

Voters face issues from gay rights to gas tax

A roster of seven state measures — on issues ranging from open meeting rules for the Legislature to highway repair — will appear before voters in the primary election May 23. Also up for voter verdict is a proposal to repeal the city's "gay rights" amendment which prohibits discrimination based on sexual preference.

Ballot Measure #1 outlines the procedures which would allow voters in counties with home rule the same rights already provided for non-home rule counties to initiate or refer a measure to the voters.

Lane County Commissioners currently set their own regulations for referendums and initiatives in the county, because it is a home-rule county.

Under the measure, persons in a home rule county would have 90 days after a measure is adopted to circulate petitions to refer the issue to the voters. Along with the petitions, a full text of the proposal must be presented, and the home rule county cannot require a ballot title to be used when circulating the petitions, a current practice in Lane County.

The petitions would require a certain number of qualified voters signatures. For referendum petitions, that number required would be equal to four percent of all votes cast for all candidates for Governor at the previous general election. For initiative petitions, the number required would be 6 percent of the votes; for petitions in home rule counties to implement a proposed county charter amendment, the 8 percent is required.

Measure #2, entitled Open Meetings Rules for Legislature, would require open meetings of joint legislative meetings. Current laws already require open meetings of the separate houses and their committees. The Measure would also require the Legislative Assembly of each house to present rules for implementing all open meetings rules in that house.

Any joint activities in the two houses would also fall under the open meeting measure. Public notice in advance of meetings of House and Senate committees would be required, as well as the minutes of those meetings.

The requirement would apply to all House and Senate committees, subcommittees, interim committees and task forces, regardless of whether or not they

meet during the legislative session.

Ballot Measure #3, entitled Housing for Low Income Elderly proposes to amend the state constitution to allow a fund to finance multifamily housing construction to rent to low income elderly persons.

The fund would not exceed \$221.2 million and the bonds to be used would be general funds limited at any one time to not more than one half of one percent of the true cash value of taxable property in Oregon.

It is planned that the rentals would be used by low income elderly households, defined as any household whose head is over age 62, resides in Oregon, and who can't get adequate, decent, safe and sanitary housing in the open market, including utilities and taxes, for 25 percent of the gross household income. If the head is over 62, family members under 62 would be allowed to live in the rentals.

The Elderly Housing Fund, as it would be called, would be administered by the commerce department's Housing Division. If the fund is created, the bonds would be repaid from contract or loan proceeds, bond reserves and other funds.

Measure #4, focuses on creating a domestic water fund, which, if passed, would be used to finance public piped water projects. As with Measure #3, the bonds to be used for this Domestic Water Fund would total an amount not to exceed one-half of one percent of the true cash value of taxable property in Oregon. Bond proceeds would be earmarked to acquire bonds and notes of the government units sponsoring the projects.

These bonds would be repaid by the local units using the fund or by revenue provided by the Legislature.

Measure #5, entitled Highway Repair Priority, Gas Tax Increase, outlines a plan to generate revenue for maintenance of state highways. It would require that all funds for highway purposes to be used initially for maintenance and modernization of existing highways before new highways are constructed (except for I-205); it increases the tax on gasoline by 2 cents per gallon; it increases weight-mile and flat fee taxes for some commercial vehicles; it

limits the amount of highway user tax to be used for state parks and state police; and it prohibits the using of highway taxes for bicycle trails and footpaths.

The measure stipulates that a limit of eight percent be placed on highway revenues to be spent for state police purposes.

In addition, only those parks serving a convenience to highway users would receive funding. No more than 7 percent of the fund would be spent for state parks.

While highway funds would not be used for bicycle and foot paths, it is planned that the general fund will be used to finance them.

Tax increases for commercial vehicle owners, under the measure, would be equal to the increase paid by gasoline purchasers.

Measure #6, addresses the methods of killing animals in shelters. If passed, the measure would prohibit dogs and cats being killed

in the decompression chamber, as well as by any other means except by injections of sodium pentobarbital. The measure covers institutions of animal shelter such as pounds, humane societies, animal societies, animal hospitals, kennels and dog control authorities.

The measure would require that the injections be administered only by licensed veterinarians or trained and experienced animal technicians. The measure defines qualifications for animal technicians. A licensed veterinarian would be required on the premises when the injection is given.

The Green Hill Animal Shelter in Lane County, however, recently reported that its decompression chamber had malfunctioned and officials did not plan to repair it.

Measure #7, proposed to levy an income tax for the Lane Transit District (LTD).

That tax would come to .44 percent of the taxable income of resi-

dents in the LTD service area, effective after January 1, 1979. The money would fund capital assets purchases and equipment for LTD.

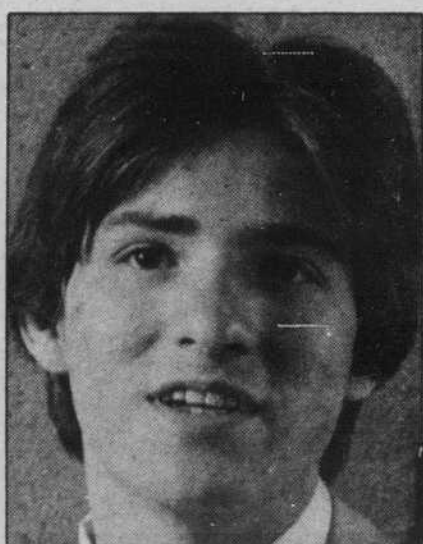
Ballot Measure #51, aims to repeal the amendment to the city's human rights ordinance which prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation — the "gay rights amendment."

Because the ballot measure asks voters if they want to repeal the amendment, a "yes" vote indicates a desire to get the amendment off the books, while a "no" vote signifies allowing the amendment to stay.

**PEOPLE PARTICIPATION
EARLY ENOUGH
JIM JOHNSON
City Council**
Robin Pfeiffer, Treasurer, 3725 Key Ct. Eugene, OR

Discrimination has no place in Eugene.

Your vote will make the difference on Tuesday, May 23.



VOTE for GREG MYERS

LANE COUNTY COMMISSIONER

on May 23



(Paid, ECHR, PO Box 402, Eugene 97440, Phil George Treasurer.)

Paid for by the Committee to elect Greg Myers Lane County Commissioner, Ramona Rojas Treasurer