



Media Release

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Rob Portman Endorses Zoo Levy (Issue 17)

Cincinnati (OH) - The [Friends of the Zoo](#) campaign committee announced today that Rob Portman, former Director of the Office of Management and Budget, former U.S. Trade Representative, former Member of Congress, lifetime resident of Hamilton County and lifetime member of the [Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden](#) has announced his endorsement for Issue 17, the March 4, 2008 ballot issue to support the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

Rob Portman said, "The Zoo is a Cincinnati treasure. So many of us in this community have fond memories of special moments spent at the Zoo with family, friends and schoolmates."

"We have been members of the Zoo for as long as I can remember, and my kids have enjoyed Zoo education and conservation programs. Your mission of providing family entertainment, world-leading conservation efforts and important educational programs about the natural world deserves continued support."

[Thane Maynard](#), Director, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, said, "We are very excited to have received the endorsement of Rob Portman. He and his family have been great friends of the Zoo for many, many years. His endorsement affirms our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life in our region and show that the Zoo has a lot to offer to everyone in this community."

On March 4, 2008, voters in Hamilton County will vote on a property tax levy renewal for the Zoo of .46 mills, a slight increase of .06 mills compared to the Zoo's current levy. Proceeds of the tax levy can only be used for the care and feeding of the Zoo's collection of animals, horticulture, and maintenance of Zoo facilities. The levy amount was recommended by the Hamilton County Tax Levy Review Committee after a thorough review of the Zoo and placed on the ballot by a unanimous vote of the Board of Hamilton County Commissioners on December 19, 2007.

(more)

The Zoo recently released a report, completed by the [University of Cincinnati Economics Center for Education & Research](#), indicating that it produces more than \$124.6 million in economic impact annually for this region, an amount that is projected to increase by more than \$4 million per year. An important source of jobs and earnings for local workers, the report also stated that the Zoo generates over 1,600 jobs with \$42.7 million in household earnings, and that two of three Zoo employees live in Hamilton County.

The world famous Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden was rated the #1 attraction locally and one of the top zoos in the nation by Zagat Survey. It has also been recognized by Child Magazine as one of "The 10 Best Zoos for Kids." Over one million people visit the Zoo's award-winning exhibits, and more than 500 animal and 3000 plant species annually. The Zoo is an accredited member of the American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA) and the American Public Gardens Association (APGA), is internationally known for its success in the protection and propagation of endangered animals and plants, and engages in research and conservation projects worldwide.

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