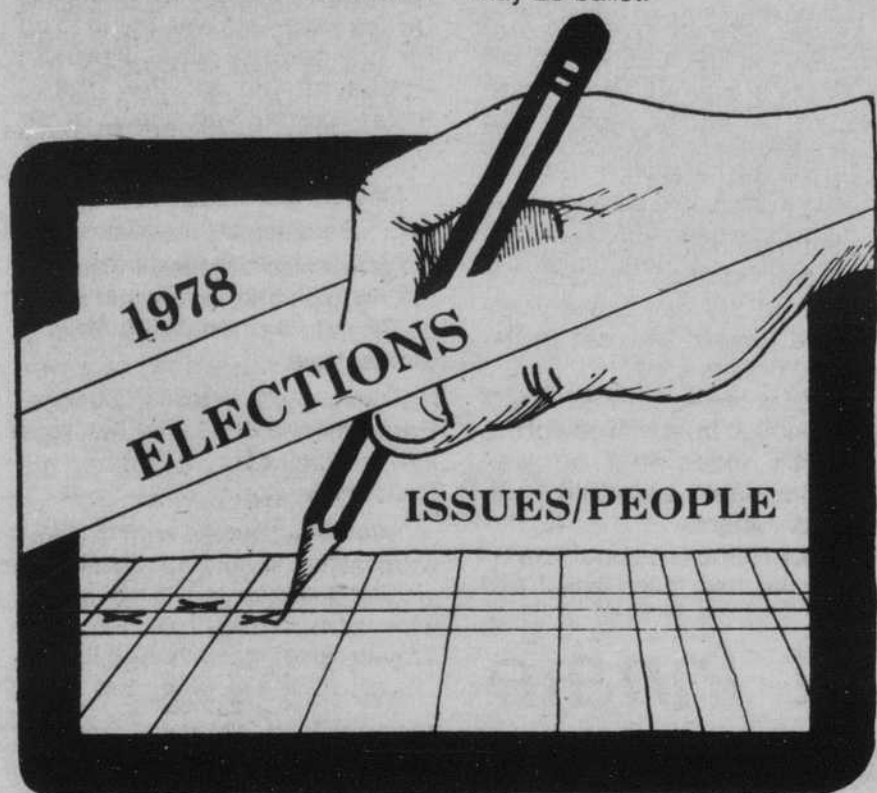


Dogs, highways, housing issues on ballot

By DAN POSTREL
Of the Emerald

One county and six state ballot

measures, involving issues ranging from unwanted pets to the price of gas, will appear on the May 23 ballot.



State Ballot Measure No. One applies to procedures for filing referendum and initiative petitions in home rule counties like Lane County. (Referendum petitions are filed to bring laws enacted by lawmakers to popular vote. Initiative petitions seek to bring to popular vote laws proposed by citizens or groups.)

Under measure one, after enactment of any new law, county lawmakers would have to allow at least 90 days for citizens to file referendum petitions. The current filing period is 30 days. Both referendum and initiative petitions would have to quote in full the law to which they refer.

State Ballot Measure No. Two would amend the state constitution to require that joint meetings of the Oregon Senate and House be open to the public. It would also assure public access to meetings of joint House-Senate committees.

The Oregon Constitution currently requires all meetings of each chamber and meetings of their committees, to be open to the public. The constitution, however, makes no mention of joint meetings.

State Ballot Measure No. Three, if passed, would authorize the sale of bonds to finance multi-family housing for low income senior citizens.

The Women's Legislative Council of Portland has filed a statement with the Secretary of State opposing the measure. The statement charges that money generated by the bond sale would fund House Bill 3134, a senior citizen housing bill that it claims is so vague, it finances housing units that could be open to virtually anyone.

The statement also claims Oregon already has six state and three federal low income senior citizen housing programs.

No official statements in support of measure three have yet been filed with the Secretary of State.

State Ballot Measure No. Four would authorize the sale of bonds to create a Domestic Water Fund, which would provide money for construction or improvement of local drinking water projects.

A state-wide, annual tax levied according to assessed property value would pay for the bonds.

In a statement filed with the Secretary of State, the Property Tax Payer's Protection Committee of Grants Pass opposed the measure, charging it would "hold the entire state liable for the debts of any particular municipality."

No supporting statements have

yet been filed with the Secretary of State.

State Ballot Measure No. Five, if passed, would authorize a 2-cent hike of the state gasoline tax to 9 cents per gallon. In addition, the measure would increase highway use taxes paid by commercial trucking firms.

The money generated would be used for maintenance and repair of existing highways before any new construction begins.

By raising commercial transportation costs, measure five would drive up consumer prices, said chairer Tonie Nathan of the Oregon Libertarian Party in an opposition statement filed with the Secretary of State.

But Gov. Bob Straub, in a statement supporting the measure, cautioned that unless some money is spent on proper highway maintenance, the roads will deteriorate.

Ballot Measure No. Six, (a Lane County initiative,) would, if passed, eliminate the decompression chamber used by the Lane Humane Society to kill unwanted dogs and cats.

The Committee to Ban the Decompression Chamber in Lane County, which circulated the initiative petition, claims the chamber is inhumane, and that it should be replaced with injections of sodium pentobarbital.

A humane society worker said the chamber, located at the Greenhill Animal Shelter in West Eugene, destroys about 40 unwanted dogs and cats per day. A foreman at the Greenhill shelter said the society would have to find about \$10,000 in additional subsidies each year to use the sodium pentobarbital injection method.

Eugene voters to decide bond issue, school board

By WANDA LAUKKANEN
Of the Emerald

Voters will have to choose among a field of nine candidates running for three positions on the Eugene School District 4J School Board in the April 4 election.

In addition to voting for school board members, citizens will cast ballots on a \$5,950,000 bond issue to finance school repair and remodeling projects.

Running for position No. 1 being vacated by Ruth Shepard are Guy DiTorrice, Margaret Gontrum and Edward (Ned) Risbrough. The position is a four-year term.

Gontrum, 43, is a former school teacher who has said declining teacher morale is her main concern. She also has spoken in favor of re-establishing parent-teacher associations in Eugene and has said individual schools should respond to neighborhood concerns, not centralized administration.

The two other candidates for the No. 1 position race, DiTorrice and Risbrough, were unavailable for comment.

In the race for post No. 3 are James Jeppesen Jr., Barbara Koser and Richard Paul.

Jeppesen was recently appointed to a five-month term in the

position, replacing Barbara West, who resigned. West left the post with two years of her term unexpired.

Koser, a grant writer for the Willamette Community Design Center, has indicated she supports additional funds for the community school concept — opening the schools to all ages.

She is also supportive of a recent reading program evaluation and wants evaluations of the math and writing programs.

The immediate past president of the Oregon Education Association, Paul now works as a house-husband.

He has expressed a concern that "accountability" should be brought to the board and that the school body should be its own spokesman, not the superintendent's.

The third candidate for position No. 3, Jeppesen, was unavailable for comment at press time.

Facing each other in the position No. 5 race are Rosemary Boss, Douglas McCool and James Britton. The position has a four-year term.

Boss, 27, is the marketing director of Lane Transit District. She is single with no children and has reported that she wants to represent other people like her who have no direct link with the school district except through paying taxes.

A civil engineer, Britton, 48, says he is unhappy with the present school system. The schools are too permissive, he says, and there is a lack of uniformity throughout the district.

A 43-year-old lawyer, McCool has indicated he thinks county timber revenues should be used to reduce school taxes. He has also said school officials should become actively involved in the legislative process and policy issues coming before the school board should be debated in public prior to board decisions.

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