

Measure No. 26-47

BALLOT TITLE

BONDS TO IMPROVE ZOO ANIMALS' CONDITIONS, ACCESS, PROVIDE EDUCATION

QUESTION: Shall the zoo improve conditions for animals, visitor accessibility, education and recreation opportunities with \$28.8 million in general obligation bonds? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of section 11b, Article XI of the Oregon constitution.

SUMMARY: Approved bonds will allow zoo to:

- Improve conditions for animals including lions, black bears, cougars, beavers
- Provide natural habitat exhibits for threatened Oregon animals including sea otters, bald eagles, trout and wolverines.
- Complete pathways; improve entrance; better zoo access.
- Make zoo more self-sufficient. Eliminate older exhibits, save maintenance costs

Bond cost estimate is less than 4 cents per \$1000 assessed value per year. \$100,000 home pays \$3.87 per year. Bonds mature in 30 years or less.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Metro Washington Park Zoo is Oregon's number one paid attraction, attracting more than 1,150,000 visitors last year. Like any institution, the Zoo requires periodic community investments to continue to fulfill its mission. In response, the Metro Council has placed a general obligation bond measure on the ballot for the Zoo. If approved, the bond will finance improvements creating better conditions for animals, including lions, beavers, black bears and cougars; new natural habitat exhibits for Oregon animals; and other changes that will make the Zoo easier to use, more self-sufficient, while saving \$4 million in future maintenance costs over five years.

The improvements were designed in consultation with animal and zoo experts, community leaders and citizens.

BETTER HOMES FOR ANIMALS AND MORE NATURAL HABITAT

The most significant element of the measure is a series of changes to the homes of some current animals and the creation of more naturalistic habitats to be accomplished by a new wildlife and habitat exhibit called the Oregon Exhibit. This exhibit will focus on our region's unique natural legacy:

- Native Oregon animals including black bears, cougars, wolverines, bobcats, trout and salmon, bald eagles, great blue heron, beavers, sea otters, sea lions and seals in Oregon habitats ranging from the Cascades to the Pacific Ocean.
- Replacement of concrete enclosures with natural habitat for lions, beavers, black bears and cougars.
- A family farm where children can pet friendly animals.

The Oregon Exhibit will promote understanding of issues such as native wildlife and habitat protection, threatened species and human impacts on ecosystems, helping us and our children make sound decisions. The new exhibit, along with additional classrooms, will increase the Zoo's ability to accomplish its educational mission. It also will strengthen the Zoo's future, becoming an important new draw for visitors from our region and beyond.

MAKING THE ZOO EASIER TO USE

The bond also will fund other improvements to make visiting the zoo a better experience:

- Completion of the Zoo's main pathway through the African Rain Forest to the entrance area.
- A new entry that will link more closely with the new light rail station and other facilities that will generate ongoing revenue for animal care and Zoo operations.

The projects funded by the bond also will save more than \$4 million in future maintenance cost by removing some of the oldest parts of the Zoo.

HELPING THE ZOO FULFILL ITS MISSION

These improvements are intended to help the Zoo fulfill its mission as:

- A recreational resource, providing multiple opportunities to learn and enjoy for children, families, adults and seniors.
- An educational resource, helping shape attitudes about our natural world and helping us formulate the decisions we make to protect our natural heritage for generations to come.

COST OF THE BONDS

The cost of the bonds is \$28.8 million, to be paid over 30 years. The rate to homeowners is less than 4 cents per \$1000 of assessed value. The cost to a typical home is estimated at \$3.87 per year.

Submitted by
METRO GENERAL COUNSEL
 Daniel B. Cooper

**NO ARGUMENTS AGAINST
 THIS MEASURE WERE FILED.**

METRO

Measure No. 26-47**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR****A Message from the Friends of the Zoo****PASSING MEASURE 26-47 MEANS BETTER HOMES AND MORE NATURAL HABITAT FOR ZOO ANIMALS**

Friends of the Zoo is a non-profit, membership organization dedicated to supporting the Metro Washington Park Zoo. We believe that passage of the zoo bond is vital to the zoo's future. Especially important is that the measure will significantly improve the homes for many zoo animals, providing natural animal habitats and a more enjoyable and educational zoo experience. Here are some highlights of planned improvements that the zoo bond will make possible:

BETTER HOMES FOR CURRENT ZOO ANIMALS

American black bears - A large pond, grassy meadow in a natural area where twice as many bears will live and eliminate 1950's concrete facilities.

Cougars - With much more space, the new home for cougars will replace the zoo's oldest exhibit.

Lions - Replacing another 1950's concrete exhibit, the lions' new home will feature grassy areas and the large boulders typical of their native African plains.

Beavers and river otters - Larger dens and lodges, better pools, more land area and more complex land/water edge will promote more activity and better viewing.

Owls - Small, cramped displays will be replaced by larger, natural habitat forest setting which encourages flight.

Native amphibians, reptiles and fish - Over 100 of these animals will be moved from "storefront" displays to natural forest and water habitats with rushing waters, ponds and streams.

Rabbits, hedgehogs, snakes, guinea pigs, opossums, ferrets and others will get new homes tailored to their specific needs and be available for petting year round.

NEW ANIMALS IN NATURAL HABITATS

The bond will also bring new animals to the zoo (*many of which are threatened species*), providing them with natural habitat as part of a new Oregon exhibit, including:

- Mountain goats
- Great Blue Heron
- Salmon
- Wolverines
- Bald eagles
- Trout
- Bobcat
- Sea otters
- Sea lions

**FRIENDS OF THE ZOO
URGE YOU TO VOTE YES
ON MEASURE 26-47**

*(This information furnished by John Inskeep,
Friends of Washington Park Zoo)*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR**PLEASE HELP THE ANIMALS**

by JORDAN WIENER, AGE 9

The zoo is my favorite place. I go there with my Mom and Dad, and my grandma when she is visiting. They like taking me and my brothers because it is a nice, clean, safe place to go. I also go to the zoo with my class. We learn about what animals are endangered, and what we can do to help save them and their habitats.

But sometimes it makes me a little sad to see some of the places that the zoo animals live. Some of their homes are too small. Many of the animal homes have way too much concrete. It should be more like the Africa Exhibit.

That is why I was very happy to hear that the zoo might be able to build better homes for all those animals and more if voters vote yes for the zoo this September. That would be great! The animals teach us a lot, and they should have a good place to live.

If voters vote yes, the zoo will also get a petting zoo where kids like me could actually touch friendly animals all year long. It would be like visiting a farm right in the middle of the city!

My Mom and Dad said that if I wrote to the grown-ups who would be voting, they might vote to let the zoo make better homes for the animals. That is why I am writing this. Please vote yes for the zoo!

(This information furnished by Jordan Wiener)

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Measure No. 26-47

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

PORTLAND OREGON VISITORS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT URGES YES VOTE ON MEASURE 26-47

As the President of the Portland Oregon Visitors Association*, I value the Metro Washington Park Zoo's tremendous contribution to our region's quality of life. No institution does a better job of entertaining and educating, while helping focus our attention on the natural world and our role in protecting it.

But zoos, like any other public institution, require periodic community investment to stay vital. Measure 26-47 is a sound investment that will pay great dividends for the zoo and our community.

IMPROVING CONDITIONS FOR ANIMALS

The heart of any zoo is how it cares for its animals. Our zoo has a number of outdated exhibits that are not as "animal friendly" as they should be. The zoo bond will replace some of the oldest exhibits, including the cramped, concrete bear, lion and cougar enclosures, while creating many new natural habitats. Examples include bobcats, sea otters, wolverines, mountain goats and others.

IMPROVING THE ZOO FOR PEOPLE, TOO

The bond will complete the main zoo path, so that visitors will, for the first time, be able to walk directly from the end of the Africa Exhibit to the entrance.

The bond will also make the zoo much more accessible and easier to use. A new entrance will align closely with the new light rail station, while ending bottlenecks and improving traffic and pedestrian flow.

A SMALL INVESTMENT WITH A BIG RETURN

New facilities will create ongoing, non-tax revenue sources for zoo operations. Replacing the oldest parts of the zoo will save more than \$4 million in maintenance and replacement costs over five years.

At only \$3.87 a year for the owner of a \$100,000 home, the zoo bond is an excellent value. Passing this measure insures our zoo a future that is better, stronger and more self sufficient.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE 26-47 FOR A BETTER ZOO FOR ANIMALS AND YOU!

*Organization named for identification purposes only.

*(This information furnished by Tim Estes, Board President,
Portland, Oregon Visitors Association)*

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ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Dear Neighbor,

Having lived in this community for over 50 years, I've had the chance to vote on hundreds of issues. So it is nice to talk to you about something we can feel good about: helping our zoo!

I bring my 6 grandchildren to the zoo several times a year. We always have a wonderful time, but there are several ways that the zoo could be made much easier to use. That is part of what Measure 26-47 does.

One way the bond will make the zoo easier to use is by finally completing the main zoo path, from the end of the Africa Exhibit to the zoo entrance. Right now, it's an awfully long, uphill walk all the way back through the zoo. Anyone who's been to the zoo lately knows what a great improvement that will be.

The bond will also build a new entrance. The current entryway is too small and is all the way at the bottom end of the parking lots. A new entryway will make getting into the zoo easier, and walking around in the zoo more effortless.

I'm very careful with my money, so I want to know that something makes sense before I vote for it. I'm delighted to learn that the zoo bond will also save maintenance and replacement costs and help the zoo earn more non-tax revenue for animal care. All this and more for less than \$4 per year for a \$100,000 home!

This measure is a smart investment in the zoo's future, and will make visiting the zoo a better experience for everyone. But there is another reason I support this measure. The zoo is very important to our kids and grandkids. It is a legacy that was given to us, and we should pass it on in good condition. It's the right thing to do.

I hope you will join me and vote Yes for the Zoo!

Sincerely,
Irene Childs

(This information furnished by Irene Childs)

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GRESHAM-BARLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT #10JT

Measure No. 26-50**BALLOT TITLE****GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND AUTHORIZATION FOR SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT**

QUESTION: Shall the District be authorized to contract a general obligation bonded indebtedness in an amount not to exceed \$32,100,000? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of Article XI, Section 11b of the Oregon Constitution.

SUMMARY: This measure, if approved, would authorize the District to issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$32,100,000. Bond proceeds would be used to replace roofs; acquire real property; improve, repair and expand schools and buildings; add computers, musical instruments, instructional and communication technology; remodel for safety, security, and earthquake requirements; improve to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act; and pay all costs incidental thereto. The bonds would mature over a period not to exceed 21 years.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The Gresham-Barlow School District is asking voters to approve a bond measure in the amount of \$32.1 million to be repaid over a period of up to 21 years. The funds will be used for:

- major repair and renovation at 15 of the district's 18 schools and facilities,
- improved classroom technology opportunities for students in all schools,
- increased safety at neighborhood schools throughout the district, and
- the purchase of a limited amount of land for future school sites to accommodate the population growth expected in this area.

Approval of the measure is estimated to cost the taxpayers an average of 46 cents per thousand dollars of assessed evaluation over the repayment period.

Background

The Gresham-Barlow School District was created in May of 1994 as a result of the state-mandated unification process. But, while the district itself is new, most of its schools are not. In fact, four Gresham-Barlow schools date from the early 1900s and four others are more than thirty years old. Over this extended period of time, the wear and tear of everyday use has resulted in the need for major repairs and long-term maintenance that cannot be adequately funded through the annual operating budget. The Board of Directors believes that a bond measure, which by law can only be used for new facilities, remodeling, technology, property, and major repairs, is the only means by which the community's schools can be brought up to standards.

Increased School Safety

Students, teachers, parents, and community members who use our schools deserve safe and secure classrooms, playgrounds, and facilities. The Gresham-Barlow School Bond Measure will provide more than \$3 million for school security, safety and code compliance. Seismic strengthening will make schools significantly safer in the event of an earthquake. Improved fire protection and emergency lighting will also enhance school safety. In addition, safety funding will help schools comply with indoor air quality standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Necessary Long-Term Repairs

The community's investment in its schools amounts to more than \$200 million. More than \$20 million in major repair and maintenance projects included in the bond measure are designed to protect that investment. Bond funds will be spent on roofs, boilers, plumbing, windows, floors, electrical systems, as well as for a limited amount of increased space within existing buildings.

Improved Classroom Technology

Today's students must understand how to use modern computers and advanced technology. The Gresham-Barlow School Bond Measure will provide \$8 million to ensure direct computer access for every student in every school. Not only will it provide computers for every classroom, it will link all students to libraries and other information sources from around the world.

Benefits for Every School and Student

Students throughout the entire district will benefit from the \$32.1 million Gresham-Barlow School Bond Measure. It will fund new computers and improved technology, increased student safety measures, and necessary long-term maintenance in every school.

Submitted by
James Carlile
Superintendent

Measure No. 26-50

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Decades Old Schools Need Your Support!

The Gresham-Barlow School District is asking voters to approve a bond measure in the amount of \$32.1 million to be repaid over a period of up to 21 years. The funds will be used for major repair and renovation at all of the district's existing schools and facilities, four of which were built in the early 1900's and four more of which are more than thirty years old. Bond measure proceeds will also provide improved classroom technology opportunities for students in all schools and increased school safety throughout the district. The average cost per thousand dollars of assessed evaluation over the repayment period is estimated to be 46 cents. That's about \$4.60 per month for the owner of a house valued at \$120,000.

Vote Yes to Protect Your Investment!

Protect the \$200 million investment you and the rest of the community have already made in your schools. An estimated \$20 million of the measure's proceeds will go for major maintenance and repair projects including new roofs, boilers, plumbing systems, windows, floors, and electrical systems. Some increased capacity will also be added to accommodate growing enrollment.

Students Need Access to Up-To-Date Technology!

To compete and succeed in the new global economy of tomorrow, today's students must understand how to use modern computers and advanced technology. This measure provides \$8 million to ensure direct computer access to every student in every school, including at least four computers in every classroom and linkage to information sources from around the world.

Dollars Needed for School Safety!

The bond measure will provide more than \$3 million for school safety and code compliance. Seismic strengthening will make schools much safer in the event of an earthquake. Improved fire protection and emergency lighting will also enhance school safety. In addition, safety funding will help schools comply with indoor air quality standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

(This information furnished by Michael Hill, Citizens for Schools)

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NO ARGUMENTS AGAINST
THIS MEASURE WERE FILED.

FUTURE ELECTION DATES

September 17, 1996	(Vote-By-Mail Election)
November 5, 1996 "GENERAL ELECTION"	(At-The-Polls Election)
March 11, 1997*	(Vote-By-Mail Election)
May 20, 1997	(Vote-By-Mail Election)
September 16, 1997	(Vote-By-Mail Election)
November 4, 1997	(Vote-By-Mail Election)

*The March 11th Special District Election is a regularly scheduled election for the nomination of candidates for Community College, Public School, Fire and Water District Boards.

A complete list of district board positions that will be on the March 11th Special District Election will be available in late November.

A list of districts and positions that will be on the March Special District Election will be published in the local newspapers during the last week in November and the first week in December.

Any qualified voter may file as a candidate for office by filing for candidacy with Multnomah County Elections between November 30, 1996 and January 9, 1997.