



MEASURE: HJR 26  
EXHIBIT: #  
HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE  
DATE: 3/1/2011 PAGES: 1  
SUBMITTED BY: CINDY ROBERT

TO: House Committee on Revenue  
FROM: Cindy Robert  
City of Medford  
DATE: March 1, 2011  
RE: Support for HJR 26

The City of Medford recognizes the difficult time the state has had in meeting the needs of our citizens since the passage of Ballot Measures 5 and 50. The additional strain on the state budget for basic services such as education and public safety have been onerous for you and difficult for your partners in local government to help mitigate based on the constraints that have also been placed on us. While we commend your efforts and have been appreciative of your attention to local government budget shortfalls, we ask that you help us help ourselves with the passage of HJR 26.

We are not asking the people to change the caps they already voted to put in place, we are merely asking that voter approved levies are allowed to be in force for longer and are weighted separately for each levy. This gives the City of Medford the ability to properly plan both budgets and ballot efforts. Furthermore, by taking the compression aspect out of local levies, we are giving the people a direct say in what they want to pay for services, avoiding the compression sword that has the ability to override their decisions.

Length of a levy and predictability in the amount of the levy – we are offering the people the opportunity to change their Constitution to make sure their voices are heard at the local level on these issues.

We urge your support of HJR 26.

**Medford Facts:**

As of 2010, Medford's population is 71,303 people. Since 2000, it has had a population growth of 12.84 percent.

The median home cost in Medford is \$179,980. Home appreciation the last year has been - 16.08 percent.

Medford's cost of living is 3.70% higher than the U.S. average.

Medford public schools spend \$4,674 per student. The average school expenditure in the U.S. is \$5,678. There are about 21.1 students per teacher in Medford.

The unemployment rate in Medford is 11.10 percent (U.S. avg. is 10.20%). Recent job growth is Negative. Medford jobs have decreased by 5.23 percent.

Property tax rate \$14.41 combined rate per \$1,000 assessed value. Assessed value equals 80% of real value. Assessed value cannot increase more than 3% per year.