

MEASURES

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state's 2,334 precincts reporting (72 percent).

However, Ballot Measure 5B, which asked for a maximum 10.4 percent increase in personal income taxes to reduce property taxes for funding K-12 schools was receiving 157,270 yes votes and 272,251 no votes (37 percent to 63 percent). Ballot Measure 5C, calling for a maximum 14 percent income tax increase to eliminate property taxes for school financing was getting 96,625 yes votes and 322,998 no votes (23 percent to 77 percent).

Likewise, Ballot Measures 5D and 5E were receiving 65 and 62 percent no votes, respectively. 5D asked for a 4 percent sales tax to reduce property taxes supporting public schools and was receiving 150,095 yes votes and 276,523 no votes. Meanwhile, 5E had called for a 5 percent sales tax to eliminate property taxes as a way of funding public schools, receiving 164,799 yes votes and 268,122 no votes.

Clearly the message being sent to voters was that they are opposed to proper-

ty taxes being the majority way public schools are financed, but voters don't want an increase in personal income tax or any form of sales tax.

"It says to me that people in Oregon don't want an increase in income tax and have a wait-and-see attitude as far as a sales tax," said Peter Swan, who won the Republican primary for state senator from the 20th District.

State Representative Carl Hosticka (District 40), who ran unopposed in the primary, said the defeat of Ballot Measures 5B, 5C, 5D and 5E means a long struggle ahead for all.

"There's no simple solution," he said. "It's too early for me to have a clear view what's next, but I think there's some significance (with the ballot measures) that the 4-1 levy was defeated by such a wide margin in an area that up to now was mostly supportive of schools."

Hosticka also said the controversial matter will now have to be dealt with by the Legislature.

"I think the next step is that we will meet Thursday, and what then I can't really say," he said. "It's an area we're divided on ... and I think we're in for a long battle."

Two other state ballot measures were losing early Wednesday morning while one measure was passing.

Measure 1, asking voters to authorize use of local motor vehicle tax revenues for mass transit, was receiving 209,314 yes votes and 236,466 no votes (47 percent to 53 percent).

Measure 3, which would have the Legislature meet annually instead of bi-annually, was failing 51 percent to 49 percent at 12:30 a.m., but drastically swung the other way by 1:30 a.m. when it was had 220,660 yes votes to 208,589 votes. At 1:45 a.m., Measure 3 had swung back to a 49 percent for and a 51 percent against, indicating the measure would be changing often and drastically throughout the early morning hours.

Meanwhile, Ballot Measure 2, calling for pollution and waste control bonds to be used for "activities related to" pollution and waste control was passing with 251,298 yes votes to 184,913 no votes (58 percent to 42 percent).

Ballot Measure 3 seemed to be a dividing ground between Hosticka and State Senator Grattan Kerans.

Hosticka said his biggest objection to annual Legislative sessions would be that power would be taken away from

the people.

"I've been against Measure 3 and the reason is that an annual session and a full-time Legislature will be playing games with the people rather than (being) out of session when there is more established ties to the community," he said.

"The best example of this is in California where they (legislators) are so tied with the Legislature that the people are being run by the unit," Hosticka added.

Kerans said although the House usually originates measures such as Measure 3 and then is defeated in the Senate, Measure 3 came from the Senate originally and was then approved by both houses.

When the early returns indicated that Ballot Measure 3 would be headed to defeat, Kerans was surprised.

"That this can go down is a major shock to me based on the strength of the vote (in the Legislature)," he said.

However, Kerans said if the measure were defeated, it wouldn't be the end of it.

"It'll be on the ballot again," he said.

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