



**Joint County Voters' Pamphlet
Measure Argument**

JCVF-03
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: 05/19/2026

This Filing is an: Amendment

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-261

Order: 1

Contact Information

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Formatted Statement

TODAY'S OREGON HISTORY LESSON:

OHS got by for 100 years without a special tax until 2011 when a developer on the board was eyeing surplus OHS-owned real estate. He hit up his buddy, a politically-connected top aide to Pfizer's official erectile dysfunction medication spokesman [sic] with no background in historical research or preservation to become OHS's Executive Director.

That ED now collects over a \$300k salary financing a McMansion in Beaverton where he won't even have to pay this tax. He immediately forked over tens of thousands to a lobbyist who weaseled the county commissioners to put this tax on the ballot in a low-turnout election backed by OHS's well-funded P/R firm and sob-story "save the museum" and "it's for the children" propaganda.

I didn't need OHS's archive to find that ED's sales-pitch:

"If we have to ask for it [this tax] again, we haven't done our job" Oregonian 03/07/11

If this tax measure fails, OHS will easily survive. In 2022, OHS landed a \$2.5 Million endowment donation for the programs this tax is intended to fund, but players have become addicted to the game of tax measure whack-a-mole. Over time this tax has become an annuity for boondoggles such as the inaccessible "Crown Point Country Museum."

LESSON SUMMARY: The 2008 repeal of the double majority rule for low-turnout May elections opened the floodgates for wasteful special interest taxes and bad school bonds making Portland unaffordable. There are better ways to support OHS such as the hotel tax, the lottery, an allocation from the Portland Arts Tax, the Cultural Trust Tax Credit, or charging admission for county residents. Pay to Play is the Oregon Way and in Oregon, a “temporary” tax is never temporary.

CIVICS HOMEWORK QUIZ:

1. Were you lied to about this being temporary?
2. If it is to be permanently taxpayer funded, should OHS be publicly owned with elected or appointed directors accountable to taxpayers?

Signature: Thomas J Busse

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Joint County Voters' Pamphlet
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Election Date: may 2026

This Filing is an: Amendment

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-261

Order: 1

Contact Information

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Formatted Statement

Taxpayers Association of Oregon

has a better idea:

We support more funding for the Historical Society!

but ...

We have a better idea than raising property taxes...

We favor eliminating corporate welfare.

If we eliminate corporate welfare and wasteful spending, then we can save millions in tax dollars and use the savings to fund the Oregon Historical Society.

Examples of your tax dollars wasted on luxury hotels:

- Hyatt Convention Center luxury hotel (\$74 million tax subsidies)
- Nines luxury hotel Portland (\$16 million tax subsidies)
- Ritz Carlton Portland Hotel * bankrupt * (taxpayer subsidies)

Examples of your tax dollars wasted on private companies:

- Portland JB celebrity food hall (\$10 million tax subsidies)
- Private Hillsboro baseball stadium makeover (\$30 million tax subsidies)
- Hollywood films (\$20 million Oregon tax subsidies)

Examples of tax dollars wasted on government staff parties:

- \$75,000 Employee party at the zoo by transit agency Tri-Met
- \$11,589 Staff party featuring therapy goats for Portland City staff
- \$26,500 Christmas and retirement party for Oregon Energy Trust
- \$13,000 retirement party on a boat for Portland Public School staff
- \$9,330 tostada themed party for the Governor's staff

We favor funding the Oregon Historical Society with existing tax dollars (by cutting waste) rather than raising property taxes, which would make owning a home even more unaffordable.

25 years of daily tax and political news at OregonWatchdog.com

Join the movement to keep taxes low & stop government waste at OregonWatchdog.com

Sources: Oregonian 3/25/15, Oregonian 3/25/12, Capitol Chronicle 5/2/23, OPB 6/28/25, Baseball 3/8/24, Oregon Production Investment Fund, KATU 11/15/25, Willamette Week 9/16/25, State Audit 6/2018, KGW 8 1/9/19, Oregon Capital Chronicle 1/8/25

Signature: Jason Williams

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**Joint County Voters' Pamphlet
Measure Argument**

**JCVF-03
ORS 251.335**

Filing Information

Election Date: may 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-261

Order: 2

Contact Information

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Formatted Statement

Taxpayers Association of Oregon

has a better idea:

We support more funding for the Historical Society!

But ... people are afraid to go downtown.

- Downtown visitor foot traffic down 75%.
- A million fewer visits.

The issue is crime:

- Nation's #2 top property/vandalism crime rate.

- Nation's #5 highest auto theft rate.

If you vote for Measure 26-261, then you must also vote for ways to restore Portland police and Multnomah police to their full functional levels. Otherwise, you are raising taxes to fund something that people are unwilling to visit.

Nearly 50,000 vehicles have been stolen over the past decade, and many people are afraid to return, despite progress. The Taxpayers Association opposes raising taxes to fund ancillary projects while under-funding life-saving emergency services, like police.

Portland taxpayers have foot the bill to build some of the most expensive new school buildings in the nation (Oregonian 12/4/24), only to watch Portland Public School enrollment drop. Crime drives families away.

In 2015, developers spent \$50 million beautifying the Lloyd Center mall, only for it to become a ghost town, and it is now set to close. Money can't buy customers when crime is a problem.

Millions of tax dollars were used to build the Portland Ritz-Carlton hotel and the Hyatt luxury Convention Center hotel which failed after their first year. Again, crime drove customers away.

The best thing we can do for the Oregon Historical Society is to create a safe downtown so it can flourish. We need to fund our essential, courageous and heroic police first, then fund supplementary projects.

25 years of daily tax and political news at OregonWatchdog.com

Join the movement to keep taxes low & stop government waste at OregonWatchdog.com

Sources: Portland Metro Chamber report 2/25, Security.org using FBI data 10/10/25, 2024 year KATU 1/12/26

Signature: Jason Williams

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Joint County Voters' Pamphlet
Measure Argument

JCVP-03
ORS 251.335

Filing Information

Election Date: May 19, 2026

This Filing is an: Original

Argument in Opposition

Measure #: 26-261

Order:

Contact Information

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Formatted Statement

The Oregon Historical Society provides valuable cultural programming, **but it makes little sense for a private statewide society** to be significantly funded by Multnomah County voters. Until around 2008, the museum got by on a state subsidy that was temporarily cut.

The Multnomah County subsidy was proposed in 2011 as bridge funding until state funding was restored. Kerry Tymchuk, Executive Director of the OHS, promised it would be temporary. **"If we have to ask for it again, then we haven't done our job,"** he said. *Oregonian 3/7/11*

Too often, "temporary" taxes become permanent. Over time, **small special interest taxes like these add up**, leading to wealth flight which is sending downtown Portland into a doom loop. The county commission was irresponsible to put this on the ballot.

As the Oregonian Editorial Board put it when this tax was up for renewal in 2016, "Voters should reject this measure because public funding of the society... **should be primarily shouldered by the state, not by Multnomah County residents** who stepped up in the face of an emergency on the promise that it would be temporary. The state has historically been the one to fund the society, which fulfills a statewide need. Too often, there seems to be a casual acceptance of government bodies taking on a role or responsibility that belongs to another public entity." *Oregonian 4/18/16*

With easy taxpayer funding, OHS staff have become complacent, **with spending doubling since 2008**. Other cultural institutions including the Portland Art Museum, the Oregon Symphony, and OMSI **get by just fine on memberships and donations without a special "temporary" levy** and compete on equal footing for a share of the Portland Arts Tax.

OHS is a private institution. It is shielded from public records and open meetings laws. **Why should taxpayers fund OHS when we have no say in its operations?**

Vote NO!

Libertarian Party of Multnomah County
multnomahlibertarians.com
@MultCoLiberty on X

Signature: Deanna Kallen

Date Signed(or amended): 3/23/2026 9:54 AM