The League of Women Voters of Portland Urges a "YES" Vote on Measure 26-214.

The League believes government has the responsibility to provide an equitable, quality public education for all children from preschool through grade 12. A quality public education is essential for a strong, viable, and sustainable democratic society and is a civil right.

Multnomah County Preschool for All will provide access to free universal year-round pre-kindergarten programs up to six hours a day for all three- and four-year-olds by 2030.

Free Universal Preschool is good for children.

- Program offerings will include a variety of options, including full-day or part-day, home-based or center-based, culturally specific and culturally responsive, and alternative approaches to learning. Parents can choose the best fit for their child.
- Research shows that children who participated in preschool programs are better prepared to start kindergarten, more likely to graduate from high school, and less likely to become involved in the justice system.

Free Universal Preschool is good for families.

- Multnomah County families pay over $1,000 per month to enroll a child in full-day preschool. Families will experience significant savings from Preschool for All and can instead use their income for other necessities like food, housing, and medical care.
- The measure will address inequities in the current system by making sure free preschool is available first to those families who have historically experienced barriers.

Free Universal Preschool is good for the economy.

- The Preschool for All measure guarantees a living wage for teachers and staff, enabling them to support their families and their local economy.
- Working parents—particularly working moms—whose children are enrolled in quality preschool programs will be better able to focus on their jobs and make long-term career commitments knowing they have reliable childcare.

**The League of Women Votes of Portland recommends a
"YES" vote on M 26-214 for
Children, Families, and the Economy.**