

SUBSCRIBE



DONATE



Portland Metro, Oregon, Measure 26-210, Income and Business Taxes for Homeless Services (May 2020)

A **income and business tax measure** was on the ballot for Portland Metro voters in Multnomah, Clackamas, and Washington counties in Oregon, on May 19, 2020.^[1]

A **"yes"** vote supported authorizing a 1% tax on household income above \$200,000 and individual income above \$150,000 and a 1% profit tax on businesses with gross receipts higher than \$5 million to fund homeless services with the taxes expiring in 2030.

A **"no"** vote opposed authorizing a 1% tax on household income above \$200,000 and individual income above \$150,000 and a 1% profit tax on businesses with gross receipts higher than \$5 million to fund homeless services with the taxes expiring in 2030, thereby maintaining the marginal tax rate at 9.9% for household income above \$250,000 and individual income above \$125,000.

A simple majority was required for the approval of Measure 26-210. The income tax was designed to be on resident and non-resident income earned within the Metro area. Metro officials estimated the combined revenue of the income and business taxes to be \$248 million per year. The tax would take effect in 2021 and expire in 2030.^[2]

Measure 26-210 required that the revenue raised by the income and business taxes divided according to the proportion expected to be received from the three counties make up Portland Metro. Multnomah County was set to receive 45.3 percent of the

Portland Metro Measure 26-210



Election date

May 19, 2020

Topic

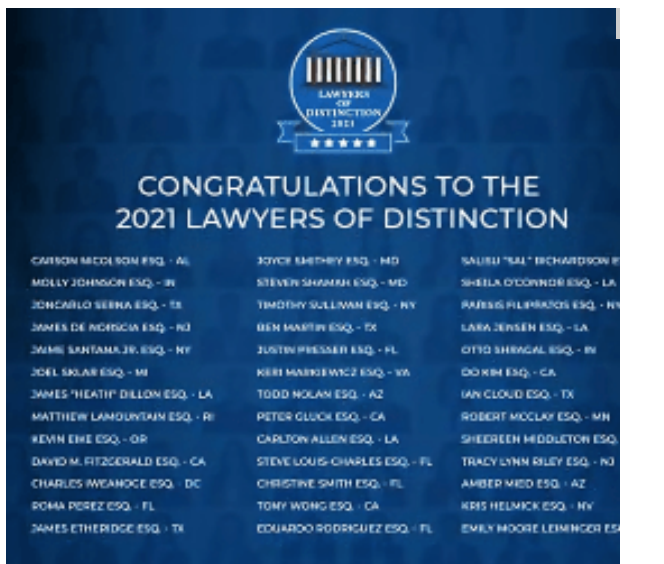
Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

nd Local
x
ig
2
make

Washington County was set to receive 33.3 percent, and Clackamas County was set to receive 21.3 percent. A 20-member oversight committee was set to be formed to conduct and publish annual financial audits.^[2]

List of Oregon measures
▼

Submit



Election results

Portland Measure 26-210		
Result	Votes	Percentage
✔ Yes	299,517	57.98%
No	217,091	42.02%

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

Results are officially certified.

Source

Text of measure

Ballot question

The ballot question was as follows:^[1]

“ Should Metro support homeless services, tax income over \$200,000/\$125,000 (joint/single), profits on businesses with income over \$5 million?^[3] ”

Ballot summary

The ballot summary was as follows:^[1]

“ 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 implementation, and report to Metro. Requires creation of tri-county homeless services coordination plan. Requires financial audits. Metro administrative and oversight costs limited to 5%. Requires Metro to report to voters by 2030.^[3] ”

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

Full text

The full text of the measure is available here .

Support

Here Together Coalition led the campaign in support of Measure 26-210.^[4]



Supporters

- Governor Kate Brown (D)^[5]
- U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley (D)^[5]
- U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D)^[5]
- U.S. Congresswoman Suzanne Bonamici(D)^[5]
- State Treasurer Tobias Read (D)^[5]
- Multnomah County Chair Deborah Kafoury^[6]
- Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal (District 2)^[7]
- Metro Council President Lynn Peterson^[1]
- Metro Councilor Shirley Craddick^[1]
- Metro Councilor Christine Lewis^[1]
- Metro Councilor Craig Dirksen^[1]
- Metro Councilor Juan Carlos Gonzales^[1]
- Metro Councilor Sam Chase^[1]
- Metro Councilor Bob Stacey^[1]
- Former Portland Trailblazer Bill Walton^[8]

Arguments

- **Craig Dirksen**, Metro Portland councilman said, "In my district in southern homelessness crisis may look different than in downtown Portland, but no ... Every part of this region has a major gap to fill when it comes to getting people the help we need."^[2]

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.



- **Stan Amy, Gun Denhart, and Tom Kelly**, founders of the Oregon Business Association, said, "The 1% tax on large businesses is a reasonable and fair approach—and the need is undeniable. That is why, as business leaders in our region, we urge voters to say “yes” to Measure 26-210. The companies to be taxed are only those with over \$5 million in sales a year. As a result, this measure exempts 94% of all businesses in the region; most notably small and medium-sized businesses."^[9]
- **Michael Sterner**, the housing services program manager at El Programa Hispano Católico, said, "[I]t is essential to have assistance funds that can be used throughout the Metro area. We have had to deny assistance to families in need because they are in neighboring counties for temporary shelter or due to a pending court proceeding. Funds available throughout the Metro area would allow us to help those families, too."^[10]

Official arguments

The following arguments in support of the measure were included in the 2020 Voters' Pamphlet provided by Here CareOregon, Health Share of Oregon, Kaiser Permanente, Legacy Health, and Providence Health & Services - Oregon:^[5]

“ As leading nonprofit health care providers in the Portland metro region, we know that housing is health. Without a safe, stable place to call home, it’s nearly impossible for our patients to focus on basic health and medical needs, and for our doctors and nurses to keep them healthy. Patients who are homeless have a higher rate of hospital admissions and emergency room visits, while also suffering from poorer health outcomes and higher mortality rates. This disparity is even more devastating during the COVID-19 public health crisis we are confronting. While some of us are business competitors, we are all in the business of keeping people healthy. That’s why we support Measure 26-210 - we are all in this together, to serve people experiencing homelessness in our community. In Oregon and across America, we and other health care organizations are investing in housing development, supportive services, safety-net clinics, community health workers, and much more. Here in the metro region, we are working collaboratively with government and nonprofit partners to address a key driver of health - housing instability and homelessness - to improve the health and well-being of the communities we serve. As major health care systems, we won’t back down from our commitment to helping house and care for vulnerable people in our community. But with thousands of families and individuals experiencing or at risk of

Opposition

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

2

Alliance for an Affordable Metro led the campaign in opposition to Measure 26-210.^[11]

Opponents

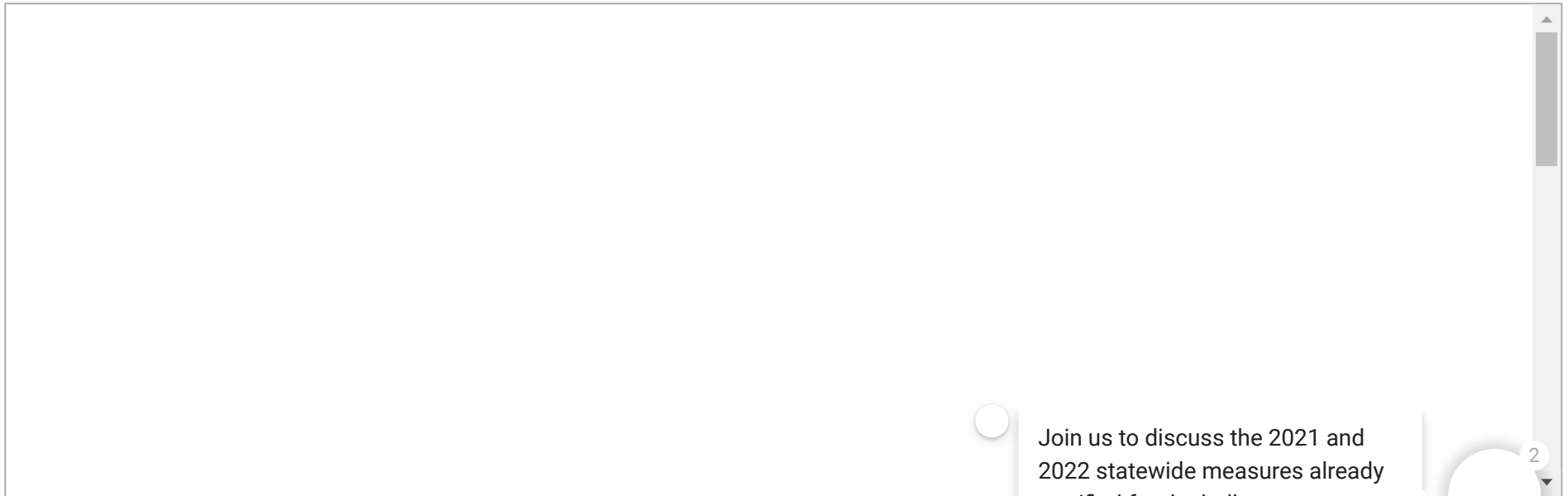
- Taxpayer Association of Oregon^[5]
- Oregon Small Business Association^[5]
- Cascade Policy Institute^[5]
- Northwest Grocery Association^[12]

Arguments

- **Joe Gilliam**, president of Northwest Grocery Association, said, "Retail sales are down. Small businesses are boarding up, and they're saying 'Too bad for you. We're going to tax you now.'^[12]

Official arguments

The following arguments in opposition to the measure were included in the 2020 Voters' Pamphlet provided by Cascade Policy Institute:^[5]



Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

Media editorials

See also: *2020 ballot measure media endorsements*

Support

- **Portland Mercury** said: "The brainchild of numerous housing and homeless advocacy groups, the measure would use tax dollars to expand already-existing supporting housing programs in the region. ... It's on us to offer our most vulnerable neighbors a path forward."^[13]

Opposition

- **Portland Tribune** said: "Every taxpayer-supplied penny available — and likely more — will be needed over the next two years just to retain existing, critical state and local services such as education and health care. For this reason, we cannot support Metro's Measure 26-210, which would raise money for wrap-around services for people who are homeless."^[14]

Background

Homeless population in Portland Metro

A 2019 report by Portland State University Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative and Northwest Economic Research Center found that an estimated two percent of the area's population or 38,000 people were homeless at some point in 2017. In January 2019, more than 75 percent of the homeless population in the Portland Metro area had a disability. Compared to other metropolitan areas, Portland had the fifth-highest number of homeless individuals per 1,000 residents with 5.86. Cities with higher rates than Portland included New York City, San Francisco, Boston, and Washington, D.C.^{[2][15][16]}

Funding for homeless services on the ballot

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

In 2020, Ballotpedia covered local measures that appear on the ballot for voters within the top 100 largest cities in the U.S. Ballotpedia also covered all local measures in California and all statewide ballot measures. Below is a list of local ballot measures concerning homeless services since 2016 within Ballotpedia's scope:

- Anchorage, Alaska, Proposition 9, Alcoholic Beverage Sales Tax for Behavioral Health, Homelessness Services, and Prohibited Campsite Removal Charter Amendment (April 2019) ❌
- San Francisco, California, Proposition C, Gross Receipts Tax for Homelessness Services (November 2018) ✔️
- Denver, Colorado, Initiated Ordinance 301, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Homelessness Services Sales Tax (November 2018) ✔️
- San Francisco, California, Proposition D, Commercial Rent Tax for Housing and Homelessness Services (June 2018) ✔️
- Emeryville, California, Measure C, Bonds for Housing and Homelessness Services (June 2018) ✔️
- Dallas, Texas, Homeless Service Facilities Bond Issue, Proposition J (November 2017) ✔️
- Los Angeles County, California, Sales Tax for Homeless Services and Prevention, Measure H (March 2017) ✔️
- San Francisco, California, Homeless Services and Transportation Funds Amendment, Proposition J (November 2016) ✔️

Path to the ballot

See also: Laws governing local ballot measures in Oregon

This measure was put on the ballot through a unanimous vote of the Portland Metro Council on February 25, 2020.^{[1][2]}

See also

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

Local measures



- Local measures in 2020
- Local income tax on the ballot
- Local business tax on the ballot
- Multnomah County measures
- Clackamas County measures
- Washington County measures

Oregon



- May 19, 2020 measures in Oregon
- Local ballot measures, Oregon
- Portland Metro, Oregon

News and analysis



- State and local preemption conflicts
- Measures advancing national agendas

External links

- Search Google News for this topic
- *Multnomah County Elections Office* website

BP Suggest a link

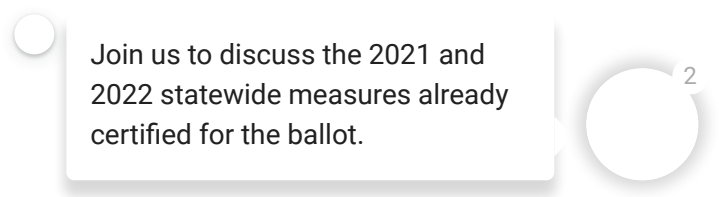
Footnotes

1. *Multnomah County Elections*, "Measure 26-208 Ballot Language," accessed April 6, 2020
2. *Oregon Metro*, "Measure 26-210: Supportive housing services," accessed April 6, 2020
3. *Note: This text is quoted verbatim from the original source. Any inconsistencies are attributable to the original source.*
4. *HereTogether Coalition*, "Home," accessed April 6, 2020
5. *Multnomah County*, "2020 Voter Guide," accessed April 10, 2020
6. *HereTogether Coalition*, "Public Testimony: Multnomah County Chair Debora
7. *HereTogether Coalition*, "Public Testimony: Commissioner Susheela Jayapal, February 25, 2020

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

Only the first few references on this page are shown above. Click to show more.

Ballotpedia features 321,054 encyclopedic articles written and curated by our professional staff of editors, writers, and researchers. [Click here to contact our editorial staff](#), and [click here to report an error](#). [Click here to contact us for media inquiries](#), and please [donate here to support our continued expansion](#).



Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

GET ENGAGED

Front Page
 Sample Ballot Lookup
 Who Represents Me?
 Email Updates
 Ballotpedia Events
 Donate to Ballotpedia
 Other Ways to Engage
 Job Opportunities
 Report an Error

2021 ELECTIONS

U.S. Congress special elections
 Governors
 State Executives
 Signature requirements/deadlines
 State Legislatures
 State Legislative Specials
 Ballot Measures
 State Judges
 Municipal Officials
 School Boards

ELECTION RESOURCES

Sample Ballot Lookup
 Election Calendar
 Election Results
 Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection
 Poll Opening and Closing Times
 State Voter ID Laws
 Early Voting
 Absentee Voting
 Online Voter Registration
 Ballot Access

GOVERNMENT

U.S. President
 U.S. Congress
 U.S. Supreme Court
 Federal Courts
 State Executives
 State Legislatures
 State Courts
 State Ballot Measures
 Local Ballot Measures
 Municipal Government
 School Boards
 Local Courts
 Recalls

POLITICS

Biden Admin. Cabinet
 Administrative State
 Supreme Court Cases
 State Trifectas
 State Triplexes
 Influencers
 Redistricting
 Polling Indexes

PUBLIC POLICY

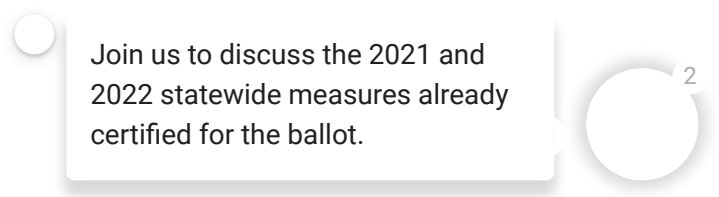
Responses to coronavirus
 Overview
 Budget
 Campaign Finance
 Civil Liberties
 Education
 Election
 Endangered Species
 Energy
 Environment
 Finance
 Healthcare
 Immigration
 Pension
 Redistricting

ABOUT US

About Ballotpedia
 Index of Contents
 Scope of Ballotpedia
 History of Ballotpedia
 Contact us
 Media Inquiries
 Advertise with Ballotpedia
 Ballotpedia Staff
 Neutrality Policy
 Privacy Policy
 Editorial Independence
 General Disclaimer
 Ad Policy

Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.

Voting



Join us to discuss the 2021 and 2022 statewide measures already certified for the ballot.