

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY

## Measure 26-184

Referred to the people by the Board of County Commissioners as recommended by the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee.

### BALLOT TITLE

#### Limits contributions, expenditures, requires disclosure in Multnomah County candidate elections.

**Question:** Should charter require limit contributions, certain funding disclosures, expenditures by individuals and certain entities to support/oppose candidates for county offices?

**Summary:** Creates charter provision, implemented by county ordinance, operative September 2017:

1. Limits Contributions, Expenditures to support or oppose Candidates for Multnomah County elected offices:
  - Limits Contributions received by Candidate, Candidate Committee per Election Cycle to:
    - from any Individual: \$500
    - from any Political Committee: \$500
  - Allows formation of Small Donor Committees, limits Contributions they may accept to \$100 or less per Individual person per year. No limits on a Small Donor Committee's Contributions to Candidates or Independent Expenditures.
  - Requires Entity that spends more than \$750 per election cycle on Independent Expenditures register as a Political Committee, requires reporting of the sources of its funding.
  - Limits Independent Expenditures in any County Candidate race to:
    - \$5,000 per Individual
    - \$10,000 per Political Committee, but only from contributions by Individuals of \$500 or less per year
2. Requires each Communication (defined) to voters related to County Candidate Election prominently disclose five largest true original sources of funding (in excess of \$500) for the Communication.
3. Provides civil fine for violations. Includes definitions.

### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

This measure creates a new Charter provision placing limitations on:

1. Contributions to political campaigns for candidates running for county elective offices.
2. Independent Expenditures in support or opposition to any Candidate for a county elective office.

The measure also requires that each Communication to voters related to a Multnomah County Candidate Election prominently disclose the five largest true original sources of funding (in excess of \$500) for the Communication.

The measure is to be implemented by county ordinance operative not later than September 1, 2017.

#### Provisions:

The measure:

1. Limits Contributions and Expenditures to support or oppose Candidates for public office in Multnomah County elections:
  - Limits Candidate or Candidate Committee to receiving only these Contributions per Election Cycle:
    - from any Individual: \$500
    - from any Political Committee: \$500
  - Allows formation of Small Donor Committees, which may accept contributions only in amounts of \$100 or less per Individual person per calendar year. Imposes no limits on a Small Donor Committee's contributions to Candidates or Independent Expenditures, as long as it complies with the \$100 per Individual per year limit on its incoming contributions.
  - Requires any entity that spends more than \$750 per Election Cycle on Independent Expenditures to register as a Political Committee, which requires reporting of the sources of its funding and its expenditures to the state ORESTAR system.
  - Limits Independent Expenditures in any Multnomah County Candidate race to:
    - \$5,000 per Individual
    - \$10,000 per Political Committee, but only from contributions to the Political Committee by Individuals of \$500 or less per Individual per calendar year
2. Requires that each Communication (defined) to voters related to a Multnomah County Candidate Election prominently disclose the five largest true original sources of Contributions and/or Independent Expenditures in excess of \$500 each that funded the Communication.
3. Violations are subject to a civil fine of not less than two and not more than twenty times the amount of the unlawful Contribution, Expenditure or Independent Expenditure.
4. Allows Individuals to make Contributions by payroll deduction, if the employer agrees or institutes payroll deductions for any other purpose.
5. Includes adjustments for inflation on January 1 of each odd-numbered year.
6. Includes a severability clause to preserve the operation of all constitutionally valid elements of measure, should any portion be judicially determined to be unconstitutional.

#### Definitions:

"Contribution" and "Expenditure" are defined in state law, with some exceptions added in this measure. State law defines "Political Committee", "Candidate", and "Candidate Committee". Other terms defined in the measure include: "Communication", "Election Cycle", "Entity", "Individual", "Membership Organization", "Small Donor Committee".

"Election Cycle" is defined generally is the period between elections for the same office, disregarding intervening primary, nominating, recall, or vacancy elections; a different period is used for recall and special elections for vacancies.

Submitted by  
Jacqueline A. Weber  
Deputy County Attorney  
Multnomah County

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### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Alliance for Democracy urges YES on 26-184 for limits on campaign contributions/expenditures and disclosure of true funders of county-level political campaigns.

Ten years ago Oregon voters approved limits on campaign contributions/expenditures and prominent disclosure of who funded political ads. The Secretary of State and Attorney General refused to enforce that measure, effectively overturning the will of the people.

Thus, Oregon has had no limits, one of only six such states. As a result, we have among the most expensive political races in the nation. Our political leaders should not be decided by who has the most money to spend; yet, in the vast majority of cases, that is exactly what happens.

Just in the past several weeks, we have read of contributions being given to Portland City Councilor Steve Novick from corporations and people with interests before the City Council.\* This is not unusual. While we don't know that these contributions (many of them \$5,000 each) influenced his decisions, we are left to wonder if decisions are made on the basis of merit or on the basis of who has made big contributions. We wonder if contributions are in fact bribery.

\*He has taken very large contributions from half a dozen real estate developers, rail car manufacturers, a steel company executive, and Nike.

We should not have to wonder; we should be able to trust that merit is the deciding factor.

Voters in Multnomah County now have the opportunity to enact limits and disclosure requirements for county level offices – county commissioner, auditor, district attorney, and sheriff. Measure 26-184 limits contributions to \$500 per individual per election cycle, limits the amounts of independent expenditures, and bans all corporate contributions and expenditures. Further, it requires political advertisements disclose the real identity of the top 5 funders of the ads.

We deserve HONEST ELECTIONS.  
We want limits on campaign contributions/expenditures.  
Vote YES on 26-184!

*(This information furnished by Alliance For Democracy)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### Reclaim Democracy at Home

#### Get Big Money out of Politics

We had the honor of serving in the Multnomah County Charter Review Committee, convened every six years to refer amendments to the County Charter. We put Measure 26-184 on the ballot to give our neighbors the chance to enact meaningful campaign finance reform.

While the worst excesses occur at the national level, Multnomah County is not impervious to the rising tide of big money. The 2014 race for County Commission Chair set a record, with the winning candidate spending \$466,000. The future does not bode well, as Oregon is one of six states to place no limits on campaign contributions

**Reclaim our democracy.** We all want a government of, by and for the people. But right now, big money wields undue power. By limiting campaign contributions and independent expenditures, Measure 26-184 strikes a blow for democracy in Multnomah County.

**Get big money out.** Enough is enough with big money flooding our political system! This measure puts reasonable limits on campaign contributions and independent expenditures.

**Send a strong message: “money is not speech; corporations are not people.”** Measure 26-184 challenges the destructive U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United*.

**Remove obstacles** to running for office. Imagine a political system where a candidates with good ideas and strong messages can run viable campaigns, even if they are not wealthy or connected to moneyed interests.

**Strengthen small donors.** This measure allows the formation of “small donor committees” that have no spending limits, so long as all their money comes from donations of \$100 or less per person. This amplifies the voice of ordinary voters.

**Increase transparency and accountability.** Measure 26-184 requires that political advertisements disclose the real identity of its top funders, allowing voters to make better informed decisions.

**“Yes” on Measure 26-184 is a vote to reclaim democracy at home.**

Juan Carlos Ordóñez  
Moses Ross  
Liz Trojan

honest-elections.com info@honest-elections.com  
503-427-8771 @honestelect

*(This information furnished by Juan Carlos Ordóñez, Moses Ross, Liz Trojan)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### THESE OREGON GROUPS AND OREGONIANS SUPPORT ‘YES’ ON MEASURE 26-184 FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Democratic Party of Multnomah County  
Working Families Party  
Pacific Green Party  
Oregon Progressive Party  
Independent Party of Oregon

#### Community Organizations

Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO)  
NAACP Portland Branch  
Unite Oregon  
Sierra Club of Oregon  
Portland Clean Air

Jobs with Justice - Portland Executive Committee  
Teamsters Local 206

Alliance for Democracy  
Bernie PDX  
First Unitarian Church, Economic Justice Action Group  
Health Care for All Oregon  
Move to Amend PDX  
Oregon Unitarian Universalist Voices for Justice  
Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Portland Forward  
Represent Portland  
Utility Reform Project

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### Elected Officials

Brad Avakian, Oregon Labor Commissioner and the Democratic candidate for Secretary of State, stated his support for Measure 26-184 at the Charter Review Committee:

"For me campaign finance limits is partially about stopping the huge wash of wealth that drowns out voices but the other part of it for me which is why I think this is a smart proposal. . . I think it helps your public servants begin focusing on humanity again and not so much on where the next dollar is going to come from."

-- Brad Avakian June 28, 2016  
<http://mult.honest-elections.com/brad-avakian-testimony.html>  
(posted 9/11/2016)

Chip Shields State Senator

### Candidates for Elected Office

Chloe Eudaly	Portland City Council
Sharon Meieran	Multnomah County Commission
Amanda Schroeder	Multnomah County Commission
James Ofsink	Oregon Senate

### Individuals

Alex Linsker	Jim Kelly
Aneesah Furqan-Peace	J.E. (Jim) Robinson Jr.
Aram Andriesian	Jody Wiser
Audrey Gnich	John Vandermosten
William Michtom	Joyce Tsongas
Carolyn Leonard	Juan Carlos Ordonez
Cassidy Martinez	Layla Assem
Dan Meek	Liz Trojan
David Delk	Maigen Bergio
Emma Darden	Mims Rouse, Jr.
Glendora Claybrooks	Moses Ross
Hyung Nam	Rob Harris
Jamie Partridge	Ronald Buel
Jason Kafoury	Seth Woolley
	Dennis Brooks

honest-elections.com info@honest-elections.com  
503-427-8771 @honestelect

*(This information furnished by Honest Elections Multnomah County)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### GET BIG MONEY OUT OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY POLITICS

The Center for Public Integrity in November 2015 graded Oregon an overall "F" in systems to avoid government corruption. Oregon ranked 49th worst out of 50 states in control of "Political Financing," beating only Mississippi.

THE OREGONIAN [4/10/2010] reported that Oregon candidates raise and spend more in their campaigns for the Legislature, per capita, than in any state other than New Jersey. The amount spent on races for the Oregon Legislature has increased 10-fold over the past 20 years and by 50% since that OREGONIAN article.

Most of those races are not competitive, as one party holds an overwhelming registration advantage in the district. But the average spent in 2014 by each of top 10 Oregon Senate candidates rose to \$750,000; by each of the top 10 Oregon House candidates rose to \$684,000. Some candidates spent over \$70 per vote earned.

The same big money arms race has infected local races. This year Ted Wheeler raised and spent over \$1 million running for Mayor of Portland. In 2012 Charlie Hales raised and spent over \$1.7 million, mostly from large donors. Steve Novick is approaching \$500,000 for a seat on the City Council. Races for Multnomah County Commission are also costly. Deborah Kafoury's campaign spent \$466,000 in 2014 v. \$330,000

for her main opponent. This year candidates for district Commissioner seats have raised up to \$230,000 each to influence 1/4 of Multnomah County voters.

The largest corporate contributors in local races are typically property developers, construction companies, and health care corporations--all have high financial stakes in local government decisions.

We propose that Multnomah County join Seattle by adopting limits on political campaign contributions, which are in place for 90% of local governments in the United States. The limits we propose are the same as those adopted by voters in Seattle in 2015: candidates may not receive contributions larger than \$500 per person.

honest-elections.com info@honest-elections.com  
503-427-8771 @honestelect

*(This information furnished by Honest Elections Multnomah County)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Strengthen democracy and advance racial equity

With Measure 26-184, Multnomah County has an opportunity to strengthen our democratic process and advance equity.

APANO has long sought to raise the voices of people of color, immigrant communities, and Oregonians of different backgrounds. But one of the biggest structural barriers to this has been the role of money in politics.

The lack of contribution limits has led to exponential increases in the cost of a campaign for elected office in Oregon. This creates a significant racial disparity, placing a disproportionate amount of power in the hands of a handful of millionaires. When one or two millionaires can pump major donations into campaigns, they undermine our basic democratic principles -- one person one vote. The most successful candidates often have wide networks of wealthy people financially supporting their campaigns.

This dynamic makes it very difficult for low-income communities and historically disenfranchised communities to have their voices heard equally in our political process. If you need to have a wealthy network to be a candidate, people who don't have that network struggle to run an effective campaign. Because many communities of color in Oregon do not have access to those networks, and experience higher rates of poverty, it is hard for a person of color to run for office.

Oregon is a diverse state, and it needs to have more diversity in its elected positions. By limiting campaign contributions, we can help to bring down the costs of running for office. That will allow young people, people of color, people from both low-income and rural communities, and people of different backgrounds to participate in our democracy by serving as candidates. Every community should be able to vote for a true representative in their government, who understands their experiences because they have also shared those experiences.

Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons  
Executive Director  
Asian Pacific American  
Network of Oregon

*(This information furnished by Rev Joseph Santos-Lyons, Executive Director, Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Vote Yes on Multnomah County Ballot Measure 26-184

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 2.4 million members and supporters nationwide and more than 20,000 in Oregon. The Sierra Club works to safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public

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education, lobbying, and litigation.

The Oregon Chapter of the Sierra Club endorses Measure 26-184 because:

We believe it will result in the election of diverse candidates who are representative of the people of Multnomah County. This will lead to a more just and healthy society with greater respect for the environment.

Big money interests will no longer have disproportionate access to and influence on our elected officials and decision makers. The end result will be a government that is more attuned to the needs of Multnomah County residents, who overwhelmingly support environmental protection and environmental justice.

We believe Measure 26-184 will help bring about greater social and racial justice in Oregon's most populous and diverse county and it deserves the support of Multnomah County residents.

*(This information furnished by Sierra Club of Oregon)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### OREGON DOES NOT REQUIRE EFFECTIVE DISCLOSURE OF THE SOURCES OF BIG MONEY

#### "Independent Expenditures"

In Oregon it is easy to pay for political ads through a **501(c)(4) "dark money"** nonprofit corporation with a nice name. The corporation never has to identify where its money came from, making it impossible to identify the true source.

#### Direct Campaign Contributions

Even if the ad is purchased by the candidate's PAC, Oregon **does not** require that the ad identify the PAC or any of its sources of money. If the ad identifies the PAC, it is usually "Friends of Mary Jones [candidate name]."

Yes, you can look up on ORESTAR the contributions to the candidate's PAC, but those often come from other PACs, which in turn are funded by yet other PACs. Unlike most states, **Oregon allows unlimited PAC-to-PAC transfers**, which can be used to hide the true sources of the money.

Requiring the voter to spend hours on Internet research to find out the funding sources is not at all the same as revealing them directly in the political ad itself.

### TAGLINE REQUIREMENTS IMPACT ELECTION AND AIR QUALITY OUTCOMES

Taglines on candidate ads in Richmond, California foiled the massive attempt by Chevron, Inc. to take over Richmond leadership in 2014.

Accidents (including huge explosions) at the Chevron refinery in Richmond released toxic gases. Richmond City Council pushed for toxic controls and sued Chevron for damages resulting from a major fire in 2012 that sent thousands of Richmond residents to hospitals. Chevron decided to take over the city government by running candidates for mayor and city council in 2014. Chevron spent over \$3 million promoting its 4 candidates (\$281 per voter), outspending the environmentalist candidates, including Green Party members, by a factor of 50.

But California law required that the ads identify their major funder: **Chevron, Inc.**

**All of Chevron's candidates lost overwhelmingly. Air quality won.**

See [http://pdxcleanair.org/richmond\\_article](http://pdxcleanair.org/richmond_article)

### GREENS & PORTLAND CLEAN AIR SUPPORT YES ON 26-184

*(This information furnished by Portland Clean Air and Pacific Green Party)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### MEASURE 26-184 REQUIRES THAT POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENTS DISCLOSE THEIR BIG FUNDERS

The Pacific Green Party and Portland Clean Air jointly support 26-184 because real campaign transparency works for environmental causes.

Portland Clean Air publishes pollution maps and educates neighbors so they can fight back against pollution, but political pressure from shadowy campaign funders made it ridiculously difficult to get records from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

See [http://pdxcleanair.org/oregonian\\_article](http://pdxcleanair.org/oregonian_article)

Voters should know who are paying for political ads in order to judge credibility of the messages and so stop electing politicians beholden to corporate polluters.

Measure 26-184 requires that every political ad in a Multnomah County candidate race state, **in the ad itself, the 5 largest true, original sources of money** used to fund it.

Opponents of limits on campaign contributions often say that all the public needs is disclosure of the funders of the political advertisements. But such disclosure does not work well in Oregon.

Laws requiring that political advertisements identify their source are in place in 46 states. The Oregon Legislature repealed the law so requiring in 2001. **Here it is legal to do political ads and never identify their source or who paid for them.**

Federal law requires that ads on broadcast TV and radio at least identify their source, but even that can be the name of a nice-sounding committee or nonprofit corporation that tells you nothing about the real sources of the money.

The Corporate Reform Coalition (75 prominent organizations) in 2012 concluded that only 6 states have worse systems than Oregon for disclosing "independent expenditures" that pay for political ads. **Oregon earned an F**, while Washington got an A. Oregon has not improved since 2012.

Several states have adopted more stringent "tagline requirement" laws that mandate that political advertisements identify their true, original major sources of funding, including California, Washington, Connecticut and Maine.

Voters deserve to know who is providing the Big Bucks behind political ads.

### VOTE YES ON 26-184

*(This information furnished by Portland Clean Air and Pacific Green Party)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### VOTE YES ON 26-184 TO PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT

Multnomah County residents have recently become aware that our urban environment is not the green and healthy place that many believed it to be. The air shed is filled with unhealthy levels of toxic metals, our rivers are polluted, our children's drinking water is contaminated with lead, and dangerous fossil fuel infrastructure sits in seismic liquefaction zones where it can leak or explode -- especially in the event of a large earthquake.

Lax environmental regulation is at the core of these problems.

One major factor is that our government at all levels is unduly influenced by polluters who make large campaign contributions to the politicians they believe will protect their interests.

Here's how it works:

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- (1) environmental and public health laws are weak because big polluters have an undue influence in the political process;
- (2) regulators recognize this influence and are less aggressive in enforcing the already weak environmental rules; and
- (3) the apparent conflicts of interest reduce public confidence in government, and people stop expecting the government to protect public health and the environment.

Elected officials come to rely on campaign contributions in order to stay in office and adjust their regulatory priorities as to not upset big contributors. This undue influence filters down to the bureaus, departments, and agencies who are charged with administering our environmental rules. This “regulatory capture” is often why environmental rules are weakened and underenforced.

Examples include the failure of government to:

- require significant clean-up of toxic materials in the Willamette River at Portland Harbor
- protect our air from cadmium, arsenic, chromium, & lead emissions from local industries.

We can take an important step toward creating a government willing to protect the environment and public health based on the best available science, instead of looking out for the profits of polluters.

Please vote YES for 26-184 to move Multnomah County toward better environmental stewardship.

Nicholas Caleb  
Environmental Attorney

*(This information furnished by Nicholas Caleb)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

For too long our local democracy has been overshadowed by a handful of special interest lobbyists who are able to influence elections unduly.

Time and again throughout this year’s campaign, as members of BerniePDX would talk to members of the public about becoming involved in the political process, we would hear a sense of frustration and futility, a feeling that their voice would never be heard over the louder voices of lobbyists and big donors.

Our elections are often decided long before they ever reach the ballot box. And incredibly, in a state in which we pride ourselves on our progressive nature, we are lacking even basic protections like limits to the amount that a person or corporation can give.

What is needed, now more than ever, is a campaign-finance system that enables those in our electorate who would stand up and serve the interests of all our county’s citizens.

The members of BerniePDX believe that carrying the revolution forward will largely be determined by electing officials who are invested in the needs of the people and not just developers and investors, and this ballot measure can be the first step in creating a system in which every voice counts.

**BerniePDX**      **[www.berniedpx.us](http://www.berniedpx.us)**

*(This information furnished by Bernie PDX)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Health Care for All-Oregon Action Supports 26-184

Health Care for All-Oregon Action aims to pass a 2020 ballot measure to implement an equitable, affordable, comprehensive, high quality, publicly funded universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon.

HCAO Action supports Multnomah County’s measure 26-184 limiting campaign contributions for candidate elections in the county. We recognize that a big reason for lack of universal

publicly funded healthcare up to now, which is supported by a majority in Oregon, is excessive money from corporations and wealthy individuals that candidates feel they need to win elections. The resultant influence is said by some in public debates to make the most effective and affordable approaches to health care “politically unrealistic.”

Measure 26-184 is a small step to limit the influence of big money in politics and policy making. It will improve public accountability in the county. It can help build momentum for wider reform, by offering a good example for other counties and the state of Oregon to follow.

HCAO Action has adopted principles of Universality, Equity, Accountability, Transparency, Participation, and health care as a Public Good. Measure 26-184 helps make candidate elections more equitable, by limiting the effect of wealth on candidate elections. It has specific requirements that increase transparency. If passed the measure may increase participation by giving ordinary voters more voice in elections. Increased transparency and participation will make officials more accountable to the public as a whole, rather than to wealthy donors.

HCAO Action urges Multnomah County voters to approve measure 26-184.

*(This information furnished by Health Care for All-Oregon Action)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Portland Jobs with Justice says, Vote Yes on Measure 26-184!

Jobs with Justice exists to fight abusive corporate power, by organizing labor and community members to support one another when we face specific struggles.

Such struggles are stacked against ordinary working people, because laws are influenced by big campaign donations from corporate interests and the rich.

Time and again in recent years Multnomah County residents have seen the effects of Oregon’s bad campaign finance laws that allow unlimited campaign contributions.

The Portland area faces a crisis of affordable housing. Real estate and developer interests use campaign money influence to get their way in local governments. State laws passed under the influence of big donations have denied local leaders tools used in other places to ensure dignified shelter for all and enough housing at fair rents and prices.

Unlimited campaign money likewise affects local ability to set fair minimum wages, to fund schools, to pay for education we need in our communities and families, and to keep our environment safe and healthy.

Jobs with Justice knows that such unfair money power often hits hardest people who have been marginalized and faced discrimination, including communities of color, women, LGBTQIA people, and low and middle wage workers.

Measure 26-184 limits the undue influence of money in Multnomah County elections. It is one step. Other steps are needed for other election units. But it is an important step.

Portland Jobs with Justice urges you to vote YES on Measure 26-184!

*(This information furnished by Portland Jobs with Justice)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Working people deserve an equal voice in politics. But Oregon has no law limiting campaign contributions to candidates or how much any person or corporation can make in “independent expenditures” to support or oppose candidates.

Having no limits lets corporations and rich people buy too much access and influence with elected officials.

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No limits also means that only people who can raise a lot of money have much chance to be elected.

### The current system is unfair to working people.

Measure 26-184 makes the rules fairer in county elections. Measure 26-184 puts reasonable limits on large donations by individuals and political committees. The measure allows small donors to work together in Small Donor Committees to have a bigger voice in elections. A Small Donor Committee can accept contributions only from individuals (and only \$100 or less per person per year) and can use all of those funds to support or oppose candidates in elections for Multnomah County officials. This is Grass-Roots Democracy.

Measure 26-184 also increases accountability. The measure requires that large donors and large "independent spenders" be named, right in the political ads that they fund. It requires that all expensive messages, such as t.v. and radio ads or fancy mailings, must say who the top five funders are, so the people can tell who is behind the messages. They must state the "true, original sources" of the money, not just the names of nice-sounding PACs or nonprofit corporations.

While Measure 26-184 only affects Multnomah County elections, it is part of a bigger movement. Voting Yes helps build momentum for more fairness in state and national election funding.

**We need to get big money out of politics.**

**We need more fairness in election funding.**

**Please vote Yes on Measure 26-184.**

-- Teamsters Local 206

*(This information furnished by Stan White, Teamsters Local 206)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

As a union member, I know how working class citizens struggle to be heard even on a local level. As a candidate facing an incumbent with millions in corporate contributions, I know what an uphill battle it is to be heard in elections regardless of how desperately voters seek an alternative. Passing the Honest Elections Measure will allow candidates supported by ordinary citizens to compete in Multnomah County elections on an equal footing with those supported by the big money interests.

By limiting campaign contributions and requiring more reporting of who pays for campaign communications, the Honest Elections Measure protects fairness and transparency in Multnomah County. Instead of spending their time asking for big campaign contributions, candidates will be able to spend more time talking with voters. This way, elected officials will better understand the needs of our community and will win democratically by prioritizing policy instead of peddling influence.

These are the reasons the Working Families Party and I have endorsed the Honest Elections Measure. Vote yes on 26-184 for a participatory democracy in Multnomah County.

*(This information furnished by Shanti Lewallan, candidate for US Senate)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### Fed up with Big Money Politics? Vote Yes on Measure 26-184

There is WAY too much money from too few people in politics today. Millionaires and billionaires shouldn't have a larger voice than anyone else when it comes to Oregon elections.

Measure 26-184 sets tough, fair limits on the amount of money anyone can contribute to a local candidate, PAC, or political party. Let's shut down the loopholes that big donors are using to secretly funnel huge amounts of money to influence public policy in Oregon, and let's force every campaign to disclose its

major donors right in their ads. Don't let big money drown out your voice. Vote YES on Measure 26-184.

### Ban SUPERPACS and Dark Money groups by voting YES on Measure 26-184

Under current law, wealthy interests can give unlimited amounts of money to so-called "independent" campaigns or secretive "non-profit" organizations that don't even have to disclose their donors. Those groups then fund attack ads and mailers that clog your mailbox, television and computer screen with slander and mudslinging.

Let's make local politics honest by making SuperPACS and other campaign organizations play by the same rules that individuals have to play by, with limited contributions promptly disclosed. Measure 26-184 would do that and require every political ad to identify its top 5 sources of funding.

### Make Multnomah County Officials Accountable to Ordinary Citizens

Even our local elected officials in Multnomah County raise most of their campaign funds from a small group of wealthy interests. After the election, those officials inevitably listen more to the big donors who funded their campaigns than they do to the rest of us.

We can change that by requiring all candidates to raise their campaign funds from small donations that come from a broad base of their constituents. That will ensure that everyone's voice is heard during campaigns. More importantly, it will make politicians accountable to their constituents, not big money interests.

**Vote YES on Measure 26-184.**

Barbara Dudley  
Jim Kelly

*(This information furnished by Barbara Dudley and Jim Kelly)*

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

### The time for action is now; our democracy can't wait!

Honest Elections is one vital way that we can stand up and say that we, the people of Multnomah County, believe that elections should be about issues and engagement and not about connections to deep-pocketed donors.

I am currently a candidate for the Oregon Senate where in 2014 the **top 10 candidates spent an average of \$750,000 each on their campaigns**. This money is raised primarily from wealthy individuals and special interest groups.

This "affluence barrier" discourages many young people, poor people, and wage earners--who would be great representatives for their communities--from even participating in our political process.

When corporations pour tens of thousands of dollars into local elections it drowns out everyone else's voice.

For the last decade, I have worked in this community to strengthen our democracy through organizations like the League of Women Voters, Common Cause and City Club of Portland, where we encourage everyone to participate in our civic systems and try to ensure that every voice is heard.

As a leader with Hack Oregon, I have seen how much money flows through our political system, and it is shocking. The Behind the Curtain tool (<http://btc.hackoregon.org/>) tracks political donations showing that money often shuffles through several political action committees, which makes it difficult for the public to know who is buying political access and influence.

By the time we as voters see a postcard or billboard, we may have no way of knowing the large donors whose money paid for it. Measure 26-184 requires political ads to identify their top 5 original sources of funding. "Americans for Prosperity" would now be: "Paid for by the Koch Brothers."

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I am voting yes on 26-184, because Multnomah County can draw a line in the sand proclaiming to the country that we believe in a democracy of, by, and for the people and not of, by, and for the dollar.

*(This information furnished by Supporters of James Ofsink)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Big money from corporate interests, often hidden from public view, is corrupting our democracy and deciding who has access to power. All around the country, ordinary citizens are beginning to push back, demanding an equal voice for every voter.

It's time for Multnomah County residents to push back as well: by setting limits on political campaign contributions and "independent expenditures" and requiring that political advertisements identify their top 5 "true original sources" of campaign cash. That means disclosing to the public the corporations and individuals who are putting up the big money, not just nice-sounding names of PACs.

Oregon has lots of those, like the Oregonians for Food and Shelter PAC. Sounds very nice. But its money comes from corporations that produce chemicals, pesticides, and GMO seeds, including Monsanto and Dow, and logging companies.

Or the Good Neighbor Farmers PAC. That's really chemical corporations, including Monsanto, DuPont, Bayer (made GMO seeds that contaminated the U.S. rice supply in 2006), BASF, Dow, and other agri-corporations.

This two prong approach reduces the influence of special interests, while forcing them into the public eye. The effect this has on elections is simple: candidates listen to **all** their constituents, instead of a handful of wealthy donors. In communities across the country, regulations like these already work to return power to the people. They will work in Multnomah County too.

It is important we start here at the local level, instead of waiting for our elected officials to act. Legislators at the state and federal level are stalled on issues like these. Many politicians from both major parties are opposed to this type of reform. We can't expect the same people who benefit from this system to change it! That's why real change starts here and now, with ballot measures like these.

Please join Represent Portland in voting "YES" on 26-184!

[volunteer.represent.us/portland](http://volunteer.represent.us/portland)

[honest-elections.com](http://honest-elections.com) 503-427-8771  
[info@honest-elections.com](mailto:info@honest-elections.com)

*(This information furnished by Aram Andriesian)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Big money dominates local elections, in part due to Oregon's lack of contribution limits. Contribution limits could help restore balance to local elections, allowing regular people to play a bigger role in determining who can run for public office, who can win, and what issues elected officials work on while in office.

In Portland's 2016 Mayoral race, big donors giving thousands of dollars each dominated the election, with just 400 donors giving nearly half a million dollars together. Regular people contributing tens of dollars each, and candidates who rely on regular people to support their campaigns, can not compete with the flood of money from big donors. By limiting the amounts each big donor can give, contribution limits would restrict big donors from overshadowing regular people.

The State Integrity Investigation of the Center for Public Integrity gave Oregon and "F" in systems to avoid

government corruption, and ranks Oregon 49th out of 50 states in "Political Financing" (only Mississippi scored worse). Contribution limits would be a first step towards improving the integrity of local elections.

*(This information furnished by Kristin Eberhard, Sightline Institute)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### CANDIDATES DO NOT NEED HUGE CONTRIBUTIONS IN ORDER TO RUN EFFECTIVE CAMPAIGNS

##### VOTE YES ON 26-184

Some opponents of campaign finance reform say that Measure 26-184's limits on political contributions would not allow candidates to run effective campaigns for public offices of Multnomah County.

Measure 26-184 limits candidates to receiving only contributions from individuals or PACs in the amount of \$500 each per election cycle.

**But similar limits have been in place for decades in 44 other states**, and candidates there are running effective campaigns. The difference is that those candidates need to contact more people who are not corporate executives or wealthy individuals. They have to contact more regular people, like us. That can be done, thanks to the internet.

Campaign contributions in Washington have been limited to \$600 per person per 2-year election cycle for a long time. Seattle last year reduced the limit to \$500 per person. Yet, politicians there raise funds and conduct effective campaigns there.

Many states limit contributions to \$600 or less per person per election cycle in all candidate races:

Alaska	\$ 500	Kansas	\$ 500
Colorado	\$ 200	Maine	\$ 375
Connecticut	\$ 250	Montana	\$ 170
Delaware	\$ 600	Wisconsin	\$ 500

Candidates for Multnomah County office can certainly conduct effective campaigns, funded by contributions capped at \$500 per person and per PAC.

**The Bernie Sanders campaign raised \$231 million from 7 million donations (from 2.7 million donors), an average of \$86 per donor (\$33 per donation).** It is now very fast and easy to make political contributions on the internet.

Also, Measure 26-184 provides for Small Donor Committees, which is any PAC that limits its incoming contributions to \$100 per year per individual. The Small Donor Committee can then spend all those funds to support or oppose candidates. So candidates can obtain significant financial support from grassroots organizations that receive only small contributions.

#### We call that Grassroots Democracy.

[honest-elections.com](http://honest-elections.com) [info@honest-elections.com](mailto:info@honest-elections.com)  
503-427-8771 @honestelect

*(This information furnished by Honest Elections Multnomah County)*

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY

## Measure 26-184

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### HOW IS MULTNOMAH COUNTY MEASURE 26-184 DIFFERENT FROM THE "PUBLIC FUNDING" OF CAMPAIGNS PROPOSAL BEING CONSIDERED BY THE PORTLAND CITY COUNCIL?

They are very different, but they could work well together in the future.

#### Multnomah County Measure 26-184

Measure 26-184 limits campaign contributions and independent expenditures and requires that political ads identify their top 5 funders. The limits are:

- Contributions to candidates from individuals and political action committees: \$500 per election cycle (4 years)
- Contributions and "Independent Expenditures" by corporations: Zero
- "Independent Expenditures" by individuals: \$5,000 per election cycle (4 years)

It does not provide public funding to candidates. It applies to races for Multnomah County offices, including the County Commission, the District Attorney, the Sheriff, and the County Auditor.

Measure 26-184 is a ballot measure to be adopted, or rejected, by a vote of the people of Multnomah County.

#### City of Portland Public Funding of Campaigns Proposal

This is a proposal under discussion by the Portland City Council. It is not on this ballot.

The Portland proposal would not limit campaign contributions or independent expenditures. It would provide public funding for candidates for Portland City elected offices (Mayor, City Council and Auditor) by paying matching funds for every contribution of \$250 or less received by each participating candidate. It includes restrictions on which candidates qualify and requires each to agree to a cap on overall campaign spending:

Mayor	\$950,000
City Council	\$550,000

It is expected to cost about \$2 million per 2-year election cycle.

#### Learning for the Future

Both approaches to campaign finance reform have advantages over the present Oregon system of unlimited contributions, unlimited expenditures, and poor disclosure of the sources of campaign money.

If Measure 26-184 passes, and the Portland City Council adopts the public funding plan, we can learn from the implementation of both systems.

honest-elections.com info@honest-elections.com  
503-427-8771 @honestelect

*(This information furnished by Honest Elections Multnomah County)*

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

#### MEASURE 26-184 LIMITS "INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES" IN MULTNOMAH COUNTY CANDIDATE RACES

#### Didn't the U.S. Supreme Court say that is unconstitutional in Citizens United (2010)?

Yes, the 5-4 majority in the U.S. Supreme Court, led by Justice Scalia, ruled in **Citizens United** in 2010 that limiting "Independent Expenditures" in political campaigns violated the U.S. Constitution.

**But that 5-4 majority is now gone** and is not likely to return in the coming years. The Court will almost certainly return to

its previous thinking, as when in 2003 it upheld the complete ban on "Independent Expenditures" by corporations and unions in campaigns for federal office (McCain-Feingold Act).

Measure 26-184 indeed limits independent expenditures in races for Multnomah County public office.

But the "Scalia Court" is gone. The next Justice will be appointed by President Obama or by President Hillary Clinton, who has stated many times that overturning **Citizens United** is a litmus test for any new Justice.

On April 14, 2016, she said at the CNN presidential primary debate:

"There is no doubt that the only people that I would ever appoint to the Supreme Court are people who believe that **Roe v. Wade** is settled law and **Citizens United** needs to be overturned."

So there will be at least a 5-4 majority to uphold limits on "Independent Expenditures" by the time Measure 26-184 gets to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The next President will probably replace 3 of the 5 members of the **Citizens United** majority. Clarence Thomas announced that he considering retirement, and Anthony Kennedy is 80 years old. Replacing them, and Scalia, with Obama/Clinton appointees would produce a 7-2 majority in favor of reversing **Citizens United** and similar decisions.

But it is necessary for the people to adopt limits on "Independent Expenditures" in order for that new law to be challenged and reach the U.S. Supreme Court. The people of Multnomah County can do that service for America.

Committee of Oregon Lawyers for Democracy  
COLD-LAW.COM

*(This information furnished by Honest Elections Multnomah County)*

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

#### OREGON ELECTIONS ARE RIGGED BY BIG MONEY

#### LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.

#### VOTE NO ON 26-184

With Oregon's unlimited political campaign contributions and spending (unlike 44 other states), the candidate who raises and spends the most money wins over 90% of the time.

Local races now cost upwards of \$1 million to win, sometimes almost \$2 million.

*THE OREGONIAN* [4/10/2010] said that Oregon candidates raise and spend more in their campaigns for the Legislature, per capita, than in any state other than New Jersey. And that amount has increased by over 50% since then.

Most of that money comes from huge contributions. Some corporate executives and wealthy persons write individual checks for \$300,000 or more to candidate campaigns in Oregon.

These huge contributions come from the elite leaders of our society. They know best who should serve in public office. And elected officials should indeed listen to them and act accordingly while in office.

#### POWER TO THE BEST PEOPLE WITH THE MOST MONEY!

In Oregon, the "best people" include timber company executives, commercial real estate developers, and leaders of multinational corporations.

As the distinguished leader, Donald J. Trump, said:

"As a businessman and a very substantial donor to very important people, when you give, they do whatever the hell you want them to do." (July 29, 2015)

"I gave to many people, before this, before two months ago, I was a businessman. I give to everybody. When

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY

## Measure 26-184

they call, I give. And do you know what? When I need something from them two years later, three years later, I call them, they are there for me." (August 6, 2015)

"When I call, they kiss my ass." (January 9, 2016)

Talking Points Memo, September 6, 2016

<http://talkingpointsmemo.com/trump-bondi-contributions>.

**MONEY IS SPEECH - THE BEST SPEECH**

**DON'T LET VOTERS SPOIL OUR RIGGED SYSTEM!**

**best-words.com**

*(This information furnished by Committee of the Best People with the Best Words)*

# Track Your Ballot



## Sign Up



## Mail Ballot



## Get Alerts

## Track Your Ballot Status Alerts!

Multnomah County is offering a program for voters to track the status of their ballots.

Sign up at <https://multnomah.i3ballot.net/> to receive alert messages via text, phone or email. You will receive messages when your ballot is mailed out and when it is accepted for counting.

There is no charge to the voter for this service\*. Sign up today at <https://multnomah.i3ballot.net/> to begin receiving messages on the status of your ballot. If you have any questions about this service, please call the Elections Office at (503) 988-3720 or email us at [elections@multco.us](mailto:elections@multco.us).

\*Text message charges may apply if you select the text message option. Consult your carrier.

Scan the Quick Response  
(QR) Code to sign up now!



The printing of these arguments does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the arguments.