

Nuclear arms freeze measure on Nov. 2 state elections ballot

By David Steinmetz
Of the Emerald

A nuclear freeze, the legalization of self-service gas stations and the abolishment of the Land Conservation and Development Commission are among the ballot measures Oregon voters will be deciding on Nov. 2 during the general elections.

• Ballot Measure 1 would increase the tax base when new property construction increases the district's value.

The Constitution now allows a taxing district to increase their tax base by up to six percent per year. This measure would allow it to increase up to a total of 15 percent, two years after the improvement increases a district's assessed value.

• The governor's deadline to veto or approve legislation after the legislative session would be lengthened from 20 to 30 days if Ballot Measure 2 passes.

• Property taxes would be limited, elections would be required for some taxes, and the number of these elections would be limited to two per year with Ballot Measure 3.

If approved by voters, the measure would limit property taxes to 1.5 percent of the property's 1979 true cash value, plus enough to give each tax district 85 percent of their 1979-80 revenues, and 100 percent for emergency services.

Equivalent renter relief is required.

Tax increases would require two-thirds of the Legislature's approval, and require elections for some taxes.

According to the Legislative Revenue Office, local governments would collect \$1.6 billion less in property taxes in the next two years if voters approve the measure.

Refunds through the Home owner and Renter Refund Program would decrease by about \$7.5 million in 1984, because of the decreased property taxes.

However, a decrease in property taxes would mean less deductions on state income taxes, thus increasing tax revenues.

Corporate income taxes would then increase by about \$6.3 million, and personal income taxes would increase by approximately \$20.6 million in 1983.

Rudy Ness, former president of the now defunct Taxpayer's Protective Association of Oregon, says he is strongly in favor of the measure.

"There are other areas they can place taxes," Ness says.

"A person's home is something sacred to them. There is no reason a homeowner should be penalized, especially for making his home nicer."

According to State Attorney General Dave Frohnmeyer, the Proposition 13 based measure would transfer much local district control over collected

monies to the state Legislature.

Frohnmeyer said a state-wide 1.5 percent property tax could replace current property taxes, leaving its distribution among cities, counties, school districts, and other taxing bodies up to the state.

• Self-service gas stations would be allowed under Ballot Measure 4, and the state fire marshal would be required to adopt safety rules for them.

Only Oregon and New Jersey have laws prohibiting customers from pumping their own gas.

The measure is opposed by gas station dealers with large gasoline companies, who believe it will allow the companies to take over their franchise stations.

They also claim self-service

fueling can create a fire danger, and damage equipment.

The promoters, including Shell Oil and Atlantic Richfield, disagree, saying the measure would only reduce gas prices, perhaps by 2 to 5 cents per gallon.

The initiative's validity is also being challenged in court, with charges some of the voter signatures were improperly obtained in the petition drive to put it on the ballot.

• A nuclear freeze is urged by the people of Oregon, according to Ballot Measure 5.

The measure proposes that the president, secretary of defense, secretary of state, and members of Congress be informed that the people of Oregon request that the United

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