

Ballot measures at a glance

From the 'freeze' to land-use planning

By Michele Matassa

Property tax, governor approval/veto of bills and self-serve gasoline are the subjects of three less controversial ballot measures being put before the voters Nov. 2.

Ballot Measure 1 proposes to increase tax bases for districts whose cash value is increased by new construction.

Currently, taxing districts are allowed a six percent annual increase over the previous year's tax base.

If the measure passes, increases over the six percent may be made two years after new construction increases a district's assessed value. The total increase would be limited to 15 percent annually.

Ballot Measure 2 would amend the state constitution to allow the governor 30 days, instead of 20 days, to sign or veto bills presented to him after the fifth day before adjournment of the legislative session.

The proposal also allows voters to begin referendum petitioning on bills before they are approved by the governor.

Frustrated taxpayers are pushing for a limitation on property tax but Ballot Measure 3 is causing a lot of heartache for state-supported agencies, especially school districts.

The issue of property tax limitation has caused more heated debate than many of the races for state positions.

Many citizens welcome the proposal to limit property taxes to 1½ percent of 1979 value. This limitation and the measure's requirement to raise property taxes at no more than 2 percent per year may provide long-awaited relief for people who have been biting bullets while shelling out money for high taxes.

But while some are biting bullets, others are sweating them.

School districts will suffer the biggest blow if Measure 3 passes, according to a packet put out by The Oregon Com-

mittee.

The packet says schools use 63 percent of all property tax dollars and depend on this for 44 percent of their total revenue.

A newsletter printed by the University branch of the American Federation of Teachers says the measure "would strip about \$1.6 billion dollars in annual revenue — more than the total cost of operating all our school districts . . ."

The newsletter says passage of the measure presents a "real and immediate" danger because "in a time of economic recession, the simplistic approach of a 1½ percent property tax limitation has superficial appeal to many voters."

Many state legislators are also fighting hard against Measure 3, which would require a two-thirds vote in both the senate and house to pass additional revenue measures.

This stipulation would allow a minority in the legislature to block passage of revenue measures.

Another threatening aspect of the proposal is the prohibition of bond-selling by nine state agencies.

The option of generating revenue through the sale of general obligation, state-backed bonds would be eliminated, stifling agencies such as: Higher Education Facilities and Buildings, Oregon State Highway, State Power Development and Oregon Veterans' Welfare, among others.

Self-service gasoline stations will be allowed in Oregon if voters pass Ballot Measure 4.

Under the proposal, the State Fire Marshal must adopt safety rules effective on or after March 1, 1983, which would allow retail customers to pump their own fuel.

Frustration with the Reagan

administration's high military spending and the escalating American/Soviet nuclear arms race has resulted in a nationwide movement to end the arms race.

Ballot Measure 5 is Oregon's role in this nationwide movement.

The measure calls for Gov. Vic Atiyeh to send a message to Pres. Ronald Reagan, the Secretaries of State and Defense and all members of Congress saying that the people of Oregon support a nuclear freeze.

A freeze would include halting "the testing, production and further deployment of all nuclear weapons, missiles, and delivery systems in a way that can be checked and verified by both sides."

Ballot Measure 6 proposes that cities and counties do their own land planning, using statewide goals as recommendation, not law.

If the measure passes, the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Land Use Board of Appeals will also be eliminated.

Ed Fachtel, proponent of the measure and member of Oregon Citizens for Fair Land Planning Inc., says several companies have wanted to locate in Oregon but were not willing to put up with the state's land use laws.

A task force appointed by Atiyeh reported "it was not possible to pinpoint a single industry that had, beyond

a doubt failed to locate in Oregon solely because of state-mandated land use planning."

Ballot measures

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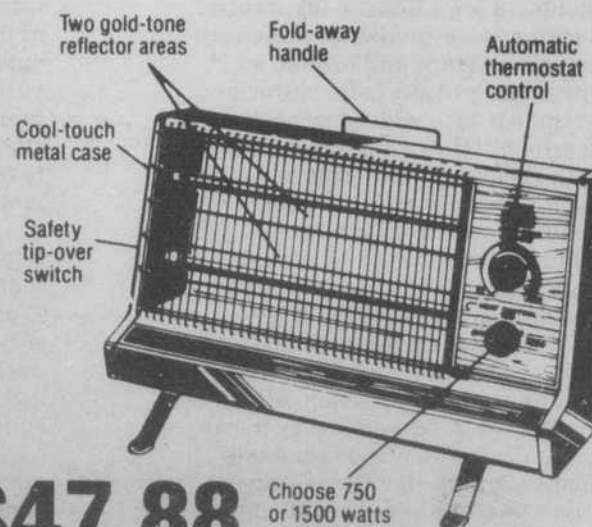
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