

Portland Public School District

Measure 26-246

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Renew the Portland Teachers Levy! Taxes remain the same!

YES FOR TEACHERS, YES FOR KIDS urges a YES Vote on Measure 26-246 this May.

We are parents, community members, seniors, educators, businesses, and elected officials who have all come together to support Measure 26-246.

A YES vote on the local levy ensures the district can maintain over 660 teaching and classroom support positions across the district without raising your taxes.

Portland Public Schools – serving over 44,500 students – has relied on this levy since 2007.

Having a high-quality teacher in every classroom, class sizes that allow for individual attention, and diverse well-funded instructional programs are fundamental to reaching this goal.

A YES VOTE ON 26-246 to RENEW THE LOCAL OPTION LEVY MEANS:

Preserves Over 660 Teaching Positions

- Teachers are the heart of our schools. Renewal of the levy funds over 660 high quality teaching and classroom support staff positions across the District that help the children in our community thrive. One fifth of all teaching positions in Portland Public Schools are funded by the Levy.

Funding Programs for a Comprehensive Education

- Levy funds help support a well-rounded program, with enrichments for elementary and middle grades and electives in varied interest areas and disciplines for high school students.

Maintains Current Tax Rate

- This levy is a renewal. Taxpayers would continue paying the same local option tax rate of \$1.99 per \$1,000 assessed value they pay today.

Independent Oversight

The levy renewal requires independent oversight to ensure tax dollars are used for purposes approved by voters. The Community Budget Review Committee will continue to provide this oversight and all levy funds will be placed in a separate account for transparent reporting.

Please join the Renew the Teachers Levy campaign and vote **YES** on Measure 26-246 to support Portland's children, teachers, and classrooms. **Renew the Portland Teachers Levy!**

(This information furnished by Terri Waller - Renew the Teachers Levy)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Votar A FAVOR de la Medida 26-246 renovará el impuesto actual de los maestros de las Escuelas Públicas de Portland y preservará la financiación para más de 660 maestros en las escuelas del distrito. Aproximadamente uno de cada cinco puestos docentes está financiado por el impuesto actual. Un voto A FAVOR renueva este impuesto por cinco años adicionales sin aumentar la tasa fiscal actual. Únase a nosotros para votar A FAVOR de la Medida 26-246.

Ваш голос ЗА (ориг. «YES») принятие законодательной меры 26-246 (ориг. Measure 26-246) обеспечит продление действующего в настоящее время налога, предусмотренного Управлением образования государственных школ г. Портленд для поддержки преподавательского состава, и сохранит финансирование более 660 рабочих мест учителей в школах района. Примерно каждое третье рабочее место преподавателя финансируется за счет действующего налога. Ваш голос ЗА продлит действие этого налога еще на пять лет без повышения существующей налоговой ставки. Пожалуйста, присоединяйтесь к нам и отдайте свой голос ЗА принятие законодательной меры 26-246.

Biểu quyết "YES" (đồng ý) cho Dự luật 26-246 sẽ gia hạn tiền thuế cho giáo viên tại các Trường Công lập Portland và bảo toàn kinh phí cho hơn 660 giáo viên tại các trường học trên toàn quận. Khoảng một trong ba giáo viên được tài trợ bởi tiền thuế hiện tại này. Biểu quyết "YES" sẽ gia hạn khoản thuế này thêm năm năm nữa mà không tăng mức thuế hiện tại. Hãy cùng chúng tôi tham gia biểu quyết "YES" cho Dự luật 26-246.

Cod bixinta ah HAA ee Xeerka 26-246 waxaa dib loogu cusbooneysiin doonaa canshuurta la isa saaro iyada oo la ilaalin doono maalgelinta loogu talagalay in ka badan 660 macallin ee dugsiyada ku yaala guud ahaan degmada. Qiyaastii saddex boos oo dhanka waxbarida ah hal ka mid ah ayaa lagu maalgeliyaa canshuurta hadda la isa saaro. Cod bixinta ah HAA waxaa dib loogu cusbooneysiin doonaa canshuurtan la isa saarayo taasi oo loogu talagalay shan sano oo dheeraad iyada oo aan la kordhinayn heerka canshuurta ee hadda jira. Fadlan nagula soo biir coddeynta la coddeynayo HAA ee Xeerka 26-246.

Portland Public School District

Measure 26-246

对第 26-246 项措施投赞成票将延续现有的波特兰公立学校教师征税，并为该地区的660多名教师提供资金。目前的征税为约三分之一的教职岗位提供资金。投赞成票将令该征税在不提高现有税率的前提下续期五年。请加入我们，对第 26-246 项措施投赞成票。

(This information furnished by Terri Waller - Renew the Teachers Levy)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A Message from the Portland Association of Teachers
Classroom teachers across the District know that the existing local option levy is critical to our ability to educate all of Portland's students.

The Portland Association of Teachers - representing over 4,000 educators - stands with numerous community leaders across the city in calling for a renewal of the local option teachers' levy.

*A YES vote on Measure 26-246 would renew the existing teachers' levy **without raising existing taxes**. Passage of the levy would:*

- *Maintain teachers, counselors, and specialists in every school across the District*
- *Support individualized attention for students*
- *Maintain opportunities for enrichment courses, electives, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming*

Teachers are the heart of our schools. Losing nearly 20% of the educators in our classrooms would have devastating impacts on our kids, schools and the city as a whole.

We simply cannot afford to lose this critical funding at a time when we know our schools need more resources. Portland Association of Teachers is fighting every day for more funding, but we must also hold onto what we have. That is why we are strongly recommending a YES vote on Measure 26-246 to ensure over 660 teaching jobs remain in our community. Measure 26-246 is an opportunity for Portlanders to renew their commitment to our schools and provide the individual attention and excellent education that children in every corner of our District deserve and need without raising taxes.

*This May, please support Portland's teachers and vote **YES on Measure 26-246**.*

Portland Association of Teachers

(This information furnished by Angela Bonilla - Portland Association of Teachers)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Parents, Portland Council PTA urge YES vote for students, teachers.

For over 100 years, PTA volunteers who are parents, teachers and community members have tirelessly worked for all Portland Public Schools students. We are in our schools everyday helping students and assisting our teachers and staff. We witness firsthand the profound impact Portland teachers have on our children. Exceptional teachers in every classroom, complemented by specialists who bolster their efforts, are the best way we can help our kids. A well-rounded education also engages students in music, art, exploration, experimentation, and hands-on learning as well as career, tech-focused opportunities for every student. Measure 26-246 specifically funds the professionals who teach these subjects.

Please join Portland Council PTA & continue the critical support for PPS children and teachers. Vote YES on Measure 26-246!

Portland Council PTA

Abernethy PTA
Alameda PTA
Atkinson PTA
Beach Community Union
Beaumont, Megan Nelson
Bridger Creative Science, Heather Lee
Bridlemile, Ashley Schofield
Buckman PTA
César Chávez, Blake Goud
Chapman, Katie LaBonte
Cleveland, Kayla Gulbranson
Creston PTA
da Vinci Arts PTSA
Duniway PTA
Faubion, Gina Levine
Franklin, PTSA
George, Christine Vial
Glencoe, PTA
Grant, Alison Kalmonson
Grout, Ryan Phillips
Harriet Tubman, Rachel Oh
Hayhurst PTA
Hosford, Abby Nilson Kirby
Irvington, PTA
Jackson, Kate Cockrill
James John, Eva Rippeteau Chavira
Kellogg, Reneé Bercerra
Lane Access, Anna Cox
Laurelhurst, Megan Mermis
Lent PTA
Lincoln, David Heffernan
Llewellyn, Sarah Erickson
Maplewood PTA

Portland Public School District

Measure 26-246

Markham, Margaux Wagenmann
Marysville Family Association
McDaniel, Smyth Lai
Metropolitan Learning Center PTSA
Mt. Tabor, Jennifer Dahlin
Ockley Green Supporters
Rieke, Sasha Pollack PTA President
Rigler PTA
Robert Gray PTA
Roosevelt, Suzanne Clark
Rose City Park, Alison Taylor
Roseway Heights, Smyth Lai
Scott PTA
Sitton PTA
Skyline PTA
Sunnyside Environmental PTA
Vernon PTA
Vestal, Kelly Skellenger
Winterhaven School, Jennifer Baker
Woodstock PTA

(This information furnished by Lisa Kensel)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

A Community Committed To Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Needs Public Teachers To Thrive

The promise of equal access to public education is an integral to the promise of a community for all. Working families, immigrants, LGBTQIA2S+, Indigenous peoples, people living with disabilities and communities of color, deserve fully funded public schools with educators of excellence that reflect our communities.

As Portland grows, the demographics of our city - and of PPS' students - continue to change. Portland Public Schools serves over **44,500 Portland students**:

- 45.5% are students of color;
- 31% are offered free meals;
- 9.5% are in English as a Second Language services; and
- 16.6% are enrolled in special education programming.

For PPS to appropriately serve this growing share of students and families with their educational needs and rights, the district needs robust, reliable funding for teachers and classroom support staff.

Measure 26-246 maintains crucial funding for over 660 teaching positions across the district without raising existing taxes. If we don't approve the levy we risk losing 660 teachers, and the burden would disproportionately impact our most vulnerable students in most need of a stable, excellent public education.

An investment in our public schools is a crucial component of making sure every community succeeds. A YES Vote on Measure 26-246 is a vote of affirmation that the next generation of Portlanders are entitled to an education in a learning environment that is welcoming, supportive, and equitable.

Please join community leaders in supporting a YES vote this May on Measure 26-246. Renew the Portland Teachers Levy!

Latino Network
APANO
Self Enhancement Inc.
Coalition of Communities of Color
Word is Bond
Albina Vision Trust
Stand for Children
Families for Equity in Schools
Portland Backpack
NAYA Family Center and NAYA Action Fund

(This information furnished by Duncan Hwang)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

RETIREES & SENIORS CALL FOR A YES VOTE ON MEASURE 26-246

A VOTE FOR PORTLAND SCHOOLS IS A VOTE FOR A BETTER PORTLAND

Some of us went to PPS schools, others have grandchildren in school today while some retired here and never attended our local schools.

We are united in our support for Measure 26-246.

Schools are the connective tissue that form a great community, whether or not you personally have school-age children. Oregon's public schools are financed on a 'pay it forward' model - if you attended public school yourself or had kids in schools previously, those schools were funded by those before us.

Measure 26-246 is our intergenerational commitment to young children of today and in the future.

Even if you don't have school-age children, an investment in public schools supports the prosperity of our community for generations to come.

Many of us are on fixed incomes and understand the impact of taxes. The good news is renewing the Local Teachers Levy is not a new tax. **It maintains the current tax rate** and will keep our community thriving.

Portland Public School District

Measure 26-246

Now it's time to renew the Teachers Levy. We ask you to join us in supporting our schools.

Barbara Dudley
Nan Stark
Wendy Rankin
Richard Adams
Sharon Meigh-Chang
Kim Osgood
Mike Roach
A.J. Zelada
Robin L. Shellcross
L. Otto Schell
Martine R. Sacks
David Salniker
Esther Moe
Barbara Byrd
Katherine Lee
Ken Lee
Jo Anne H. Dean
William B. Dean
Roger Kent Kirchner

(This information furnished by L. Otto Schell)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

PPS Board Members: Local Option Levy Essential For Students and Staff

We are honored to serve PPS students and are deeply committed to providing an excellent education across the district. **It is our responsibility to provide our students with the educational opportunities they need to prepare them to thrive in the future.**

Right now, Portland schools are facing challenges on a number of fronts. Our public school system is badly in need of additional funding and resources in order to meet these challenges. We are committed to advocating for these additional funds.

However, we must maintain what we have and our ability to support our schools with local funds is more critical than ever.

PPS voters have supported a Teachers Levy since 2007. We are asking you to again join the teachers, parents, students, and community leaders across the district and vote **YES on Measure 26-246.**

Your yes vote helps ensure that PPS will be able to access the resources we need to keep our teachers in classrooms with the support needed to provide an excellent education in our city's beloved public schools.

Let's Renew the Levy. Vote YES on Measure 26-246.

PPS Board Chair Gary Hollands
PPS Vice-Chair Herman Greene
PPS Board Member Andrew Scott
PPS Board Member Michelle DePass
PPS Board Member Patte Sullivan
PPS Board Member Julia Brim-Edwards
PPS Board Member Eddie Wang
PPS Student Representative Francesca Silverstein

(This information furnished by Gary Hollands)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

ELECTED OFFICIALS ACROSS THE CITY ARE UNITED: RENEW THE TEACHERS LEVY!

As elected officials who represent teachers, students and families at multiple levels of government, we see firsthand how public education is directly related to our economy, our neighborhoods and our quality of life. Ensuring Portland schools have high-quality teachers with enough specialists and support staff to deliver an excellent education is a top priority for all of us as we work to serve our constituents and govern our community.

The Teachers Levy is a crucial part of our funding model ensuring more than 44,500 students in Portland Public Schools are provided with excellent teachers for a modern education. A YES vote on Measure 26-246 secures funding for over 660 teaching positions across the district. Independent community oversight will ensure that funds from this local option will be used only for purposes approved by local voters.

With this perspective, we are unified in agreement: **it is imperative that voters renew the local option levy this May. Our schools and our children's futures depend on it.**

We urge you to vote YES on Measure 26-246.

Congressman Earl Blumenauer
Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici

State Senators:

Sen. Michael Dembrow
Sen. Elizabeth Steiner

State Representatives:

Rep. Maxine Dexter
Rep. Mark Gamba
Rep. Hoa Nguyen

Portland Public School District

Measure 26-246

Rep. Rob Nosse
Rep. Khanh Pham
Rep. Thuy Tran

Metro Council:

Chair Lynn Peterson
Councilor Juan Carlos González
Councilor Duncan Hwang
Councilor Christine Lewis
Councilor Mary Nolan
Councilor Ashton Simpson

Multnomah County Commissioners:

Chair Jessica Vega Pederson
Commissioner Jesse Beason
Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards
Commissioner Dr. Sharon Meieran

Portland City Council:

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Rene Gonzalez
Commissioner Mingus Mapps
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Commissioner Dan Ryan

PCC Board Member Tiffani Penson

A full list of elected officials, candidates and community leaders endorsing YES on Measure 26-246: RenewTeachersLevy.com

(This information furnished by Jacq Tjaden - Renew the Teachers Levy Campaign)

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

URGES A ***YES*** VOTE ON **MEASURE 26-246**

Supporting our shared K-12 education system is one of the foundational responsibilities of any community. Our students should be able to learn, play, and explore in a safe and well-appointed place, with quality teachers and programs. Measure 26-246 simply asks voters to renew an existing levy in order to maintain current programs and staffing levels.

... But why do we feel that our schools are so strained even when hearing about record K-12 funding?

WHY HAVING THE RIGHT STATE TREASURER

MATTERS:

Last year, the Legislature patted itself on the back for “record” K-12 funding. But the truth is that they fudged the numbers:

On August 2, 2023, Legislative leaders described a \$10.2 billion appropriation as “record funding” for K-12. Oregon’s Department of Education reported enrollment of 547,424 students for the 2023-24 school year. That’s \$18,632.72 per student.

In 2021, the K-12 appropriation was \$9.3 billion (Senate Bill 5514), and the Department of Education reported enrollment of 551,977. At first glance, that makes the 2023 appropriation seem like an increase given that those numbers show \$16,848.53 per student. But according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the inflation-adjusted value of that 2021 appropriation would be \$18,920.55 per student in 2023 dollars.

Or to put it another way: **The Legislature actually shorted the K-12 budget about \$287 per 547,424 students, making total cuts of over \$150 million.**

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, who is currently running for State Treasurer, signed onto that August press release describing these cuts as “Historic Gains for Oregon Students,” which mean that either she doesn’t understand inflation, or she’s counting on YOU to not understand inflation.

Either way, we need a Treasurer who’s not afraid to be honest about Oregon’s finances.

**VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-246,
THEN VOTE JEFF GUDMAN, DEMOCRAT FOR STATE
TREASURER**

See sources: jeffgudman.com/k12315

(This information furnished by Zachary Bayer)