Joint County Voters' Pamphlet Measure Argument

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Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges No on 26-260

8 REASONS TO OPPOSE PARK LEVY MEASURE 26-260

#1. It's a 75% Tax Hike, Not a Renewal

This isn't a simple renewal—it explodes your parks tax from 80 cents to \$1.40 per \$1,000 of home value.

#2. Costs You Over \$300 Every Year

The average homeowner will pay more than \$300 annually in new taxes—money that could pay for groceries or gas. Families in large numbers have moved out of Portland because it is too expensive to raise a family here. Don't make it worse.

#3. Political Tax Hostage Tactics

City officials threaten to slash parks budgets in half if you don't approve their massive tax hike. There is no discussion of a smaller increase, only 75% or else. That's not fair.

#4. Creates the Tax Ratchet Effect

First, they passed a temporary tax and now demand 75% more. What will they want next time?

#5. Portland Taxpayers Are Already Crushed

Families are bleeding money from inflation and rising costs, while city services worsen every day.

#6. Rewards Fiscal Irresponsibility

This lets politicians avoid tough budget choices by just grabbing more from homeowners instead of cutting wasteful spending.

#7. No Accountability for Results

Portland's track record on managing tax money is terrible. Why throw more money at a system that doesn't work?

Portland has a massive general fund budget but claims it can't afford basic park maintenance without soaking taxpayers again.

This is government greed, pure and simple.

Don't reward politicians who hold essential services hostage for more of your money. <u>VOTE NO</u> on <u>Measure 26-260</u>.

For daily tax news/updates follow us at OregonWatchdog.com

Joint County Voters' Pamphlet Measure Argument

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Taxpayers Association of Oregon urges No on Measure 26-260

FIVE REASONS OUR PARKS NEEDLESSLY COST MORE

- #1. Our parks cost more because criminals who are caught engaging in graffiti vandalism are released with little punishment. Lacking harsh penalties, these released criminals simply go back to what they did before and continue to vandalize our parks and spray paint our entire city.
- **#2.** Our Parks cost more because Multnomah County handed out over 25,000 free tents to homeless. The free-tents-for-all idea only attracted more homeless to come to Portland from other states in order to get their free tents and camp in our parks. Now we are all overwhelmed.
- **#3.** Our parks cost more because politicians refuse to enforce trespassing laws. This has made our parks a great place for homeless encampments because trespassers know it is hard for their camps to be moved.
- #4. Our parks cost more because local governments (at taxpayer expense) hand out free drug paraphernalia to addicts. This makes Portland a top destination for drug addicts from other states to move here.
- #5. Our parks cost more because police cannot keep our parks safe from crime and destruction because liberal politicians defunded our police.

The politicians have made these 5 major policy mistakes and they now expect you, the taxpayers, to foot the bill for the cost of their mistakes.

Politicians need to take responsibility for what is causing park expenses to rise and to fix it – not just punish taxpayers for their own mistakes.

For daily tax news/updates, please visit OregonWatchdog.com

Joint County Voters' Pamphlet Measure Argument

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Important! Read all instructions before completing this form.							
Please note that each county produces a separate County Voters' Pamphlet. If the jurisdiction/district is located in more than one county, a separate JCVP-03 form must be filed with the appropriate fee or							
certified petition (JCVP-04) to each cou	inty where the Measure Argument is	to be printed.					
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3. Argument paid for or petition provide	u by						
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Bob Weinstein		9-4-25					
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Refer to the Campaign Finance Manual for further detail	s.						
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We Love Our Parks! That's Why We're Voting NO!

Parks Are Treasures—But We Need Real Solutions

Our parks enrich our lives. But loving our parks means demanding a plan that sustains them—not just throwing more money at a system that's failing to deliver.

The Problem With This Levy

The proposed levy is a 75% tax hike. Supporters say it will "save" our parks, but it actually locks us into an unsustainable spiral. Without a course change, levies will keep rising every five years while Park services stagnate—and one in five park assets remain at risk of failure or closure within 15 years.

Since the 2020 levy:

- Parks' authorized staffing jumped from 521 to 826 positions
- New, maintenance-intensive amenities were added
- Critical repairs at existing assets were sidelined
- The backlog of repairs ballooned from \$450 million to \$600 million

Portland already spends \$318 per person on parks—well above the national average of \$192. The issue isn't funding; it's discipline.

What Supporters Don't Tell You

Out of the proposed \$1.40 per \$1,000 tax rate, just three cents—about \$2 million per year—will be dedicated to major maintenance. That won't scratch the surface of the \$600 million capital maintenance crisis. The rest—\$84 million annually—will continue funding the operational bloat that created this crisis.

A Smarter Alternative

This is not a do-or-die vote. The City Council still has time to propose a smarter, more balanced levy. For instance, a \$1.00 tax rate with 20 cents dedicated to capital maintenance would yield over \$13 million annually for maintenance—nearly seven times more than the proposed levy provides.

Our Parks Deserve Better

A basic rule of budgeting is simple: **don't build what you can't maintain.** City Hall has ignored that rule while asking taxpayers for ever-bigger blank checks.

Vote NO on the 75% tax increase. Demand accountability and real stewardship of Portland's parks.

Bob Weinstein Rod Merrick