

Notice of Measure Election

District

SEL 803

rev 03/18 ORS 250.035,
250.041, 255.145, 255.345

26-210

Notice *Referred to the people of the Metro Region by the Metro Council.*

Date of Notice

Name of District

Name of County or Counties

Date of Election

March 18, 2020

Metro

Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington

May 19, 2020

Final Ballot Title The following is the final ballot title of the measure to be submitted to the district's voters. The ballot title notice has been published and the ballot title challenge process has been completed.

Caption 10 words which reasonably identifies the subject of the measure.

(See attached)

Question 20 words which plainly phrases the chief purpose of the measure.

(See attached)

Summary 175 words which concisely and impartially summarizes the measure and its major effect.

(See attached)

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DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

Explanatory Statement 500 words that impartially explains the measure and its effect.

If the county is producing a voters' pamphlet an explanatory statement must be drafted and attached to this form for:

- any measure referred by the district elections authority; or
- any initiative or referendum, if required by local ordinance.

Explanatory Statement Attached?

Yes

No

Authorized District Official Not required to be notarized.

Name

Title

Carrie MacLaren

Metro Attorney

Mailing Address

Contact Phone

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By signing this document:

- I hereby state that I am authorized by the district elections authority to submit this Notice of Measure Election; and
- I certify that notice of receipt of ballot title has been published and the ballot title challenge process for this measure completed.

Signature

3/18/2020
Date Signed

Caption: Supports homeless services through higher earners' tax, business profits tax.

Question: Should Metro support homeless services, tax income over \$200,000/\$125,000 (joint/single), profits on businesses with income over \$5 million?

Summary: Measure funds supportive housing services to prevent and reduce homelessness in Washington, Clackamas, and Multnomah counties within district boundaries. Prioritizes services to address needs of people experiencing, or at risk of, long-term or frequent episodes of homelessness. Services funded by a marginal income tax of 1% on households with income over \$200,000 (over \$125,000 for single filers) and a business profits tax of 1%. Income tax applies to resident income, and to non-resident income earned from sources within district. Exempts businesses with gross receipts of \$5 million per year or less.

Declares funding for homelessness services a matter of metropolitan concern, directs regional funding to local services agencies, requires community engagement to develop localized implementation plans. Allocates funds to counties by estimated revenue collected within each county. Establishes community oversight committee to evaluate and approve local plans, monitor program outcomes and uses of funds. Requires creation of tri-county homeless services coordination plan.

Requires performance reviews and independent financial audits. Metro administrative and oversight costs limited to 5%. Requires voter approval to continue tax after 2030.

Explanatory Statement

The greater Portland region is facing a severe housing affordability and homelessness crisis. Rents and housing prices have risen faster than wages, making it especially hard for people living on fixed retirement or disability incomes to afford housing. While it is difficult to accurately estimate the number of people experiencing homelessness, or at risk of becoming homeless, according to a February 2020 report by EcoNorthwest, an estimated 38,263 people (24,260 households) experienced homelessness in 2017 in Washington, Clackamas and Multnomah counties; thousands more were at risk.

Homelessness disproportionately impacts people with disabilities, people of color, and seniors. For people who experience homelessness, disabling conditions such as mental illness, chronic medical conditions, and addiction are made worse, and become barriers to housing placement.

Providing supportive housing services is a widely demonstrated approach to effectively end homelessness for individuals who have experienced prolonged and repeated homelessness, and protecting families from becoming homeless with prevention assistance. Supportive housing services include case management, mental healthcare, addiction and recovery treatment, employment services, rent assistance, and other care as needed. Despite state and local efforts to increase investment in supportive housing services, the need in greater Portland exceeds local capacity.

This measure will authorize Metro to establish a regional supportive housing funding program, providing the resources to address unmet needs of people experiencing or at risk of experiencing long-term or frequent episodes of homelessness in the greater Portland region. The measure will result in a substantial increase in the delivery of supportive housing services.

Supportive housing services will be funded by a marginal personal income tax of 1% on households with taxable income over \$200,000 (or taxable income over \$125,000 for individual tax filers) and a business profits tax of 1% with an exemption for small businesses that have gross receipts of \$5 million or less per year. The personal income tax will be assessed on residents of the Metro district, and on non-residents who have income earned from sources within the district. Only income above \$200,000 (\$125,000 individual) is taxed.

In each county a local implementation plan will be developed to describe how supportive housing services will be prioritized and delivered to address local needs. Local plans must be developed using comprehensive community engagement that prioritizes those most directly affected by the homelessness crisis.

A regional oversight committee with broad geographic representation will review and evaluate each local plan, monitor local implementation, and review spending. The oversight committee will report every year to Metro Council on program outcomes and areas for improvement, and annual performance and financial audits of funding for supportive housing services will be conducted. Metro administrative costs are limited to 5% and must be reviewed annually. The measure requires voter approval to continue after 2030.

On Behalf of:

Metro Council President Lynn Peterson

Councilor Shirley Craddick

Councilor Christine Lewis

Councilor Craig Dirksen

Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzales

Councilor Sam Chase

Councilor Bob Stacey

Submitted by:

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney