

ENDORSEMENTS, from page 4

few and far between, we would probably argue otherwise, but this is an urban county with multiple law enforcement agencies working our streets.

It's time we stop letting special interests within the sheriff's department choose their boss, and disconnect political ambition from the job of law enforcement. Accountability comes with the oversight of the county chair who is responsible to citizens, rather than sheriffs union interests.

MEASURE 26-184

Limits contributions, expenditures; requires disclosure in Multnomah County candidate elections

YES



This county charter amendment was written with the intent of challenging an Oregon Supreme Court ruling that bans caps on campaign contributions and the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Citizens United, which opened the floodgates to allow for unprecedented amounts of dark money to flow into our elections nationwide.

We endorse this measure, not only because we support those challenges, but also because it would amplify the voices of small donors in future Multnomah County elections by allowing an exception to contribution caps for political committees that accept no more than \$100 per donor. It would also require political committees to report their sources of funding.

While there were notable concerns brought forth by Multnomah County Commissioner Loretta Smith around the ability of women and people of color to get elected without large contributions, we feel the potential of this measure to get dark money out of politics and help the U.S. reclaim its democracy warrants a "yes" vote.

MEASURE 26-185

Amends charter review committee appointment process, sets appointment, convening timelines

YES



This is a basic housecleaning measure; we see no reason to vote no.

City of Portland measures

MEASURE 26-179

Bonds to fund affordable housing

YES



Street Roots is a proud founding member of the Welcome Home Coalition, made up of more than 140 organizations, which has worked for the past two years to help support bringing this ballot measure to voters.

Measure 26-179 is a Portland bond measure that will pay for 1,300 deeply affordable housing units in Portland that will house an estimated 3,000 people. Funding provided by the measure will also be used to acquire existing market-rate housing to keep Portlanders from being displaced.

The affordable housing units built will go to support vulnerable people on the streets, including hundreds of two-bedroom units to support struggling families. The average cost to Portland homeowners is an estimated \$6.25 a month. That's two cups of coffee every month to help provide adequate housing for thousands of Portlanders.

Street Roots sees firsthand the harsh reality of homelessness. We know the only solution to ending homelessness is by increasing the stock of deeply affordable housing units in our community. The housing crisis in our community is real, and this measure is one tool Portland can use to help give individuals and families a safe place to call home.

Here are a few examples of why this measure is critical for our community:

- While families wait for shelter and permanent homes, their kids don't get the sleep they need and can't get to school on time or regularly.
- Parents struggle to keep the employment necessary to get back into housing - difficult while also trying to keep their families safe.

• Seniors suffer with medical conditions worsened by stress, lack of sleep, inconsistent diets, prolonged standing and limited access to medication.

• While Portlanders with disabilities wait, many have nowhere to turn for help except emergency rooms.

• Those of us on the front lines of poverty know the only solution to homelessness is more affordable homes for Portlanders with very low incomes.

• Homelessness on our streets will only increase without prioritizing affordable housing in our city.

Voting yes on Measure 26-179 will create urgently needed permanent and affordable homes for 3,000 Portlanders, and tens of thousands of Portlanders over the lives of these new apartment buildings. This is the right and necessary step for Portland to take now to ensure our city is safe and accessible for all.

MEASURE 26-180

Establish tax on recreational marijuana sales; dedicate purposes for funds

YES



The Oregon Legislature voted to reduce the tax on recreational marijuana from 25 to 17 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2017. With the addition of this 3 percent tax on the sales of recreational - not medical - marijuana, the total sales tax amount in Portland would be 20 percent. That's less than it is today, and a lower tax rate than Washington and Colorado have placed on recreational marijuana. It's projected to net \$3 million annually that will go to programs for those affected most by the war on drugs.

This superhero tax is slated for a slew of admittedly noble causes, including investments in firefighters, paramedics and police to reduce the impact of drug abuse; alcohol and drug treatment accessibility; employment readiness and support for neighborhood and small businesses; providing economic opportunities to communities disproportionately affected by cannabis prohibition; and even street infrastructure projects. We urge City Council not to spread it too thin.

Street Roots knows, through our reporting, advocacy and experience with people on the street struggling with addiction, that drug and alcohol treatment services in Portland are seriously lacking. We'd like to see a substantial amount of this tax go to making sure that treatment is available to the people who need it most, within the often-narrow window that they are ready to quit.

