

Vote for sales tax in today's election

When you go to the polls today, there are five important — and at times confusing — state ballot measures to mull over. To make things easier, we've studied them all and pass along the following endorsements:

- Measure 1 — **Yes**
- Measure 2 — **Yes**
- Measure 3 — **Yes**
- Measure 5A — **Yes**
- Measure 5B — **No**
- Measure 5C — **No**
- Measure 5D — **Yes**
- Measure 5E — **No**

Measure 1 would allow counties and special transport districts to use local motor vehicle tax monies to fund mass transit systems, pending voter approval.

This is mostly just a cleanup measure, designed to close some loopholes in the law. It doesn't impose new taxes, or affect existing ones. It merely gives local government more control over tax dollars. On the premise that smaller bureaucracies are better at running organizations than bigger ones, **vote yes on Measure 1.**

Most pollution cleanup jobs in this state are funded by bonds. The government floats these bonds, and then uses the money raised to finance various anti-pollution programs. Ballot Measure 2 would increase the number of programs which could be funded by bonds.

Any measure designed to help the pollution problem should get serious attention. It got ours, and our endorsement. **Vote yes on Measure 2.**

Measure 3 has got a lot of attention in recent weeks. If passed, Measure 3 would create an annual legislature, instead of the current biennial one. It would also limit the number of days lawmakers would have to complete their work.

Opponents have charged Measure 3 would end the era of the "citizen legislator" — something Oregon has taken great pride in maintaining. But those days are over. Lawmakers of a century ago didn't need to deal with billion-dollar budgets, toxic waste dumps or high crime rates. It's time this state got a legislature equipped to handle complicated issues — and one that doesn't have to wait two years to solve them.

Currently, the legislature meets once every two years, usually for more than 180 days. Measure 3 would limit sessions in odd-numbered years to 135 days, and even-numbered years to 45-day meetings. In contrast to what opponents say, Measure 3 cuts down on bureaucracy, not increases it.

Vote yes on Measure 3.

Measure 5 is the confusing one. Composed of six different parts, it is an advisory vote only. In other words, unlike other ballot measures, whatever voters approve will not automatically become law. It is simply a way for legislators to judge the opinion of the population.

It involves financing of basic school education, kindergarten through high school. Right now, most funding comes from local property tax levies, which has been established as a pretty unfair way to finance education. The state constitution calls for equal schooling. Under the current system, poorer districts suffer while richer ones prosper.

Obviously something needs to be done. **Vote yes on Measure 5A.**

Should you vote in favor of Measure 5A, you will be asked to choose from a variety of ways to change the education funding system. Basically there are two choices — an income tax increase or a sales tax — with two variations of each.

Bluntly, it's time for a sales tax. Most other states have one. But this is not simply jumping off the bridge after them. Oregon is in the same position California was before Proposition 13, which took school funding off property taxes and instituted a sales tax.

Oregon needs a new source of revenue, not just an increase of an old one. If the education system is to survive, a sales tax is necessary. We prefer a 4 percent surcharge to a 5 percent one, mainly because weaning the state off the property tax system will be difficult enough without bludgeoning them with a higher-than-necessary sales tax rate.

Vote yes on Measure 5D.

ODE endorsements for Oregon elections

Remember: Today is the primary election. Registered voters should be sure to stop by their precincts and vote. As a reminder, here are the *Oregon Daily Emerald* endorsements:

County Commissioner

- Position 1 — Ellie Dumdi
- Position 2 — Pat Riggs
- Position 4 — Cynthia Wooten

Local Measures

- Measure 20-01 — Yes
- Measure 20-02 — Yes
- Measure 20-03 — Yes

City Council

- Ward 1 — Randy MacDonald
- Ward 4 — Paul Nicholson
- Ward 5 — Ken Tollenaar
- Ward 6 — Bobby Green

State Measures

- Measure 1 — Yes
- Measure 2 — Yes
- Measure 3 — Yes
- Measure 5A — Yes
- Measure 5D — Yes



Letters

Definitions

In response to Susan Kjellberg (*ODE*, May 7), I must say that I and many others are in a position to declare what love is and isn't. Love is a real word, which some context, has many meanings. As a reasoning person, I am able to say "let us agree together to have one definition of the word, since all other definitions have more specific words attributed to them."

For example, lust. Lust is often called love, but since it is totally different than what I call love ... and since there is no other word for what I call love, I say call lust, lust! Lust is proud, arrogant, boastful, jealous. It judges value by what it can attain from another.

Love is patient, kind, giving and never self-seeking. Love gives and lets go, and real love is not boastful or proud or arrogant. If someone is headed toward hurt, love warns them. Therefore, love must be based on truth, lest it would risk hurting, rather than helping.

Each letter-writer of May 7 instructed Kelsey Fisher, yet each of you denies any one person knows absolute truth. How then do any of you know whether you instruct in truth or in error? You hypocrites! Fisher erred, but she repented and therefore stands corrected in her thinking. Each of you erred, but will any of you receive correction? The spirit of the author of love, Jesus Christ, corrects us.

Robert Weigel
Lab tech

Studies

There has been some misinformation about American Studies circulating. Let us get the facts straight.

Upon learning Professor Sam Girgus, director of American Studies, had accepted a position at another university, Dean

Theodore Palmer consulted with the American Studies advisory council. They recommended the program either be enhanced or reevaluated.

Given the budgetary constraints facing the College of Arts and Sciences, Palmer could not now make a commitment to enlarge the program. He made a prudent decision. The future of American Studies will be decided by the faculty of the College through the strategic planning process now under way. In this process, the faculty will assign priorities for new budget resources.

The great strength of American Studies is that it is interdisciplinary. The vast majority of courses needed to complete an American Studies major have always been offered through the departments. I expect that most, if not all, of these courses will continue to be offered as required by the departments.

For the present, there will be no American Studies major, but interested students should be able to design a comparable program in the individual departments. Arrangements are being made to allow majors and those taking AMS 101,2,3 as a cluster to complete their courses.

The decision to put the program in abeyance was made at the College level. The Provost and I were consulted. In keeping with the principle of decentralized and local decision making, Palmer's decision was accepted.

Myles Brand
University President

Kept straight

I must be disillusioned in my expectation of the media to report with some accuracy. Although my intention is not to attack any member of the *Oregon Daily Emerald* staff, I must put forth that when dealing with such a controversial issue as animal rights, it is essential that all the facts are kept

straight, and I believe the facts were greatly distorted in the April 25 account of the previous day's Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals rally.

Contrary to the article's heading, I did not say "animal rights is synonymous with rights granted to humans," which sounds like animals should have all the same rights as humans. Rather, I put forth that the oppression of — or discrimination against — humans is synonymous with the oppression of non-human animals, and therefore working to stop human rights violations or the exploitation of non-human animals is entirely connected.

I did not say funds should be taken out of preventative medicine research. In fact, I stated funds should be taken out of touch-and-go animal-based basic research and added to the .02 percent of the federal budget allotted for preventative medicine, which includes health education, birth control, etc.

This also serves to respond to Jack Maynard's question (*ODE*, May 2) — and no, I was not paraphrased correctly. I did not say "Society causes itself to have diseases because people are not educated."

Jill Freidberg
SETA

Thanks to all

I want to express a warm thank you to all the MEChAists who volunteered their hard work to give me and my family such a delicious meal and a wonderful time on Cinco de Mayo. Not only was there not a hint of violence and no alcohol, the festive atmosphere and bopping band made for an event that even my 12-year-old daughter could appreciate.

It really showcases that past Cinco de Mayo problems have more to do with white culture than Latino. Thanks to you all.

Phil Nebergall
Student