

Polk County Democrats
Letter of Support
2026 General Election, City of Independence Ballot Measure 27-151

October 8, 2026. A strong community is one where everyone has a place to belong. Libraries are more than books. Parks are more than green spaces. Museums are more than artifacts. A community is defined by its values, and how a city and its residents invest in their community reflects those values.

For too long, communities across Oregon have been asked to do more with less. Rising costs and Oregon's restrictive property-tax system have placed increasing pressure on local governments, and Independence has already reduced staffing and services in an effort to close its longstanding General Fund gap.

We have now seen what happens when the resources are no longer there. Parks closed. The Heritage Museum closed. The future of the library was placed in jeopardy. Those losses are not abstract line items on a spreadsheet. Failure to pass Measure 27-151 will result in prolonged, if not permanent, closure of these community treasures.

Measure 27-151 provides dedicated funding for these shared services and is a responsible correction from the past practice of transferring funds from other essential city services. The Community Services and Parks Fee totals \$19.65 per month, while the City's Public Safety Fee was recently reduced by \$7, resulting in a net increase of \$12.65 per month.

At its heart, this measure asks an important question: Do we believe these public institutions are worth sustaining together? We believe the answer is yes. These services are critical for a robust, thriving community that looks to the future. Responsible growth, development and revenue are intentional investments. We believe in libraries that remain open, parks filled with children and families, public spaces that welcome everyone, and a community that invests in one another rather than allowing treasured services to disappear.

For those reasons, we support Measure 27-151 and a future in which Independence remains a community for everyone.

About Polk County Democrats

Polk County Democrats support Democratic values and principles through community outreach, voter education, and candidate support. They support Federal, State, and local policies that create a safe, stable, prosperous future for everyone, regardless of age, race, religion, nation of origin, gender, or ability.