

# Measure 9 disadvantageous, critics say

By Chris Norred  
Of the Emerald

Three members of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce told reporters Tuesday that public schools, business development in the Eugene area and public services which lower-income families could not afford otherwise would all suffer if Ballot Measure 9 were to pass on Nov. 5.

The members also said they were opposed to ballot measures 7, 11 and 12 but put special emphasis on Measure 9.

Chamber of Commerce President Dennis Huserik, realtor Jean Tate and owner of Eugene Sand and Gravel, John Alltucker, told the media that all the tax measures were "disadvantageous" from a business point of view.

Ballot Measure 9 calls for an amendment to the state constitution, which would set a maximum property-tax rate and limit annual increases of assessed property value to 2 percent.

New or increased property-tax rates would require voter approval if Ballot Measure 9 passes.

City and county projects aimed at attracting new businesses and corporations, such as the proposed expansion of Mahlon Sweet Airport, would be severely hampered by a lack of available funds if Ballot Measure 9 passes, Huserik said.

"We like to think of new businesses and corporations as new employers," he said.

"Measure 9 would be good for me personally in the short run, but I'm more concerned about the long-haul effects it would have on the community," Tate said.

Tate is particularly concerned that Ballot Measure 9 would not allow schools to raise enough money to operate, she said.

"Another major reason I oppose Ballot Measure 9 is that they're trying to put in tax reform that has not been thoroughly studied," Tate said.

Alltucker is concerned that the tax measure will hurt low-income people because the net effect would be a cutting of public services that low-income families cannot otherwise afford, he said.

"I wish we could vote on each of the measures on separate days," Alltucker said. "Voting on all four measures at once is like playing Russian roulette with four bullets."



Photo by Bobbie Lo

Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce members John Alltucker (left), Dennis Huserik and Jean Tate state opposition to Measure 9 at a Tuesday press conference.

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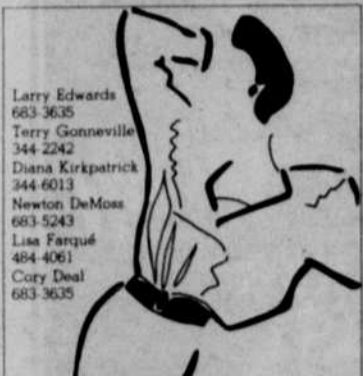
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