

# Portland Public School District

## Measure 26-246

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Taxpayers Association of Oregon  
urges NO on 26-246

#### **Enrollment down, yet staffing is up?**

- Since the pandemic, PPS enrollment is down by 9.5%, but the number of employees increased 4.2%.

#### **Cost per-student is higher than attending University of Oregon!**

- Since the pandemic, PPS spending per student on instruction and support has increased 34.2% to \$17,800 per student. That's more than the typical private school tuition. That's more than tuition at the

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University of Oregon! Where is all the money going?  
(Source: Tax Supervising Commission & Conservation data for 23/24)

### The teacher strike hurt students

- The teachers strike, criticized by Oregon Governor Tina Kotek and The Oregonian Editorial Board, kept nearly 45,000 students out of school for nearly an entire month. This followed on the heels of our once-in-a-century pandemic that put our students three years behind in schooling.

### Teachers to make \$100,000 a year

- Because the district caved to teacher demands, over half of PPS teachers will soon make more than \$100,000 a year. The Willamette Week reported, "The union negotiated about a 13.8% cumulative cost-of-living increase over the next three years that will catapult more than half of Portland Public Schools teachers over the \$100,000 annual salary mark..." (11/26/23)

### Fake graduation rates

- PPS brags about increasing graduation rates, but that's because Oregon students won't have to prove basic mastery of reading, writing or math to graduate from high school until at least 2029 (Oregonian 10/22/24). Simply put, PPS handled Oregon's nationally low graduation rate by lowering requirements in order to make the schools look better but it meant that our students were less educated and less prepared for the world.

PPS should fix spending problems before asking for more money.

NO on 26-246

The Taxpayers Association of Oregon has protected you from higher taxes and government waste for 25 years. follow us at [OregonWatchdog.com](http://OregonWatchdog.com).

*(This information furnished by Jason Williams, Taxpayers Association of Oregon)*

In 2012, politicians helped a pass measure stealing the business Kicker Tax Refund and diverting it to education. Result = **\$2,000,000,000 more** for education since.

In 2012, Portland Arts Tax passed to fund schools. Result = **\$112 million more** for education since.

In 2014, school advocates backed legalizing marijuana because the pot tax would fund schools. Result = **\$220 million more** for education since.

In 2016, voters approved Ballot Measure 99 to divert lottery funds towards funding school outdoor programs. Result = nearly **\$50 million more** for education since.

In 2017, Measure 26-193 school bond passed. Result = **\$790 million more** for Portland schools.

In 2019, lawmakers approved one of the largest taxes in Oregon history (Corporate Activities Tax) to fund schools. Result = **\$2,800,000,000 more** for education since.

In 2020, Measure 26-215 school bond passed. Result = **\$1.2 billion more** for Portland schools.

In 2020, Measure 26-214 Multnomah County income tax passed. Result = **\$366 million more** for Portland schools.

In 2022, Congress had fully awarded Oregon \$1.7 billion in Covid school assistance. Result = **\$1.7 billion more** for schools.

Simply put, the politicians keep raising our taxes for schools only to keep coming back for more, again and again. It never stops.

Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges Vote NO on 3-604

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## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

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Urges No on 26-246

**In just over 10 years,  
Oregon schools got \$6.8 billion from brand "new"  
sources!**

**Portland schools got an additional \$2.1 billion  
on top of that \$6.8 billion.**

## ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

Signs that Metro & Portland may have an addiction problem  
... an addiction to taxes.

Portland isn't just addicted to meth ... they're addicted to taxes.

Here are 8 signs of addiction:

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Addiction Sign #1 = "Addicts always need one more hit": Portland voters have suffered 10 major local tax increases since 2018. There are 3 more local taxes on the ballot right now.

Addiction Sign #2 = "Addicts lack any moderation". Portland is rated the second highest tax place in America (KOIN 2/17 /23). There's no moderation, just extreme taxes.

Addition Sign #3 = "Addicts chase away friends". Portland area lost 14,000 taxpayers in 2022.

Addiction Sign #4 = "Addicts can't hold a job". High taxes kill jobs. Oregon Business reported "Portland Office Vacancies Reach Historic Highs" (10/9/23). The vacancy rate hit 30%.

Addiction Sign #5 = "Addicts never stop at one drug". We have local taxes that seldom exist anywhere else in America like ... the Portland Arts Tax, Portland's Clean Energy Surcharge, Multnomah Income Tax for preschool, METRO's 1% income tax for homeless, and METRO's (\$652 million) property tax for private housing programs.

Addiction Sign #6 = "Addicts use more for a smaller high". We keep getting higher taxes but we somehow end up with fewer police, fewer new roads, fewer school days and more pot holes, more graffiti, more crime and more homeless.

Addiction Sign #7 = "Addicts can't be trusted". Think of the politicians broken promises.

Addiction Sign #8 = "Addicts seek a higher high". The next tax to hit you in 2025 is tolling. If you want to stop tolling, please sign petition (IP#4) which gives voters the right to vote on tolling projects in their neighborhood at [OregonWatchdog.com/petition](https://OregonWatchdog.com/petition).

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