

MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Required for all Measures Submitted with Multnomah County Elections

ELECTION DATE November 4, 2008	MEASURE NUMBER 26-94	
BALLOT TITLE CAPTION Renew Five-year Levy for Children's Investment Fund		
NAME OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT Commissioner Dan Saltzman		
NAME OF JURISDICTION PERSON REPRESENTS City of Portland		
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Please use space below or attach text on a separate sheet of paper.

See attached.

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WORD/NUMBER COUNT TOTAL (500 word/number limit) 478

Dan Saltzman

SIGNATURE OF PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTENT OF STATEMENT

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EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Renewal of the Portland Children's Levy

Measure 26-94 will renew the Portland Children's Levy at the same tax rate that voters approved when they established the Portland Children's Investment Fund in 2002.

By renewing the Children's Levy, Portland will continue to support the Children's Investment Fund which funds proven programs to help kids succeed, and protect them from abuse and crime.

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

The Portland Children's Investment Fund invests only in proven, cost-effective programs that:

- **Ensure children are ready to learn and achieve greater academic success.** This also eases the burdens on our schools and teachers because children are better prepared and there are fewer disruptive children in the classroom.
- **Prevent children from becoming victims of crime.** The Levy supports programs that give kids safe, constructive things to do during the hours they are most at risk of getting into trouble or becoming victimized.
- **Protects children from child abuse and neglect.** The Levy prevents and protects children from terrible circumstances, and works to eliminate the greatest risk factor for juvenile crime, drug and alcohol abuse and homeless youth.

The Portland Children's Investment Fund

Measure 26-94 will renew the Portland Children's Investment Fund through a five-year property tax levy. The rate will remain as same as voters approved in 2002. The money this levy raises can only be used for proven programs to serve children in the following areas:

- **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.

These four areas have been chosen because they provide the greatest payoff both in terms of improving children's lives and providing long-term savings to the community. Leading economic experts agree that early childhood education has the highest return of any public investment – as much as \$17 saved for every dollar spent. With the average cost to jail a

juvenile offender at \$59,000 per year, the Levy's focus on helping children succeed is designed to be a prudent investment in our future.

Accountability Measures

Measure 26-94 contains several elements to ensure accountability, efficiency and effectiveness:

- Only supports programs that are cost-effective and proven to work
- Oversight by a citizens committee
- Administrative expenses are limited to 5% or less.
- Annual independent audits.

Submitted by:

Portland City Council



Mayor Tom Potter



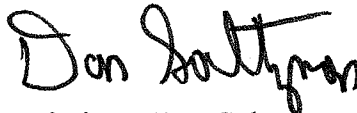
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