

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 20____ General Election 2012 Special Election _____ (date)

Measure No.: 26-143 Argument in Favor Argument in Opposition

This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):

Name of person: Don McIntire

Original Argument

Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:

TAXPAYER ASSOCIATION OF OREGON

Amended Argument

Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument)

Don McIntire

Argument Paid For By: (name and address)

Telephone (home)

Telephone (work)

503-603-9009

TAXPAYER ASSOCIATION OF OREGON
P.O. Box 23573 Tigard, OR 97261

ATTACHED IS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Measure Argument

Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: _____)

Note: Language that violates any provision of ORS 251.405 or 251.415 may be excluded from the voters' pamphlet.

By signing this document, I hereby state I am responsible for the content of this argument. ORS 251.415 (2)



Signature of person furnishing argument (must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

9-9-12
Date signed

Note: If this argument is not being filed by a registered Oregon Political Committee, you may be required to register as a political committee or submit a Statement of Independent Expenditures (PC 10) with the Secretary of State. Refer to the Campaign Finance Manual for further information.

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Staff Initials LS

Argument order number A-1

Cash or Check Number 2269

Statement(s) of Endorsement? NO YES # _____

Receipt Number 22918

Word/Number Count Total 131

Vote No on Measure 26-143

Historically, Multnomah County voters have been very generous toward the Library.

Over time they have approved property taxes to the extent that it has become one of the most expensive library systems in the country.

On a per resident basis, the **\$61-million-a-year Multnomah County Library costs more than double the national average.**

Measure 26-143 may look like a continuation of the levy process. It's not and that is why a prudent person would vote it down.

It would a big mistake to create a permanent taxing authority to a group of unelected government employees who will no longer have to answer to voters.

For more information & news on your taxes go to OregonWatchdog.com

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MCED 011 (Rev. 01/2011)

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Primary Election 20____ General Election 2012 Special Election _____ (date)

Measure No.: <u>26-143</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Argument in Favor <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Argument in Opposition	This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet): Name of person: John A. Charles, Jr.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Argument		Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable: Cascade Policy Institute
<input type="checkbox"/> Amended Argument		
Name and Address of Contact Person (person who could authorize changes to argument) John A. Charles, Jr., 4850 SW Scholls Ferry Rd		Argument Paid For By: (name and address) Cascade Policy Institute
Telephone (home) 503-524-0931	Telephone (work) 503/242-0900	

ATTACHED IS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Measure Argument
 Statement(s) of Endorsement, if applicable (number filed: _____)

Note: Language that violates any provision of ORS 251.405 or 251.415 may be excluded from the voters' pamphlet.

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Signature of person furnishing argument _____ Date signed 8/10/12
(must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

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Staff Initials JWR Argument order number A-2
Cash or Check Number 1056 Statement(s) of Endorsement? NO YES # _____
Receipt Number 22927 Word/Number Count Total ~~300~~ 305

Statement in Opposition to Multnomah County Ballot Measure 26-143

The Multnomah County Library system offers valuable services to citizens, but there is no need to create a new library tax district. The library already receives generous tax support through voter-approved levies. According to Willamette Week (8/1/12), the library receives county funding of \$81.35 per capita, while the national average is \$38.95.

Despite this generous support, library service levels are actually low compared with peer cities. Last year, the Multnomah County library had a budget of \$61.9 million to pay for 18 branches, while Denver operated 22 branches for only \$30.9 million and Seattle ran 27 branches for \$50.4 million.

Library managers have been unable to contain the high cost of labor. In 2011, MCL spent an average of \$77,281 per full-time equivalent staff position. This went up to \$80,340 in 2012 and is \$81,432 for the current budget. Yet, when management felt that cuts needed to be made this year, they closed the libraries one day per week.

The current library tax levy rate is \$0.89 per \$1,000 in assessed value; under Measure 26-143 the new, permanent rate will jump to \$1.24 per \$1,000, costing the average homeowner \$49 per year in new taxes.

Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that actual library services would be maintained or improved with the new money. The library now receives \$14.9 million in general fund dollars from Multnomah County, and the County could easily transfer all of that money to other programs.

Indeed, as the Portland City Economist told the City Council on July 18, 2012, "Effectively, the majority of the increased taxes from a new library district will go to supplant funding from Multnomah County's General Fund, **not increase the library's budget.**"

The county library is already better funded than most urban libraries; there is no need for a new taxing district. Voters should Vote NO on Measure 26-143.