

# Notice of Measure Election

**SEL 801**
rev 08/25: ORS 250.035, 250.041,  
250.175, 254.103, 254.465
**County**

<b>Notice</b>		
<b>Date of Notice</b>	<b>Name of County or Counties</b> Multnomah County	<b>Date of Election</b> May 19, 2026

**Final Ballot Title** The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the county's voters. The ballot title notice was published and the ballot title challenge process is complete.

**Caption** 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

Five year levy: Oregon Historical Society Library, Museum, educational programs.

**Question** 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

Shall County renew 5-year history museum, library, educational programs levy; maintain \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed value, oversight, beginning 2026? This measure renews current local option taxes.

**Summary** 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

In 2021 voters approved a five-year local option levy of \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed property value to support the Oregon Historical Society (OHS). Renewal of this levy will continue support to the OHS's museum, library, educational programs, and fund the following without increasing taxes:

**Educational Programs;**

Free admission to school groups and Multnomah County residents;

Preservation of important Oregon treasures and artifacts;

Support four County historical societies: East County Historical Organization, Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society, and Crown Point Country Historical Society;

OHS will continue to build on its efforts to provide exhibits and services that reflect the diverse histories of our region, and engage all parts of our county.

Levy continues rate of \$.05 per \$1,000 assessed property value, and replaces the 2021 levy. A home assessed at \$250,000 pays \$12.50 a year.

An independent citizen oversight committee will review expenditures to verify funds are used as approved by voters. Annual audits will be conducted and made public.

The levy will produce an estimated \$3.88 million for fiscal year 2026-2027; \$4.00 million for fiscal year 2027-2028; \$4.12 million for fiscal year 2028-2029; \$4.24 million for fiscal year 2029-2030; and \$4.37 million for fiscal year 2030-2031.

The estimated cost for this measure is an ESTIMATE ONLY based on the best available information available to the county assessor at the time of estimate.

**Explanatory Statement** 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be written and attached to this form for:

→ any measure referred by the county governing body; or

→ any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?

☒ Yes

☐ No

**Authorized County Official** Not required to be notarized.

**Name**

Eric Arellano

**Title**

Chief Financial Officer

**Mailing Address**

501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Ste 531, Portland, OR 97214

**Contact Phone**

(503) 988-6718

**By signing this document:**

→ I hereby state that I am authorized by the county to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and

→ I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

**Signature**

**Date Signed**

RECEIVED  
2026 FEB -3 PM 4:00  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY

2/3/26

## Explanatory Statement

Founded in 1898, the Oregon Historical Society (OHS) maintains a museum and public research library in downtown Portland, preserves the largest collection of historical materials about the state of Oregon, and offers programming on the people, places, and events that have shaped Oregon. In addition, the OHS is the primary historical society for Multnomah County, with photographs, maps, manuscripts, books, films, and oral histories documenting the County's history.

Each year, approximately 40,000 people visit OHS's Portland facilities, including about 5,000 schoolchildren and college students. OHS's museum features three permanent exhibitions and rotating installations on diverse topics. In 2024, OHS opened *Rivers, Roses, and Rip City*, the first permanent exhibition dedicated to the history of Portland. This immersive exhibition, installed in OHS's Naito Family Gallery, explores the City's distinctive landscape and the communities and people that contribute to its vibrant identity. Also, OHS publishes the longest-running peer-reviewed journal in the West, the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, which supports new research, amplifies knowledge and perspectives, and sparks relevant conversations about history.

OHS's online resources at ohs.org provide free educational resources to students and learners of all ages. In 2024 the Society's online collections were accessed by over 1.3 million visitors, with more than 20% of visitors coming from Multnomah County. OHS is set to debut an innovative new website in spring 2026 that will be entirely dedicated to sharing Portland's history through digitized collection materials and imaginative technology.

Funding from the renewed levy will maintain OHS's current public operating hours of 47 hours per week for the museum and 32 hours per week for the research library; support the preservation and curation of current exhibits; fund the development of new educational programming and scholarships; and allow OHS to continue offering free museum admission to and tours for all Multnomah County residents and K–12 school groups. Levy funds will also support operations at four East Multnomah County historical societies — East County Historical Organization (ECHO), Gresham Historical Society, Troutdale Historical Society, and Crown Point Country Historical Society.

The cost of the levy renewal will remain at \$.05 (five cents) per \$1,000 assessed property value, beginning 2026 through 2031. For example, the owner of a home assessed by the County at \$250,000 will continue to pay \$12.50 a year for this levy.

Accountability is a key component of this levy, with the Multnomah County Chair continuing to appoint an independent citizens' oversight committee — representative of Multnomah County's diverse communities — to review all levy expenditures. The Levy Oversight Committee will ensure funds are spent as approved by voters and advise OHS to ensure that its board, partnerships, staff, exhibitions, and programs proactively represent Multnomah County's diverse cultures. In addition, Multnomah County will continue to select an auditor, for which OHS will pay, to conduct annual audits of levy funds that will be made available to the public.

This levy will fund approximately one-third of operations at OHS. Other funding comes from grants, private donations, admissions, and other earned revenues.