



Proposed Measure 26-210 — Supportive Housing Services

Between 2010 and 2018, rent prices increased 52% in greater Portland.¹ National statistics show that rates of homelessness increase 13% with every 10% of rent increase.²

The region's voters approved a regional affordable housing bond in November 2018. The proposed supportive housing services measure would provide additional funds for housing services for people who are homeless or who could become homeless.

Proposed Supportive Housing Services Measure

On Feb. 25, 2020, the Metro Council referred a Regional Supportive Housing Services ballot measure to voters for consideration on the Oregon primary ballot in May 2020. The proposed measure was developed with community members and leaders from around the Portland region.

If passed, the proposed measure would provide housing services for approximately 5,000 people experiencing homelessness with disabilities, and provide additional housing services for approximately 10,000 households experiencing homelessness or who may become homelessness.

If passed, the proposed measure would fund services in the following areas: Case management, mental health care, addiction and recovery treatment, job training, housing assistance and culturally-specific services.



If passed, how would the proposed measure be funded?

The measure proposes a 1% tax on all taxable income in the Metro Service District over \$200,000 for joint filers, or \$125,000 for single filers. The measure also proposes a 1% tax on business profits in the Metro Service District for businesses with annual gross receipts over \$5 million.

How many people experience homelessness?

2018 estimates of homelessness in the tri-county area range between 6,000 and 12,000 people.

In January 2019, county officials counted 5,711 people experiencing homelessness in Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties.

Additionally, the Oregon Department of Education counted more than 7,000 students who experienced homelessness in the 2018 school year in Metro-area school districts.

Approximately 3,123 to 4,935 people in the tri-county area in 2018 experienced repeated episodes of homelessness or homelessness for a period longer than one year, related to disabling conditions.³

¹ Source: US Census Bureau.

^{2,3} Source: ECONorthwest, *Homelessness in the Portland Region*, October 2018.



Demographics of homelessness

The January 2019 count found that of those surveyed in Multnomah County, more than three-quarters had a disability. Nearly half had experienced domestic violence. A quarter of people experiencing homelessness in the tri-county area were born here. More than half had lived in the area for more than two years. Thirty-six percent were people of color, including 14% of indigenous ancestry.

Proposed distribution of funds

If the measure passes, revenue would be distributed within the portions of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties that are inside Metro's district. Revenue would be distributed proportionate to the tax revenue estimated to be collected from individuals in those counties.

If the measures passes, agencies addressing homelessness in Multnomah County would receive 45.3 percent of the revenue, Washington County agencies would receive 33.3 percent, and Clackamas County agencies would receive 21.3 percent.

Each county would develop a Local Implementation Plan based on proposed uses. Funds would be distributed as rent assistance through local housing authorities, and service contracts with local social service and health care providers who assist people experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity.

If the measure passes, accountability and oversight

Oversight would be provided by a 20-member committee that reflects the demographics of the three counties. Members would provide policy and programmatic guidance, monitor programmatic expenditures and evaluate outcomes. All meetings and materials of the community oversight body would be available and accessible to the public.

Metro is required to have an annual independent financial audit and for the results to be made publicly available.

If passed, the measure would restrict administrative expenses incurred by Metro to no more than 5% after collection expenses.

Administrative funds would pay for oversight and accountability, data collection, coordination, and other costs associated with management of the program.

Additional information

The Oregon Primary election is scheduled for Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Ballots may be mailed to voters by county election offices as soon as May 1, 2020. The deadline for voter registration is April 28, 2020.

If the proposed measure is approved by voters, the proposed tax assessment would begin in January 2021. Revenue could be available to fund the proposed services as soon as July 2021.

The proposed measure would fund the program for 10 years, until 2030. If the measure does not pass, the taxes would not be assessed, and the programs would not be completed.

Learn more

oregonmetro.gov/housingservices

For more information call
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This information, except for the website link, was reviewed by the Oregon Secretary of State's Office for compliance with ORS 260.432.