

## Measure 26-244

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A Message from The Association of Zoos and Aquariums

**Support 50 years of recognized excellence  
Vote YES for Oregon Zoo.**

The Oregon Zoo is something special.

This year marks 50 years of continuous accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the world's premiere zoological accrediting body. The Oregon Zoo is one of only two zoos worldwide to achieve that recognition of excellence worldwide!

As President and CEO of the AZA, former director of the US Fish and Wildlife service, and lifelong conservationist, I can say that the great pride your community takes in your zoo is well-earned. AZA is the global gold standard and earning our accreditation requires a meticulous onsite inspection of all aspects of a Zoo's operations: animal care and training; safety; educational programs; conservation efforts; veterinary programs; species survival plans and much more are evaluated.

Thanks to your support, the Oregon Zoo doesn't just keep pace, it's a leader helping set the pace for ever-rising standards worldwide.

But excellence in animal care and education takes constant work, and the Oregon Zoo is no exception. Our most recent inspection identified areas needing attention including outdated habitats like the Penguinarium and indoor giraffe area. With your support, this Zoo bond will meet these issues head-on and continue your zoo's devotion to the highest standards.

I've been privileged to visit zoos all across the globe, and you have something very special in Oregon.

During the Oregon Zoo Education Center opening--made possible by community support of the 2008 bond--I saw school children at the Nature Exploration Station and held a tiny Northwestern Pond Turtle that would be released later that year to help save its species from extinction.

**Your renewal of support will ensure the Oregon Zoo continues its legacy of excellence, being among the world's very best.**

I encourage you to **VOTE YES for Measure 26-244.**

Dan Ashe  
President and CEO  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**Help Save the Sea Otter!**

One of the missions of the Oregon Zoo is the preservation and restoration of endangered species.

The Elakha Alliance is a nonprofit organization focused on restoring a viable population of sea otters to the Oregon Coast. The Oregon Zoo has been a critical partner in supporting this mission — raising awareness of the cultural connections between sea otters and Oregon's indigenous peoples, while highlighting the ecological and economic benefits that can be realized from their reintroduction.

Sea otters have been missing from the Oregon Coast for over 100 years as a result of the marine fur trade in the 18th and 19th centuries. They are a keystone species with a profound effect on the nearshore habitat and species. In their absence, Oregon's marine ecosystem has suffered, becoming ecologically less robust.

The public no longer has an opportunity to experience these incredible creatures in the wild; something that the Elakha Alliance and partners like the Oregon Zoo hope to change for the future. The Zoo has a unique ability to provide in-person opportunities to connect with this critical species and programming to educate thousands of visitors about conservation and how we can help wildlife.

Unfortunately, the sea otter habitat is one of the campus' older areas. It has infrastructure issues, including an aging life-support system, that need to be addressed in order to provide spaces for rescued orphans and foster moms to recuperate.

Measure 26-244 will provide renovations that will improve sea otters' safety and welfare; it will allow for updating educational displays so visitors can learn more about this Oregon native species and their conservation; and provide better accessibility for a more inclusive visitor experience.

Sea otters are just one of the species that will benefit from these improvements, with residents of the Marine Life, Penguins, Africa, and more also receiving much needed improvements.

**Please VOTE Yes on Measure 26-244**

Jane Bacchieri,  
Executive Director,  
Elakha Alliance

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

**Another Reason to Vote YES for Oregon Zoo:**

**A Better Economy!**

The Oregon Zoo is a fun and enriching experience for local families, seniors, and students. But there is another reason to support our zoo: its role as a **significant part of our local economy.**

The Oregon Zoo attracts 1.3 million visitors annually, many from outside our area, boosting economic activity in the region.

Zoo visitors support local businesses, hotels, restaurants,

# Metro

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and the tourism industry as a whole, boosting the local economy in the short-term and benefiting the long-term prosperity of our community as a whole.

**The economic impact of the Oregon Zoo is undeniable,** in FY2023 zoo-related activities were estimated to generate \$63 million in direct spending and \$110 million in total output, supporting 700+ living wage jobs and \$54 million in labor income resulting in \$5 million in tax revenues.

The economic impact of a thriving zoo extends well beyond its gates, creating jobs, revenue for businesses, and a positive ripple effect throughout the community. It contributes to the cultural vibrancy of our city, serving as a hub, bringing people together, and fostering a sense of community pride.

The Oregon Zoo is a reflection of our community, but in popular areas such as the Penguinarium, PNW Marine Life, and parts of Africa it is clear that the zoo has aging infrastructure in need of attention; some with outdated facilities from the 1950's.

The 20 year campus plan builds on successes from the community supported 2008 bond projects, prioritizing renovations and improvements to enhance animals' welfare and the zoo's appeal, ensuring a positive experience for all.

I urge you to **renew your support and vote YES on Measure 26-244.**

Your yes vote is a sound investment in our community, our economy, our culture, and our city, and **it does that without increasing taxes.**

Yang Yang  
Tourism Advocate and Resident of Portland, Oregon

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### ZOO VETERINARIANS URGE YOUR SUPPORT OF MEASURE 26-244 FOR ANIMAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

As zoo veterinary professionals, we treat thousands of animals, representing hundreds of species, many of them threatened or endangered in the wild. It's a responsibility we don't take lightly. Our patients deserve the best care possible — and we know first-hand the positive impact that our community's support can have for them.

The 2008 zoo bond measure allowed for replacement of the former veterinary hospital — crumbling, outdated and deficient — with a new state-of-the-art facility supporting the best in modern care. The improvements made possible by that bond were transformative for the veterinary hospital and life-changing for some of the species in the Oregon Zoo's care.

But great care doesn't just start when a patient arrives at the hospital; animals need healthy environments to thrive and live their best lives. Many habitats and structures

remain in dire need of attention. Some date back to the 1950's when animal areas were less naturalistic and typically featured a lot of concrete which was easy to clean but not designed with animals' needs or natural behaviors in mind. And they are certainly not equipped to withstand today's extreme weather events or a natural disaster.

We've seen the difference community support like yours can make. Measure 26-244 will provide much needed funding to update these areas, among many others, and provide modern facilities better suited for the animals in our care now, and in the future.

**Please renew your commitment to animal health & well-being!  
Vote YES on Measure 26-244.**

Carlos R. Sanchez DVM MSc  
Director of Animal Health

Heather Brittingham, CVT, MA, VTS  
Lead Veterinary Technician

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Vote Yes on Measure 26-244 A Better Zoo for Animals and You!

We are proud of our Oregon Zoo as the place we gather to celebrate and care for animals, open the natural world to children, and help protect endangered species in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

But parts of the zoo are aging. Some exhibits were built more than 50 years ago, making it difficult to maintain the high standards of animal care the Oregon Zoo is nationally known for.

**Voting YES for the Oregon Zoo Bond is critically important for ensuring the well-being of animals, strengthening conservation and education, and improving the visitor experience – all without increasing the tax rate we are paying today!**

**Your YES vote will support:**

- **Renovating outdated habitats** with larger, more natural environments to keep the animals healthy and thriving.
- **Investments in sustainable systems** to improve heating, cooling, electrical systems, and fresh water for pools for animal health and responsible stewardship of resources.
- **Protecting animals and visitors** from heat, extreme weather and natural disasters.
- Improving facilities to **enhance educational opportunities for children and visitors of all ages** to learn about animals, habitat conservation and nature in a way that just isn't possible through videos or books.
- Improve facilities that support the zoo's conservation

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work to **protect and restore threatened and endangered species** in the Northwest and beyond.

- **Conserving water and energy** in zoo operations to help combat climate change.
- **Accountability and transparency** with inclusion of citizen oversight committee

**Your YES vote will support all this and more -- while keeping within the current tax rate!**

**PLEASE VOTE YES ON 26-244**

Yes for the Oregon Zoo

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### **VOTE YES TO ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY!**

**The chairs of the 2008 Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee urge you to vote YES for Oregon Zoo Bond Measure 26-244.**

Sixteen years ago, the community entrusted the Oregon Zoo with \$125 million to fund habitat and infrastructure upgrades that prioritized **animal welfare, conservation education, and resource conservation**. Almost 40% of the zoo's campus was transformed through those efforts.

Part of the bond measure established the Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure the public's money was well spent and that the project honored Metro voters' values. Community members from a variety of professions with expertise in animal welfare, sustainability, budgeting, finance, planning, social equity, education, construction, and more participated on the committee, providing independent review of the zoo's stewardship of bond resources, standing in for the public to guarantee project accountability.

**The committee's final report stated the 2008 bond funds were spent wisely, all projects were completed on schedule and within budget, and the program successfully delivered on voter expectations.**

The report also noted that work remains to be done—habitats are in need of improvements, buildings are in need of replacement, and infrastructure is in need of upgrading—across the remaining 60% of the zoo grounds.

We encourage you to review the final report and see for yourself what was accomplished: [bit.ly/OversightReport](http://bit.ly/OversightReport)

**Voting YES for Measure 26-244 renews your commitment to our zoo**, the animals in its care, education programs, and species conservation efforts—**without raising taxes**—and **continues the requirement of a citizen's oversight process** for accountability and transparency.

**The Oregon Zoo has proven that they can be trusted**

and we, former chairs of the 2008 Oregon Zoo Bond Citizens' Oversight Committee, support Measure 26-244 and hope you will, too.

Susan G. Hartnett,  
Bill Kabeiseman,  
Deidra Krys-Rusoff,  
and Ruth G. Shelly

**For the animals, for the community, for you.  
Vote YES for the Oregon Zoo!**

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### **Local Treasure. Global Impact.**

The Oregon Zoo is an amazing resource for its community. But you may not know that your support has a global impact.

As former US Ambassadors who have served for decades in Africa and Southeast Asia, we appreciate the Oregon Zoo's work in animal care, wildlife conservation and species recovery. In each country we served, we observed first-hand the devastating threats to animals in the wild. We applaud the steps the Oregon Zoo is taking to address those challenges.

Because of habitat loss, the once thriving elephant population in Borneo has shrunk to under 1,500. The Oregon Zoo supports local wildlife officials to rescue and care for orphaned elephants displaced by human-elephant conflict who cannot be returned to the wild, providing needed milk powder and medicine.

We have personally observed the tragic extinction of rhinos while serving in Malaysia and Cameroon. In Africa, illegal wildlife trade has wiped out 96% of the world's black rhino population, at a rate of over one a day. The birth of Tamu at the Oregon Zoo is an important part of a national Species Survival Plan (SSP) to breed genetically diverse populations for the long-term future of these animals.

The zoo also participates in the SSP for Madagascar lemurs, West African and Central African chimpanzees, and Borneo orangutans—all threatened by deforestation. Providing homes and care for these critically endangered species is not just a necessity to prevent extinction; it is a vital educational tool. By exposing millions of visitors to the wonder of wildlife as well as to the many threats these keystone species face in the wild from human behavior, the Oregon Zoo is creating the next generation of conservationists.

Please vote Yes to support the Oregon Zoo so that it can continue the important work.

Steven Browning, Uganda, Malawi  
Harriet Isom, Benin, Cameroon  
Niels Marquardt, Madagascar, Cameroon  
John Yates, Benin, Cameroon  
Mary Carlin Yates, Ghana, Burundi

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Joseph Yun, Malaysia

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### **A Senior Perspective on Measure 26-244**

As longtime community members from Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties, we wanted to share our thoughts on why seniors love the Oregon Zoo, and why we are enthusiastically voting Yes on Measure 26-244.

**Our zoo is well-loved and well-used.** Time and again we have gone to the zoo: as young people, as parents, with grandchildren and friends. It is incredibly rewarding every time, providing experiences that connect us closer together with each other and with the natural world.

**Our zoo needs this critical investment.** Funding from Measure 26-244 will go to maintaining high standards of animal care, update aging exhibits, improve safety and accessibility, and expand educational opportunities for people of all ages.

**Our zoo is a community legacy.** We can be proud of our zoo; it is one of the only zoos in the world with 50 years of unbroken accreditation by the internationally respected Association of Zoos and Aquariums. That means it follows the highest standards of animal care. Our zoo – and the values behind it – are a legacy that was passed down to us. Measure 26-244 means we can continue to pass that legacy on.

**It's a sound and responsible investment.** We are careful with our money, and so is the zoo. It has been an excellent steward of the public's support, delivering on its promises with transparency and citizen oversight. **And Measure 26-244 will not increase the taxes we are paying today.** In fact, it is projected to come in at a lower rate than the last Zoo bond. Life teaches you the value of maintaining your property. It's no different with the property we all own in common.

#### **Please join us in voting YES on the Zoo Bond!**

Mark and Ellen Masterson, Multnomah County residents  
Janet Putnam and Mike Klain, Clackamas County residents  
Kym Amador, Washington County resident

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### **TRI-COUNTY PARENTS SUPPORT MEASURE 26-244**

The Oregon Zoo has been an integral part of almost every Oregon family experience for over 135 years.

More than just a destination for laughter, learning and fun, it's a place where memories are made, generations bond,

and children grow up. From first visits as babies, to summer camp as kids, to first dates and special events as parents, the Oregon Zoo is a safe space and a trusted resource for all; a place where the community comes together.

At every stage of life, the Oregon Zoo has something to offer; it is a place for putting down our devices, discovering the wonders of wildlife, and finding our sense of place in this world.

#### **As parents and residents of Clackamas, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, we support Measure 26-244 and urge you to vote yes.**

*"The Oregon Zoo is truly a gem in our region, for locals and visitors! All year, our family comes to the zoo to have fun, to learn, and to mark the circle of the seasons together."*  
-Emily Barrett and John Hall, Multnomah County

*"The Oregon Zoo is a special place for our family. From ZooLights to summer events, there is something exciting to experience all year long. Seeing animals for the first time, meeting friends for playdates, and visiting the red pandas are special highlights where our child has made enduring memories."*  
-David and Misha Isaak, Clackamas County

*"There is never a moment when our kids aren't excited to visit the zoo. It's the perfect place to swing in for a short visit or stay for the whole day. It is a safe space, the staff and volunteers are friendly and helpful, and we love seeing the kids make connections in real-time to the things they are reading about in books and learning about at school."*  
-Anna and Doug Lewis, Washington County

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### **The Oregon Zoo Volunteers Advise a YES Vote on Measure 26-244**

Oregon Zoo volunteers play an important role in supporting the zoo's success by engaging with guests, communicating conservation messages, and supporting the evolving needs of the zoo.

We see first-hand the expertise, dedication, and resources that go into making the best home for the animals in the zoo's care. We are witnesses to children and adults learning about conservation and species recovery, and we see the magic that happens when a guest watches a sea otter crack open a clam on a rock, just as they would do in the wild.

Being on zoo grounds each day, we also see first-hand the needs of the zoo, including the need to expand accessibility, improve sustainability in energy and water use, and the need to always provide the highest quality of care and enrichment for the animals. We also see the exhibits that are in significant need of upgrades, some of which are almost 50 years old.

Our zoo relies on community support to make these

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improvements, to be the best zoo for animals and guests, to make the world a better place for humans and animals alike, and to come together for wildlife.

**We urge you to vote yes on Measure 26-244** to support the zoo in saving species, providing homes and second chances for rescued wildlife, and bringing the community together for generations to come.

Oregon Zoo Volunteers:

Sean Scott, 1 Year  
Nancy Emery, 4 Years  
TaMara Glavan, 11 Years  
Dana Clark-Scott, 13 Years  
Christina Crawford, 14 years  
Karen McCandless-Buck, 16 Years  
Kathy Street, 16 Years  
Barbara Wegner, 19 Years  
Roger Williams, 20 Years  
Dave Berkley, 22 Years  
Jennie McKee, 25 Years  
Sandy Sampeer, 27 Years  
Mary Epler, 29 Years  
Rex Wheeler, 34 Years  
Cathy Ann Thomas, 38 Years  
Judy Post, 38 Years

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

**Join us in voting YES on Measure 26-244. Together for Wildlife!**

### **Oregon Zoo Foundation Board Members:**

Charissa Anderson, Treasurer  
Melanie Billings-Yun, Vice-Chair  
Melissa Bobadilla  
Laurie Christensen  
Tracey A. Clark  
Kregg Hansen  
Nina Harrington  
Susan Hartnett  
Lance Inouye  
Josef Kiesenhofer  
Niels Marquardt  
Kim Overhage, Chair  
Ron Petersen  
Sharla Settlemier  
Randy Tesar  
Becky Tymchuk  
Nancy Visenberg  
Doug Wade  
Barbara Wegner, Secretary  
Chelsea Williams  
Yang Yang  
Gina Zejdlik

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### **Oregon Zoo Foundation Board Members Urge a YES Vote on Measure 26-244**

As community members, we share a deep commitment to the Oregon Zoo and its mission of providing the highest quality animal care, conservation and education and we urge your support of Measure 26-244.

Since the passage of the community supported 2008 Oregon Zoo Bond, our zoo has earned national recognition for its state-of-the-art Veterinary Medical Center, Education Center, and its spacious, naturalistic, more environmentally sustainable habitats for elephants, polar bears, primates and condors. The 2008 bond funded projects that transformed a full 40% of the zoo grounds—projects that were all completed on time and on budget.

But there are significant areas that remain in need of updating. Measure 26-244 would fund critical habitat upgrades across the remaining campus. It would fund improved water and energy management and enhance accessibility for people of all ages and abilities—all without increasing today's tax rate.

Our zoo relies on the community's support to continue being a source of pride across our region.

Please help the Oregon Zoo continue its essential role in caring for wildlife and the natural world, while educating current and future generations on our collective role in sustaining it.

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### **Empower Learning, Preserve Wildlife: Vote YES On Oregon Zoo Bond!**

Hundreds of thousands of children visit the zoo or participate in the zoo's educational programming each year. But the zoo isn't just a place for children to learn; teens, college students, adults, and seniors also participate in educational opportunities through local partnerships and outreach.

### **A Place Where Education Meets The Natural World**

We've seen first-hand the zoo's commitment to education, conservation, and animal welfare. It's a living classroom, where community members of all ages and backgrounds learn through field trips, hands-on experiences, and immersive programming.

### **A Zoo For Everyone**

The zoo is a unique educational center that serves a wide variety of learners. For children it's a place where they can develop connections to the natural world and nurture a sense of responsibility for wildlife. For older visitors, interactive exhibits reveal animal behaviors and crucial conservation efforts. For aspiring veterinarians, technicians, scientists, and biologists, it's a place where classroom knowledge comes to life.

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Measure 26-244 will fund investments that will help the zoo remain an open classroom, accessible to all. Voting yes shows your commitment to the community so the zoo can remain an educational resource for everyone.

### A Legacy To Be Proud Of

Your support is about more than just bricks and mortar: it's also about building a community dedicated to learning, moving animal welfare standards forward, and preserving wildlife and habitats for generations of learners.

### Vote YES for Measure 26-244 a Future where Learning and Wildlife Flourish Together!

NAYA Family Center

TaMara Glavan, Elementary School Associate Principal  
Oregon Zoo Teen Program Alumni

Meggie Feutrier, Title One Elementary School Teacher,  
Multnomah County

Juan Pablo Benitez, University Student, Mechanical  
Engineering Oregon Zoo Animal Presenter Program Alumni  
2019-2023

Dr. Elin Crockett, Wildlife Veterinarian  
Graduate of Oregon Zoo Veterinary Preceptorship Program

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Conservation Partners say YES for Oregon Zoo

The Oregon Zoo plays a crucial role in conservation efforts, in Oregon, in the Pacific Northwest, and around the world.

**The zoo has answered the call**, working side by side with conservation partners to save species on the brink of extinction, contributing time, talent, and resources to restore habitats, recover species, and contribute conservation science that could not otherwise be accomplished.

Their dedication spans the entire spectrum: from contributing vital scientific research on polar bears to partners in the arctic to raising tiny caterpillars to save native butterfly populations, to inspiring community action through the Cascades Pika Watch program, or educating about responsible pet ownership and making better consumer choices for deforestation free palm oil products. And so much more!

By using their unique platform to amplify our work, the Oregon Zoo encourages their community to get outside and

connect with the natural world to discover the critical role species play in our ecosystems, and how everyday actions – big and small – can make an impact on wildlife.

A visit to the Oregon Zoo is just the beginning; their work extends far beyond the gates.

By supporting Measure 26-244, you're showing your commitment to much more than just one institution. **Your YES vote supports conservation partners all across the globe** and is a tremendous opportunity to build capacity and connect a much wider community to our work.

### Vote YES on Measure 26-244.

Marc Ancranaz, Founder, HUTAN.org, Malaysia  
Amy Cutting, VP of Conservation, Polar Bears International  
Amanda Greenvoss, former Program Manager for  
Cascades Pika Watch  
Charlie Plybon, Surfrider Foundation  
Kyle Smith, The Nature Conservancy of Oregon

*(This information furnished by Elizabeth Smith,  
Yes for the Oregon Zoo)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### URGES A \*YES\* VOTE ON THE METRO ZOO BOND

The Oregon Zoo is a great place to visit. It also plays an important role in species and habitat conservation work all over the world! From working by hand to repopulate condors, to using cutting-edge spectroscopy to research marine predation trends, what we see when we visit the Oregon Zoo is only a small part of the globally-renowned work our Zoo staff does.

Measure 26-244 builds on the success of the 2008 Zoo bond, with no estimated increase in current tax rates. The measure will help replace aging infrastructure, improve educational programs and animal habitats, and help staff continue their amazing conservation efforts.

### WHY HAVING THE RIGHT STATE TREASURER MATTERS:

**A State Treasurer with the right priorities can also help address climate change and preserve the natural habitats and biodiversity that are at risk!**

**Jeff Gudman** is the ONLY candidate for State Treasurer who has pledged not to take money from fossil fuel donors.

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As State Treasurer, Jeff Gudman will:

- Create a coalition of other like-minded institutional investors to combine our proxy voting powers and push aggressively to ensure that our holdings are meaningfully and prudently planning to move past fossil fuel reliance — and act on those plans!
- Daylight the financial risks of climate change by including a climate risk factor statement in the State's bond issuances. Bond buyers are already factoring these concerns into pricing; it's time we acknowledged the costs.
- Examine the possible use of Oregon's trust lands with regard to leveraging climate-friendly opportunities. For example, selling carbon credits for forestlands, or constructing solar arrays in rangelands (which would still be able to be utilized as rangeland).

**We need a State Treasurer who's not beholden to fossil fuel interests. We need a State Treasurer who is ready to get serious about climate change!**

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**VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-244,  
THEN VOTE JEFF GUDMAN FOR STATE TREASURER**  
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Sources: [jeffgudman.com/climate](http://jeffgudman.com/climate)

*(This information furnished by Zachary Bayer)*

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

### \$380,000,000.00 "Whatever" Zoo Bond

#### What do you call a prison for wild animals? A Zoo

Confining wild animals in small enclosures and cages, so that people can walk by and gawk at them is unnatural. Elephants can travel 25 miles a day in the wild.

- With our access to the internet, movies, videos, etc., we can see wild animals in their wild natural settings.
- The day of wild life circuses and zoos is ebbing.
- The Zoo's \$8.5 million annual budget comes from property taxes, tickets and other sources. This \$380 million "Whatever" bond does not define, what the funds will be used for.
- We need to rethink the future use of Zoo's 640 acre compound. It could be a OSU extension school in food science, where our young citizen learn hand-on about the the food they eat, it could include 4-H, Nature Conservancy, Oregon Humane Societies, a place where animal organizations could work together.
- The Zoo has 1,600 animal inmates, who's only crime is

they are "wild". **What do you think?**

Macdonald, J.F.

*(This information furnished by J.F. Macdonald)*

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

In December 2023, the Governor along with prominent business leaders announced a **three-year moratorium on ALL new taxes** in order to revitalize Portland's downtown and the region's economy.

Make no mistake: this bond is a **\$380,000,000.00 NEW TAX**. Property tax bonds raise the cost of housing for owners and renters alike. **This bond makes no sense during a housing affordability crisis.**

Why can't Metro behave like other cultural institutions by fundraising? The Oregon Zoo Foundation already has \$11,000,000.00 annual revenue, \$22,000,000.00 assets, and it pays its Executive Director \$235,615.00 per year. Oh, and then there's Metro's hotel tax levied on the tourists who actually go to the Oregon Zoo.

I guess the cronies over at Metro are typical lying politicians up to yet more monkey business for their pet projects. At a minimum, you should demand our local leaders work together to coordinate tax policy. The only reason Metro put this bond on the ballot is their previous tax is expiring. The zoo has no pressing new capital needs or expansion plans, and Metro has no concrete spending plan. It's just a **pork barrel slush fund** greenwashed with vague "climate resilient animal shelters" at a time when Portland can't even house people. We should conserve our limited bonding capacity for transformative infrastructure investments such as high-speed rail.

The Peoples' Republic of **Metro already has an unallocated \$450,000,000.00 "Parks and Nature" bond** (aka slush fund) it can use for its animal farm. The last I heard, in Oldspeak, animals count as "nature," and the Oregon Zoo is in a park. That bond came under a scathing audit in 2023 for its mismanagement and skewed priorities: overpaying for farmland purchased from politically connected insiders, making it off-limits to the public, leasing it to agribusiness corporations for profit, and calling it a Newpark. All parks are equal, but some parks are equaler than others, I guess.

### Monkey Vote NO.

This argument furnished by Thomas J Busse

*(This information furnished by Thomas J Busse)*

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges  
No on 26-244

**The Zoo has been extremely wasteful and now wants you -- the taxpayers -- to reward their mismanagement with a huge tax hike.**