

Poll on tax plan shows voter volatility

By **JIM REDDEN**
Capital Bureau

A new poll on the corporate sales tax measure that will appear on the November ballot indicates that the proposal is not only controversial, but also volatile.

The latest poll shows the measure, known as Initiative Petition 28, being supported by 65 percent of Oregon voters. However, a survey by iCitizen, a non-partisan public involvement company, also shows that supporters aren't fixed in their viewpoint. Among those surveyed, 29 percent were "strongly" in favor of the measure, while 36 percent said they "somewhat" favored it.

According to the poll of 555 registered voters, which was conducted online, the tax is opposed by 19 percent of respondents, with 16 percent undecided. More than half of the "no" voters characterize their opposition as strong.

'Very fluid issue'

The iCitizen poll is one of at least three recently released polls on the tax proposal, and its results differ markedly from previous surveys that showed weaker support for the measure.

A DHM Research poll done in May for Oregon Public Broadcasting and television station KPTV found 51 percent in favor, 32 percent opposed and 18 percent undecided.

A poll released in June by Salem's Action Solutions showed 41 percent would support IP28, with 23 percent opposed and 35 percent undecided.

The questions in the three polls were also different. For example, the Action Solutions poll asked voters to respond to a short version of the ballot title. DHM Research asked voters to respond to a longer version of the title. The iCitizen poll paraphrased the title and summary, and also called it "the Business Tax Increase

Initiative," a term that will not appear on the ballot.

Traditionally, support for ballot measures falls as campaigns get underway. The iCitizen poll found that IP28 support drops sharply (particularly among Republican voters) if respondents are offered an opposing argument. Although the tax could provide needed funding for popular state programs, support drops to 55 percent if respondents are told opponents claim the additional tax burden will hurt businesses in Oregon.

"This is a very fluid issue," says Mark Keida, iCitizen's director of research. He said the language explaining the measure that will appear on the ballot is favorable to supporters. But, he noted, "Support disappears fast if an opposition argument is mentioned."

Rebecca Tweed, who is helping lead opposition to IP28 as campaign coordinator for Defeat the Tax on Oregon Sales, found the poll hard to believe. "This poll is dramatically inconsistent with other public polling, including polls the Portland Tribune has published previously.

"As the nonpartisan Legislative Revenue Office made clear in its IP28 analysis last month, the bulk of this \$6 billion tax on Oregon sales will be passed on to consumers through higher prices for groceries, medicine, electricity, gas, insurance, phone services — essentials people buy every day. The more Oregonians learn about IP28, the less they like it."

Asked to comment on the new poll, Katherine Driesen, press secretary for the IP28 campaign committee, said, "When you look across the country, Oregon is dead last in corporate taxes. Oregon voters know that if we

are going to finally improve our badly underfunded schools and critical services, large, out-of-state corporations are going to have to start paying their fair share."

What is IP28?

The initiative has been certified for the November election but not yet been given the measure number that will appear on voters' ballots. It is sponsored by a coalition of labor, social justice and small business organizations called Our Oregon. It would impose a 2.5 percent tax on the sales of "C" corporations that exceed \$25 million a year, generating an estimated \$3 billion a year in additional tax revenue. The measure says the funds are to be spent on education, health care and senior services, although the Legislature could change that.

Our Oregon is supported largely by public employee unions, including the Oregon Education Association.

The measure is opposed by much of the business community, including the Portland Business Alliance and the Westside Economic Alliance. A report released in May by the Legislative Revenue Office found it would slow income, employment and population growth during the next five years. Among other things, the report said IP28 would be equivalent to a \$600 per person tax increase each year.

The Legislative Revenue Office also found that, although only about 1,000 corporations would pay the additional tax, they account for 88 percent of the corporate retail trade in Oregon. Utilities such as Portland General Electric and large grocery and department stores would be among the entities required to pay the tax.

The iCitizen poll showed

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Mark Keida
iCitizen's director of research.

Paavo Nurmi Run on tap for July 30

The Daily Astorian

The annual Paavo Nurmi Run is scheduled for Saturday, July 30, as part of the annual Finnish-American Folk Festival in Naselle, Washington. The race, named after the famed Finnish runner, starts at 8 a.m.

Nurmi (1897-1973) was an Olympic gold medal winner in 1920, 1924 and 1928. He was nicknamed the "Flying Finn," as he set 22 official world records at distances between 1,500 meters and 20 kilometers, and won nine gold and three silver medals in his 12 events in the Olympic Games.

At his peak, Nurmi was undefeated at distances from 800 meters and upwards for 121 races. Throughout his 14-year career, he remained unbeaten in cross country events and the 10,000 meters.

The Paavo Nurmi Run is a 5K (3.1 miles) course. Registration is \$15 for the run/

walk, which does not include T-shirt; a \$25 registration fee includes a T-shirt. There will be limited race T-shirts available July 30. Participants can preregister before July 15 to ensure receiving a race T-shirt.

The course will begin and end at the Naselle High School track. Runners and walkers should be aware the course is a gravel road.

Awards will be presented at 9:30 a.m. at the high school track, with a variety of awards and medals given to the youngest, oldest, fastest male, fastest female, and the runner who traveled the farthest to participate.

A Pannukakku Breakfast (Finnish pancake) is available for purchase beginning at 7 a.m. at the ESA, Alpha Theta booth located inside the school and will be available after the race.

For more information, contact Haleigh See, at haleigh_see11@hotmail.com.

Junes drives Astoria Ford past Cheesemakers, 5-0

The Daily Astorian

TILLAMOOK — The Astoria Ford Junior State baseball team cruised past Tillamook Tuesday night, 5-0, in the first of a two-game series with the Cheesemakers.

The Fishermen went with their young squad to easily defeat Tillamook, as Colby Junes started on the mound and pitched five scoreless

innings, with Will Reed pitching the final two innings.

Defensively, Astoria Ford turned three double plays and also hit the ball well, as varsity players Ole Englund, Jasyn Gohl and Trey Hageman coached the team to victory.

Astoria Ford returns to action at 6 p.m. Thursday, in a single game vs. Tillamook at Aiken Field.

SCOREBOARD

SPORTS SCHEDULE

THURSDAY

Junior State Baseball — Tillamook at Astoria Ford, 6 p.m.; Clatskanie at Warrenton (2), 4 p.m.

FRIDAY

Junior State Baseball — Madison at Astoria Ford, 5 p.m.; West Salem at Astoria Ford, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Junior State Baseball — Madison at Astoria Ford, 10 a.m.; West Salem at Astoria Ford, 11:30 a.m.; Madison vs. West Salem, 2 p.m.; Warrenton at Clatskanie (2), 1 p.m.

Wolf delisting lawsuit against Oregon reinstated

Associated Press

PORTLAND — The Oregon Court of Appeals has decided to reconsider a lawsuit against the state that was dismissed a couple months ago over its decision last year to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list.

It means environmentalists will have another chance to argue for an independent, judicial review of the delisting decision — as well as challenge the validity of House Bill 4040, one of the Legislature's most controversial new laws this year that ultimately led to the case's dismissal in late April.

"The issues presented by this judicial review and by HB 4040 are complex matters of public importance," Judge Erika Hadlock wrote in the court's decision Tuesday. "Without deciding what, if any, effect HB 4040 has on this judicial review, the court determines that the issues of possible mootness and the validity of HB 4040 are more appropriately decided by a department of the court following full briefing."

The controversy stems from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's November decision to delist the gray wolf as endangered, a move aimed at managing the species' replenishing population that environmentalists say was premature and based on questionable science.

As environmentalists were asking the court for a review of the delisting decision, some Republican lawmakers crafted HB 4040 as a means to block the case. The idea was that, with the Legislature's stamp of approval that the decision was air-tight according to law, reviewing that decision was a moot



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

A female wolf from the Minam pack outside La Grande, is pictured after it was fitted with a tracking collar. The Oregon Court of Appeals, on Tuesday, has decided to reconsider a lawsuit against the state that was dismissed a couple months ago over its decision last year to remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list.

point and the case itself, therefore, would be too.

The bill was blasted by many residents, conservationists and Democratic leaders, including Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio, as an overreach by the Legislature into judicial branch-matters and therefore potentially unconstitutional — an argument environmentalists reiterated in court this week.

Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum filed a "notice of probable mootness" soon after HB 4040 was signed into law, prompting the case's dismissal on those grounds on April 22.

Nick Cady, attorney for Eugene-based Cascadia Wildlands, which brought the case along with Oregon Wild and the Center for Biological Diversity, said the case was reconsidered after they challenged the constitutionality of HB 4040 and also the court's suit for the dismissing the suit.

"It's really a crazy, convoluted issue that makes it that much more confusing," Cady

said. "Now we're going to be dodging around the issue of whether or not (the wildlife commission) used the best-available science, which is why we were all here in the first place, and now we have to also argue about separation of powers and other legal nuances that's just going to make this more convoluted."

Officials at the wildlife department and Gov. Kate Brown's office declined to comment. The Oregon Cattleman's Association, an intervener in the lawsuit that also helped craft HB 4040, didn't respond to a request for comment.

Mary Anne Nash, public policy counsel Oregon Farm Bureau, also an intervener, said in a statement her group didn't take a position on Tuesday's reconsideration.

"However, nothing in the ruling pertains to the merits of the Commission's decision to delist the wolf, which Farm Bureau firmly believes was good law and good policy," Nash said.

**COLUMBIA
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Are you interested in participating in a heart health study?



Dr. Diana Rinkevich and her research team are holding a recruitment event at Columbia Memorial Hospital on July 7th, 8th and 9th. Staff will be onsite to discuss the study and enroll those who are interested in participating.

Diana Rinkevich, MD of Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) and Columbia Memorial Hospital (CMH) is conducting a study to determine how levels of eicosanoids, which are substances found in blood, differ between men and women and between women who are in menopause and those who are not. We are currently enrolling men and women aged 18 and older.

Participants in this study will have one visit to the CMH Cardiology Clinic to complete questionnaires, have vital measurements taken, and have a fasting single blood draw. At years one and two, you will receive a follow-up questionnaire to be returned by mail.

For more information, please contact:

Sarah Egan (503) 494-4614 egans@ohsu.edu

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