

# A quick look at the ballot measure issues

## Measure 1

Ballot Measure 1 will amend the state Constitution's minimum requirements for recalling public officials.

Currently, before an election for the recall of a public official can be held, petitioners must gather signatures equal to 25 percent of the number of people who voted in the official's district during the most recent election for state Supreme Court justice.

The measure would require signatures equaling 15 percent of the number of people who voted in the official's district during the most recent governor's race.

Since voter participation in Supreme Court races varies widely, this measure will stabilize the number of needed signatures for a recall, but will not necessarily make it easier or more difficult to hold a recall election, supporters say.

## Measure 2

Ballot Measure 2 is an attempt to control government spending and property taxes that have gotten out of control, the measure's supporters say.

To do that, voters will be asked to approve a constitutional amendment to limit the amount of money local taxing districts may collect to 1.5 percent, or \$15 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

The Legislative Revenue Office, the legislature's private staff of economists, has predicted the impact of Measure 2 will include a \$1.3 billion revenue loss statewide for the 1985-86 biennium, a \$9.5 million loss for the city of Eugene, and a \$20.7 million loss for the Eugene 4-J school district for the 1984-85 tax year.

This is the fourth time voters have been asked to approve some form of tax limitation measure, but a spokesperson for the Oregon Taxpayers Union, the supporters of the measure, said this is a much more sophisticated measure than the past initiatives.

"This isn't a clone of Proposition 13," said Rick Bornemann of the Oregon Taxpayers Union.

The measure, he said, ensures that local governments can levy the taxes necessary for their district.

Included in the measure is an override clause, which would allow voters to tax themselves above the 1.5 percent limit if they think it necessary. To obtain that override, a majority of registered voters in the district would have to approve the request.

But hopes for approval of the override clause is unrealistic, according to Tom Doig of the Eugene Education Association. A majority of registered voters participating in any local election is rare, he said.

The measure also leaves some questions unanswered, including the division of property taxes collected, which are currently divided according to the amount levied but will be left for the legislature to decide if the measure passes.

The legislature will also be asked to devise a plan for reducing the tax rate in local districts where the combined tax rates are above the 1.5 percent limit.

## Measure 3

With the passage of Measure 3, a voluntary Citizen's Utility Board, made up of ratepayers, would be formed to serve as an advocate for consumers at utility rate hearings with the Oregon public utility commissioner.

With a minimum donation of \$5 and not more than \$100, citizens would become members of CUB and would be eligible to vote for potential board members. Three board members would be elected from each congressional district and would be responsible for hiring energy experts to represent ratepayers.

Proponents of Measure 3 state that as the current system is designed, public utilities are given an unfair advantage at rate hearings with the commissioner. They say that the rate hearings are highly technical and that while the utilities are staffed with a large entourage of professionals to represent their interests, the ratepayers have no one with expertise to represent them.

The utilities disagree and say that any citizen can address the utility commissioner at any time and that all CUB would do is slow down what is now a highly efficient rate process. They point out that while a sole utility commissioner sets the utility rates, there is a large staff to advise the commissioner.

## Measures 4/5

Oregon is one of 33 states that does not have a state-run lottery. Passage of Ballot Measures 4 and 5 would change this.

Measure 4 would change Oregon's Constitution allowing for a state run lottery. Measure 5 requires 50 percent of the lottery's annual revenue go to prizes, 34 percent to the state budget (for economic development and job creation) and no more than 16 percent to meet administrative costs.

Supporters of the lottery claim it would provide Oregon with \$56.8 million in budget revenues in the first year alone. An additional \$83.5 million in prizes would be returned to ticket buyers and \$8 million would go to ticket vendors.

Despite such rosy revenue estimates, Gov. Vic Atiyeh, state Treasurer Bill Rutherford, Secretary of State Norma Paulus and Attorney General Dave Frohnmayer all oppose the lottery.

"I am opposed to the lottery because I believe it is a form of socialized gambling which preys on the weaknesses of our citizens," Paulus says. "I do not believe it would raise revenue sufficient to set off its social costs."

Lottery opponents also claim that the revenue forecasts by the lottery's supporters are inflated.

A study done by the state legislature's non-partisan Legislative Revenue Office claims the state's intake for the first year of the lottery would be closer to \$45 million, not the \$57 million that supporters claim. The study estimates this figure would decrease by \$15 million in the second year.

Support for the lottery remains high, however, says the lottery's chief petitioner, state Sen. Dell Isham, D-Lincoln

City. "I believe there are a lot of elected officials who don't know where the public is at on this issue," Isham says.

Isham estimates that almost one third of Oregon's population has played the Washington state lottery during its 28 month existence. He fears that unless Oregon passes its own lottery measure, the passage of a similar proposal on Tuesday's ballot in California would lead to a further drain of dollars out of the state.

## Measures 6/7

Ballot Measures 6 and 7 would restore the death penalty in Oregon. Measure 6 would exempt capital punishment for aggravated murder from Oregon constitutional prohibitions against cruel, unusual, disproportionate and vindictive punishments.

Measure 7 is a statutory amendment requiring the death penalty for aggravated murder under certain circumstances, requiring a minimum 30-year prison term otherwise.

The death penalty, administered by lethal injection, would be meted out if a unanimous jury finds that the defendant intended to kill the victim and responded unreasonably to any provocation by the victim. The jury would also be required to find that the defendant is a continuing threat to society.

Oregon voters passed a death penalty initiative by a wide margin in 1978. But that measure was overturned by the Oregon Supreme Court in 1981, because it left determination of the sentence to a judge instead of a jury.

Supporters of the measure say the death penalty is a deterrent to murder, citing anecdotal evidence of the deterrent effect. The measure will save the lives of many innocent people, they argue.

But many social scientists claim that statistical analysis of homicide figures show no deterrent effect from the death penalty.

Opponents of the death penalty say it has often been

unevenly administered, with minority members making up a disproportionate share of the death row population.

But since minority members are more often victims of violent crimes, supporters of the death penalty say minorities will benefit from its deterrent effect.

According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Report, the chances of a white male being murdered are one in 164, while the chances for a non-white are one in 28.

But critics of the death penalty note that the punishment is irrevocable and say there is no guarantee that innocent people will never be wrongly sentenced to die.

## Measure 8

Measure 8, "the victim's rights bill," calls for sweeping changes in Oregon statutes governing the state's judicial system. Nine statutes would be amended, and eight would be repealed if the measure is approved. The measure would also require that a prison bond measure be referred to the voters by the 1985 legislature.

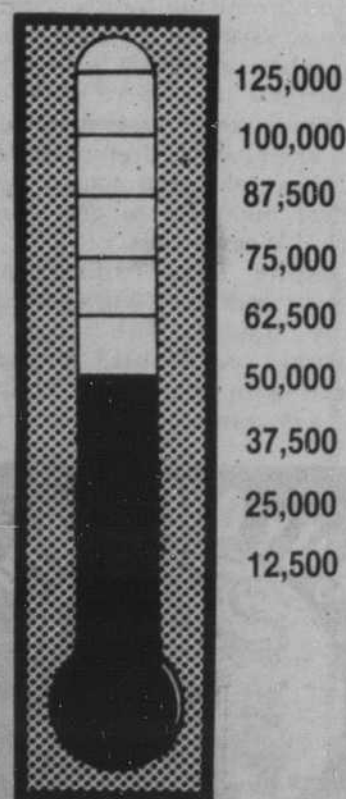
One of the most controversial segments of Measure 8 has been the sections involving rights of police. Current state statutes limiting whom police can stop for questioning and under what conditions they can frisk citizens would be repealed. Federal constitutional restrictions would still apply to police.

Passage of the measure would also make it easier to obtain a

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