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City Club of Portland (Portland, Or.)

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INFORMATION REPORT ON
REVISE 1968 PCC TAX BASE, ELIGIBLE FOR HOMEOWNERS TAX RELIEF
(District Measure 26-13)

Purpose: "This measure, effective July 1, 1981, authorizes Portland Community College to establish a tax base of \$11,800,000 (eligible for homeowners property tax relief) to add \$3,978,971 to the existing tax base of \$7,828,029 established in 1968. The funds will be used to continue to provide quality educational programs, including vocational, technical and apprenticeship training, lower division college transfer programs, and adult education classes and services in neighborhood facilities throughout the Portland Community Collge District."

To the Board of Governors,
City Club of Portland:

I. INTRODUCTION

The Measure would raise the current tax base for Portland Community College (PCC) to \$11,800,000, an increase of \$3,978,971. The increase would be eligible for state homeowners tax relief.

The tax base for PCC has not been increased since its inception 12 years ago. If passed, the funds will be used to continue providing the educational programs offered at PCC at approximately the same levels for approximately eight years. Passage of the Measure would also allow PCC to offer new programs. Without the proposed increase, PCC would face a projected deficit of \$750,000 for 1981-82 and could not continue its present level of service.

Current "costs per student" at PCC are lower than the "costs per student" at any other community college in the state. If passed, the new tax base would continue to yield a rate that would be lower than any other community college tax base rate in the state. Homeowners' taxes would increase from \$.41 per \$1,000 to \$.58 per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

II. ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR

1. The heavy demand by Portland citizens for PCC's services indicates a need and a desire for continuation of those services.
2. If the tax base increase is not passed, PCC will have to significantly curtail programs and services.

III. ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

1. Any potential deficits should be handled by increased efficiency and program cuts rather than new taxes.

SUBMITTED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION