inspections due to railroad company restrictions.
- There are multiple low spots and incomplete sections of floodwall in the system and other sections that fail to meet model geotechnical safety standards.
- Pump stations do not have backup pumps or power supplies, meaning they will fail to operate if cut off from the electrical grid. They also cannot be operated remotely during a flood event, compromising their effectiveness.

The Risk of Levee Failure Is Growing, Greater Than The "Big One"

A 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study found that there is already a higher risk each year of a levee failure than of the Cascadia Subduction Zone "Big One" Earthquake. This will only grow higher each year we delay improving it.

Measure 26-243 Will Keep Us Safe

Informed by nearly a decade of study and research, the improvement projects funded by this Measure will update the flood control system we need to keep us safe. We Can't Delay, Vote Yes Today!

Reed Wagner, Co-founder of Levee Ready Columbia

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A Major Flood Would Have Massive Economic Impacts VOTE YES ON 26-243

A significant portion of Portland's supply chain is located in the floodplain along the Columbia River. Major flooding would impact 75% of the region's businesses. Improving the levee system means protecting our economy, and preventing critical interruptions to the flow of goods and services .

Such a flood would have ripple effects, as the floodplain is a hub for economic activity, including industrial production and the movement of goods. Warehouses, fulfillment centers, and other infrastructure makes this area a key link in the regional supply chain. It is also a central transportation hub including the Portland Airport and the I-5, I-205, and I-84 freeways; rail lines for freight; and major distribution centers for shipping, materials, and products.

Key Components of Our Economy Are In the Flood Zone

- \$16 billion in annual economic activity

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- 50% of the region's manufacturing and warehouse jobs
- The Portland International Airport, which is key to our supply chain and employs 10,000 people and 80 businesses

Measure 26-243 is the Economic Solution to This Problem

- It Is Affordable: Just \$2.19 a month or \$26.27 a year for the average homeowner.
- It Will Multiply: This local investment will unlock nearly \$100 million in federal matching funds.
- The Cost of Doing Nothing Is Much Greater: A study found that cleanup costs from a major flood could amount to nearly \$7 billion.

Measure 26-243 Is Thoughtfully Developed and Well-Planned

- The Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District has spent years working to address this problem, and has thoughtfully developed this measure as the best solution.
- It will make critical improvements, including:
 - Raising levees, upgrading floodwalls, pumps, pipes, and drains in vulnerable areas
 - Increasing back-up power capacity to critical pump stations in case of a power failure
 - Improving safety and efficiency of infrastructure operations and maintenance

Measure 26-243 is an easy YES vote this May. Join us!

Portland Metro Chamber

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-243 TO MODERNIZE OUR SYSTEM

As we watch the impacts of climate change collide with the impacts of old and outdated infrastructure, I am hearing stories of flooded neighborhoods, streets, manufacturing plants, and businesses from across the United States. But thanks to the Biden Administration, Portland area folks have a chance to leverage hundreds of millions of federal dollars and make sure that our families and businesses are protected from flood risk.

Much of the flood control infrastructure along the Columbia is nearly a century old - leaving us at risk of a catastrophic flood.

Our Flood Control Systems Are Inadequate and Outdated

Much of the flood control infrastructure we depend on is nearly a century old. We've made a lot of progress in the past century improving technologies and techniques to prevent floods, but in order for our region to take advantage

of it, we need to rebuild our infrastructure. Measure 26-243 will help us bring those improvements to the Columbia River to help protect the businesses and families who live along the Columbia River and in flood zones.

The Risk of Levee Failure Is Growing, Greater Than The "Big One"

A 2021 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study found that there is already a greater risk each year of a levee failure than of the Cascadia Subduction Zone "Big One" Earthquake. Acting now leverages federal funds to help us minimize this risk.

Measure 26-243 Will Keep Us Safe

Informed by nearly a decade of study and research, the improvement projects funded by this Measure will update the flood control system we need to keep us safe. Rebuilding our levees will protect critical places we all rely on, like the Portland airport and some of our industrial areas, as well as neighborhoods, community parks, and schools.

Vote yes to rebuild and renew Portland levees- and keep us safe for years to come.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Support Your Neighbors in the Columbia River Flood Zone Vote YES on Measure 26-243

We live and work within the flood zone along the Columbia River. We're voting YES on Measure 26-243 and we urge you to do the same.

What's Inside the Flood Zone

The flood zone along the Columbia River includes 8,000 residents, the Portland International Airport, 50% of the region's manufacturing and warehouse jobs, and \$16 billion in annual economic activity.

The Cost of Doing Nothing

Whether you are inside or outside the flood zone, the cost of doing nothing to upgrade our flood protection system is too high.

- A 2018 state of Oregon study found that in the event of a major flood, 75% of the local businesses could be forced to close, and it could take up to two years or longer for some businesses to fully recover. Cleanup costs could amount to nearly \$7 billion.
- Businesses and residents in the floodplain could lose access to the National Flood Insurance Program. Without federal flood safety accreditation, the high cost of mandatory and unsubsidized flood insurance will force homeowners and small businesses to relocate or close down.

An Affordable, Prevention-Focused Solution

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Instead of spending billions to recover from a major flood, Measure 26-243 presents an affordable solution to prevent disaster. Measure 26-243 will cost the average homeowner just \$2.19 a month or \$26.27 a year (\$0.11 per \$1,000 of assessed value) – and it will unlock nearly \$100 million in federal matching funds, making your investment go even further. These funds will be used to make upgrades to our system, including raising levees, upgrading floodwalls, pumps, pipes, and drains.

The Columbia River is a wonderful part of living here. Let's make sure it continues to be by making the critical upgrades needed to our infrastructure. Vote YES on Measure 26-243!

**Columbia Corridor Association
Jubitz Travel Center
NAYA Family Center
Community Leader Gary Kunz**

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Environmental Groups Urge You to Vote Yes on 26-243!

The 100+ year old Columbia River Levee System which runs from Portland to Troutdale which encompasses more than 12,000 acres is at risk of failure. The good news is that by passing this ballot measure, we can not only make the Columbia Corridor flood safe, but also do so in a way that improves environmental health, advances environmental justice and protects water quality.

Historic flood management was too often done without regard for nature and environmental health. It harmed our environment and has resulted in catastrophic failures across our country. In an age of climate change where we are going to see increased flood events, we can and must do better.

We support 26-243 because the Urban Flood Safety and Water Quality District which manages the levees has made a commitment to do better. In fact, it is built into its legislative mandate passed in 2019 and into this measure.

Specifically the measure will include the following:

- At least 15% of ballot measure funds will be dedicated to green nature-based flood strategies such as floodplain reconnection and natural flood storage strategies.
- It will protect the region's drinking water well fields.
- It will protect more than 2,000 acres of natural area located within the levee boundaries.
- It will help ensure that contaminants and hazardous materials from Portland's industrial areas are not released into local waterways during a flood event.
- The district is required under its legislative mandate to incorporate environmental justice into all aspects of its operations.

This ballot measure moves our region towards a climate smart, ecologically responsible, environmentally just approach to flood management. We urge you to vote yes!

**Willamette Riverkeeper
Urban Greenspaces Institute
Bird Conservation Oregon
Columbia Slough Watershed Council**

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

PROTECT YOUR POCKETBOOK: VOTE YES ON 26-243

Avoid Destructive and Costly Floods

There are few things more devastating to a community than a flood. Flood waters destroy homes and business, as well as spreading surface pollution across the flood zone. Cleanups are long and costly, displacing families for months and years. Most small businesses lack the operating capital to cover such a disruption, and many are forced to close after such an event.

Despite living in a wet climate, we rarely think about the risk of flooding because of the systems we have built to keep us safe. But without the proper upkeep, those systems can fail when we need them most. And the systems preventing flooding along the Columbia River have reached that point. In 2021 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers concluded that there is already a higher risk each year of those systems failing than of the Cascadia Subduction Zone "Big One" Earthquake. Those risks are growing each year.

Avoid Costly New Federal Requirements and Restrictions

Independent of the costs of a flood, Measure 26-243 will ensure our flood control systems remain in compliance with federal standards. If we fall out of compliance, residents and small businesses in the floodplain would pay a costly price. That would include:

- A mandatory requirement that every property buy a costly, private-market flood insurance policy;
- Major development restrictions on new construction and updates to existing homes and buildings; and
- Loss of access to many federal loans and other financing programs.

Don't Believe the Anti-Tax Zealots!

Some may argue that residents can't afford this bond. But that is being pennywise and pound foolish. Critical parts of transportation and supply chain infrastructure are in the Columbia River floodplain. A flood would impact the entire metro region, disrupting the economy and creating major cleanup costs for taxpayers. Join me in supporting this no brainer proposal to protect the community!

Former Congressman Peter DeFazio

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

PROTECT OUR MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES: VOTE YES ON 26-243

A major flood has a catastrophic impact on a community: taking lives, destroying homes, and leaving long-term disruption as we seek to recover. And throughout our nation's history, we've seen it is vulnerable communities that are hit hardest in these disasters.

As Portland has grown, the land of Columbia River floodplain offered an affordable location to build homes and businesses. Today, it contains a significant share of our affordable housing and heavy industry. And these conditions make it ripe for those who can least afford it to be hit hardest during a major flood. Low-income households will typically be less prepared for a flood and less able to rebuild after one. They are also more likely to rely on the blue-collar jobs located in the floodplain that would also be disrupted for years by a flood.

The reality is we know this because it has happened here before. The community of Vanport was built to provide affordable housing for workers who came to Portland to build ships during World War II. And when there were critical levee failures, the entire community was destroyed in a flood in 1948. We must ensure that doesn't happen again, and Measure 26-243 is the solution.

Measure 26-243 will make critical investments to upgrade flood control systems along the Columbia and protect vulnerable communities living in the floodplain. Throughout its development, the drafters worked closely with impacted communities and stakeholders to make it responsive to their concerns and ensure equitable outcomes. It is well designed and the right step for our community.

Please join us in voting YES on Measure 26-243!

**APANO
Columbia Slough Watershed Council
NAYA Action Fund
Portland Harbor Community Coalition
Intertwine Alliance**

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Recognize Our History, Protect Our Community: Vote Yes on 26-243

The history of the Columbia River is inextricably linked to the peoples that have used it over millenia for transportation, sustenance, and connection to our natural systems. Measure 26-243 is an important step for the community to recognize the histories of communities of color connected to the floodplain of the Columbia.

For generations, Native Americans inhabited the floodplain, which served as a hub for trade among the tribes and bands. When settlers arrived, they repurposed the

floodplain for agriculture and in the early 20th Century built a series of berms and levees to protect against flooding. Later this land was converted to provide housing and support industry.

One area, near what is today the Expo Center, was used to build housing for the workforce that had come to build ships during World War II. This community of Vanport grew rapidly - it was also one of the few parts of this community that welcomed Black families.

On Memorial Day in 1948, the railroad embankment on the western end of the levee system collapsed under pressure from the river, sending waves of water into the city of Vanport, killing at least 15 people, leaving scores more injured, and displacing over 18,000 people from their homes.

To ensure no one experiences this again, Measure 26-243 will upgrade the flood control system along the River. Early and collaborative planning can save lives and avoid devastating losses in vulnerable communities.

Over the past 100 years, the people and wildlife of the Columbia River floodplain have experienced a significant cultural and community history of flooding, displacement, and environmental degradation. A small portion of the bond will go to honor and share the cultural history of this area.

Please join me in voting yes on 26-243

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

HIKERS, BIKERS, ANGLERS, & BOATERS URGE YOU TO VOTE YES FOR 26-243

The recreational paradise of the Columbia River and the natural spaces of its floodplain are right by our city. It benefits the health, wellness, and economic vitality of our community. One catastrophic flood would do major environmental damage and cause long-term disruption to recreation along the Columbia. We strongly urge you to vote yes on Measure 26-243!

PROTECTING RECREATION ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER

Visit the Columbia River near Portland on a weekend and you will find residents boating, fishing, camping, windsurfing, biking, hiking, and many other outdoor activities that support healthy lifestyles and contribute to the local economy. We are lucky to have such great opportunities so close to our urban area and it is important we preserve them for future generations.

A MAJOR FLOOD WOULD CAUSE LONG-TERM DISRUPTION

Throughout history, the Columbia has regularly experienced major flooding and this risk is growing with climate change. If flood control systems failed, such a flood would dramatically impact recreational opportunities in the area:

- Urban flooding frequently results in the spread of pollutants across the flood area, forcing major cleanup

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and restoration.

- Flooding will also damage docks, trails, and other infrastructure necessary to access recreational opportunities requiring major reconstruction work.
- It can take years for an area to recover from a major flood, creating extreme hardship for local small businesses that depend on recreation customers to keep their doors open.

MEASURE 26-243 WILL PROTECT OUR REGION

The upgrades and improvements funded by this bond are critical to protecting the floodplain from major flooding. In addition, they will fund investments in restoring our natural systems - expanding recreational opportunities within the floodplain. They will also help complete the 40-mile loop of trails and parks circling the city of Portland.

VOTE YES ON 26-243 TO PROTECT RECREATION ON THE COLUMBIA!

**The Street Trust
40 Mile Loop Land Trust
Recreation business owner Edward Chin
The Intertwine Alliance**

*(This information furnished by Andrew Purkey,
Yes for Flood Safety)*

No arguments were filed in opposition to this ballot measure.