

RESOLUTION No. 36575

Refer renewal of Children's Levy to City voters as a local option levy for five years commencing in fiscal year 2009-10 (Resolution)

WHEREAS, in 2002 City voters approved the creation of the Children's Investment Fund through a five-year tax levy to improve the lives of Portland children; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund annually supports programs for more than 15,000 Portland children who might otherwise grow up without a healthy start and the positive influences that lead to success in school and beyond; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund support 67 different early childhood, after school and mentoring programs, and child abuse prevention and intervention programs throughout Portland; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund has kept its commitment to voters by funding only programs which are cost effective and have a proven record of success; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund has kept its commitment to voters by limiting its administrative costs to less than 5% annually; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund has leveraged its public funds with private funds, generating over \$3 million in additional private investments for children in the City of Portland; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Funds has supported early childhood programs which have helped children enter kindergarten ready to succeed; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund has supported after school and mentoring programs which have ensured children stay in school and have a safe after school environment; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund has supported child abuse prevention and intervention programs to ensure the families who are most at-risk receive the support and intervention services they need; and

WHEREAS, the Children's Investment Fund has invested in programs which have assisted foster children; the City Council believes the Fund should create a specific program category to target funding for programs for children in foster care; and

WHEREAS, the residents of City of Portland should be allowed to vote to continue the Children's Investment Fund, renewing the local option tax at the same rate levied in 2002, \$0.4026 per thousand dollars of assessed value, which will raise approximately \$14 million per year for the five-year period of the levy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Council submits an Act, attached hereto as Exhibit A, entitled: "A Measure to renew the Children's Investment Fund by directing a five year local option ad valorem tax levy within the City of Portland at a rate of \$0.4026 per

thousand dollars of assessed value, outside certain constitutional limitations, commencing in fiscal year 2009-10." be, and the same hereby is, submitted to the legal voters of the City of Portland, Oregon, for their adoption or rejection at the general election in the City of Portland, Multnomah County, Clackamas County and Washington County to be held on November 4, 2008. Each voter who votes upon said proposed measure shall vote "yes" or "no" in the space indicated for such vote on the City ballot at said election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council submits the ballot title for the November 4, 2008 general election ballot, as shown in the attached Exhibit B; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council directs the City Auditor to publish the ballot title as shown in Exhibit B in accordance with City Code; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the funds collected from the Children's Levy shall be used for the purpose of continuing the Children's Investment Fund which will continue to make targeted investments in proven, cost effective early childhood programs, programs for children in foster care, child abuse prevention and intervention and after school, summer and mentoring programs for children. The levy will extend for a period of five years and the estimated amount to be collected and spent for those programs over the five-year period of the levy is \$74,000,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the sponsoring elected official may submit an explanatory statement to the City Auditor for the publication in the voters' pamphlet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Auditor is directed to forward to the County Elections Office all material necessary to place this measure on the November 4, 2008 general election ballot.

Adopted by the Council: FEB 20 2008

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Prepared by: Shannon Callahan
Date Prepared: February 14, 2008

GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland


By 
Deputy

Exhibit A
AN ACT

A Measure to renew the Children's Investment Fund by directing a five-year local option ad valorem property tax levy within the City of Portland at a rate of \$0.4026 per thousand dollars of assessed value, outside certain constitutional limitations, commencing in fiscal year 2009-10.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE
CITY OF PORTLAND, OREGON**

Section 1. Pursuant to Section 7-112 of the Charter of the City of Portland, the Council shall levy for each of five successive years commencing with the fiscal year 2009-10, at the time taxes are levied for the payment of expenses of the City, a special tax at a rate of \$0.4026 per thousand dollars of assessed value, on all property in the City of Portland not exempt from taxation. The proceeds from such levy shall be placed in a special fund to be designated as the Children's Investment Fund. The money in this fund shall be expended only for purposes of cost effective, proven early childhood programs, child abuse prevention and intervention, programs targeted at foster children, and after school, summer and mentoring programs for children. No more than 5% of the fund may be spent for expenses associated with administering the fund. The fund shall be subject to annual audit. An Allocation Committee, composed of at least five members, shall make recommendations regarding the expenditure of funds from the Children's Investment Fund to the Portland City Council. This local option levy is specifically authorized, and it shall not be counted as within the limitation provided in Sections 11 of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Oregon. This levy shall, however, be subject to proportional reduction under Section 11(11)(c)(B)(I) of Article XI of the Constitution of the State of Oregon. This special tax hereby authorized shall be in addition to all other taxes that may be levied according to law.

Exhibit B
BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR CHILDREN'S LEVY

CAPTION

Renew Five-year levy for Children's Investment Fund

QUESTION

Shall Portland continue supporting child abuse prevention, foster children, early childhood, after school programs, renewing five-year levy starting 2009?

This Measure may cause property taxes to increase by more than three percent.

SUMMARY

Measure would continue financing the Children's Investment Fund to support proven programs designed to help children arrive at school ready to learn, provide safe and constructive after school alternatives for kids, help foster children and prevent child abuse, neglect and family violence.

This Children's Investment Fund can only be used for:

- **Child abuse prevention and intervention:** addressing juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse and homeless youth.
- **Early childhood programs:** making childcare more affordable and preparing children for success in school.
- **After school, summer and mentoring programs:** promoting academic achievement, reducing the number of juveniles victimized by crime and increasing graduation rates.
- **Children in foster care programs:** helping foster children succeed who have been abused and neglected.

Accountability measures include:

- Programs funded must be cost effective and have a proven record of success.
- Investment fund subject to oversight by a citizen committee.
- Investment fund subject to annual audits.
- Administrative costs cannot exceed 5%.

Levy is \$0.4026 per \$1000 of assessed property value, and produces an estimated \$14 million per year for 5 years.