

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

MCED 011 (Rev. 06/2006)

Measure Argument for County Voters' Pamphlet

Primary Election 2007       General Election 20\_\_       Special Election \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

Measure No.: 26-90       Argument in Favor  
 Argument in Opposition      This Information Furnished By (as it should appear in the county voters' pamphlet):  
Name of person:

Original Argument      MARK WIENER

Amended Argument      Name of organization person is authorized to represent, if applicable:  
PORTLANDERS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY

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

Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (work) 503-358-5511  
Argument Paid For By: (name and address)  
PORTLANDERS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY  
921 SW WASHINGTON # 470  
PORTLAND, OR 97205

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]      3/19/07  
Signature of person furnishing argument      Date signed  
(must be person listed in "This information furnished by" box above)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY  
Staff Initials: LR      Argument order number: A-1  
Cash or Check Number: 1092      Statement(s) of Endorsement?  NO  YES # \_\_\_\_\_  
Receipt Number: 21840      Word/Number Count Total: \_\_\_\_\_

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**VOTE NO ON MEASURE 26-90**  
**What they say is NOT what you will get!**

To read the Explanatory Statement of Measure 26-90, it seems like it might be a modest “housekeeping” measure. They say the measure just “streamlines and modernizes the City’s civil service” system.

**Unfortunately, Measure 26-90 is another example of a measure that says one thing, and then does another.** This measure’s flawed language will harm the City government and the dedicated people who serve the public every day. What’s worse, it locks these flaws into the City Charter.

According to a study of the measure conducted by the respected Portland law firm of Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan, Measure 26-90 is riddled with flaws – flaws with serious consequences.

Here are just two of them:

- The most important element of a civil service system is fairness and public accountability. It is the regulations of the system that ensure that accountability. **But Measure 26-90 REMOVES current public notice, comment and hearing requirements before adoption, amendment or repeal of rules and regulations.** This change significantly weakens the public safeguards that ensure hiring and promotional processes are publicly accountable.
- **Measure 26-90 removes the current requirement that the City seek diversity in hiring.** One way to prevent cronyism and provide better service is to have a workforce that looks like the public it serves. Removing this provision would be a step backwards – and one that doesn’t respect Portland’s values.

The Charter is Portland’s constitution. It should not be changed lightly. **And it certainly shouldn’t have flawed language inserted into it.**

It isn’t possible to know whether these flaws are intentional or simply mistakes. But even if you would like to see changes to the civil service system, it is clear that these flaws have no place in our Charter.

**VOTE NO ON MEASURE 26-90**

**See the next Voters Pamphlet Statement for more of Measure 26-90’s flaws!**

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Date signed

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Staff Initials [Initials]

Argument order number A-2

Cash or Check Number 1092

Statement(s) of Endorsement?  NO  YES # \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt Number 21840

Word/Number Count Total \_\_\_\_\_

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## **EVEN MORE FLAWS OF MEASURE 26-90**

Measure 26-90 – which claims to simply “streamline” Portland’s civil service system – has so many serious flaws they could not fit in a single Voters Pamphlet Statement.

Here are some of the other problems with Measure 26-90, as outlined by the respected Portland law firm of Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan:

- Measure 26-90 changes the definition of “at-will” employees, creating a much lower standard for taking away someone’s job. The Explanatory Statement claims to only affect “certain top level employees.” **But the new definitions are so poorly drafted and vague, that they could impact far more employees – making it more difficult to get the best qualified people for jobs that have a real impact on our quality of life.**
- Measure 26-90 removes the requirement that union-covered city employees choose between a union grievance procedure or a civil service appeal when they have a dispute with the city. **That may sound boring and technical, but this flaw could cost taxpayers time and money by creating a confusing system that could create duplicated defense costs and conflicting remedies.**
- Measure 26-90 removes the requirement that temporary employees be hired on emergency, non-recurring basis, for a maximum of 5 months. This means that city managers could reclassify current permanent positions as temporary. What would that mean? Perhaps city managers could save some money by taking away people’s health care or other benefits. But the services we rely on to keep us safe and Portland livable could be provided by temp workers instead of a skilled, stable workforce. That’s not smart or safe. And in the long run, it would prove to be very expensive to all of us.

**Don’t put a flawed measure into our Charter!**

**VOTE NO ON 26-90**