

### Measure Explanatory Statement for County Voters' Pamphlet

**Important! Read all instructions before completing this form.** Use this form when filing a 'Measure Explanatory Statement for County Voters' Pamphlet' with your County Elections office. If a local government is located in more than one county, the county clerk of the county in which the city hall of the city or the administrative office of the local government is located shall be the filing officer for the 'Measure Explanatory Statement for County Voters' Pamphlet'.

#### Filing Information

Election:  Primary 20 18     General 20 \_\_\_\_\_     Special \_\_\_\_\_    Measure # 26 - 197

#### Ballot Title Caption

Renew Portland Children's Levy for five years.

Name of Person responsible for content of 'Explanatory Statement' (as it should appear in the Voters' Pamphlet):

Commissioner Dan Saltzman

Name of Jurisdiction/Organization Person is authorized to represent (as it should appear in the Voters' Pamphlet):

City of Portland

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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#### SIGNATURE



3/5/18

Signature of person responsible for content of 'Explanatory Statement'

Date

#### MEASURE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

See attached for 'Measure Explanatory Statement' (500 word/number MAX).

#### For Office Use only:

County: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed?  Yes  No

'Measure Explanatory Statement' attached?

Yes  No

Intake Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Word count (500 max):

Providing digital file?  Yes  No

Received digital file?  Yes  No

Review Staff Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Measure 26-197 will renew the Portland Children's Levy at the same tax rate that voters approved in 2002, 2008 and 2013. By renewing the Children's Levy, Portland will continue to fund programs to help kids succeed, protecting them from abuse, crime and hunger. The Portland Children's Levy supports proven programs for more than 15,000 children annually who might otherwise grow up without a healthy start and the positive influences that lead to success in school and beyond.

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

- Ensure children are ready to learn and achieve greater academic success, which eases burdens on schools and teachers because children are better prepared and less disruptive in the classroom.
- Prevent children from becoming victims of crime by supporting programs that give kids safe, constructive things to do during the hours they are most at risk of getting into trouble or becoming victimized.
- Protect children from child abuse and neglect. The Children's Levy helps shield children from terrible circumstances and works to eliminate the two greatest risk factors for juvenile crime: drug and alcohol abuse, and homelessness.
- Provide foster children with quality services that improve their chance at success, including educational support, mentoring and mental health services that increase school success and decrease rates of juvenile crime.

Measure 26-197 will renew the Portland Children's Levy at the same tax rate that voters approved in 2002, 2008 and 2013.

Money raised through the Portland Children's Levy can only be used in program areas that deliver the greatest payoff by 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 is saved for every dollar spent. Because the average cost to jail a juvenile offender is \$79,000 annually, the Children's Levy is a prudent investment in our shared future.

The Portland Children's Levy supports the following program areas:

- Child abuse prevention and intervention: addressing juvenile crime, school failure, drug and alcohol abuse and homeless youth.
- Early childhood programs: preparing children for success in school and making quality childcare more affordable.
- 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.
- Child hunger: improving children's access to nutritious meals, leading to improved health and academic success.

The Portland Children's Levy contains several elements to ensure accountability, efficiency and effectiveness:

- Supports only proven, cost-effective programs
- Oversight by a citizen committee
- Administrative expenses limited to 5% or less
- Annual independent audits

Submitted by: Portland City Council