

# Measure 5 passage will change school funding

By Brian Bloch  
Emerald Reporter

## Commissioners vote unanimously to oppose

Lane County Commissioners voted unanimously Wednesday to oppose state Ballot Measure 5, which asks voters to limit property taxes over the next five years.

The measure calls for an amendment to the state constitution limiting the government's ability to impose taxes and charges based on a property's real market value.

In addition, Measure 5 would limit the amount of state tax revenue directed to schools on all levels and would require the state legislature to fund lost property tax revenue to the school system.

Proponents of the measure want to limit property taxes on private homes, cut corporate tax exemptions and transfer the school funding burden away

from property tax revenue and onto the state legislature.

Don McIntire, chief petitioner for the Protect Oregon Property Society, said the measure is a prudent, necessary step to removing the state school system's total reliance on property tax revenues to cover operating costs.

He said that by reducing school's reliance on property tax revenue from \$15 per \$1,000 of assessed property value to \$5 over the next five years, the state school system will benefit from more stable, predictable funding from the states' general fund.

In addition, McIntire said long-standing funding and levy problems stemming from inconsistent property values in different districts will be eliminated because all schools will

be funded from an established general fund.

"There is specific information in the measure that protects and even enhances school funding," McIntire said.

He also said that any losses in revenue due to tax reductions during the measure's proposed implementation period (through fiscal year 1995-96) would be made up and even surpassed as the state's revenue increases each year.

That, he said, will remove the ever-increasing tax burden off homeowners, fund schools more securely and utilize secured funding for other state programs with little or no reductions.

"We have all these people whose power emanates from government saying their programs will suffer," McIntire

said. "That's just not true. The numbers don't support them."

The commissioners and representatives from three county offices disagreed, however, contending the measure would create drastic cuts in schools, law enforcement, mental health and other health and human services if Lane County voters pass the measure Nov. 6.

"That's the attraction of Ballot Measure 5, to pay less property taxes," said Lane County District Attorney Doug Harclerod. "I'd love to pay less property taxes, but the measure doesn't provide any alternative funding sources to pay for other needed services."

Jim Gangle, Director of the Lane County Department of Assessment and Taxation, said the measure would require reallocation of state funds to school

districts to cover the lack of property tax revenue and thus detract from other state programs and services.

"It takes money away and doesn't provide a clear means to replace it," Gangle said.

County Commissioner Jack Roberts, himself a former tax lawyer, echoed the sentiments of the entire commission.

"I just don't see any way in good conscience that the people of Lane County or the state of Oregon can support this," he said.

"These people are much too concerned with the effect of taxes on government," McIntire said. "It's about time we consider the effect of taxes on citizens."

"The growth of the government has far exceeded the growth of the citizens it's supposed to serve. That's just not right," he said.

## Portland to get new police chief

PORTLAND (AP) — Portland Mayor Bud Clark on Wednesday named Police Capt. Tom Potter to replace retiring chief Richard D. Walker.

In a televised news conference, Walker said he and Potter will work together during the next month to ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

"I see my job as a transition chief," Potter said. "I'm here to help prepare the organization and the people for change."

Walker, 63, plans to retire Nov. 18. He made the announcement Tuesday.

Potter, 50, joined the Portland Police Bureau in the summer of 1966. He now commands the Community Policing Division, which has developed a 5-year plan for the bureau's future.

Clark said he hoped Potter would convert the entire bureau to community policing, a strategy that presumes that the citizen often has the best solution to neighborhood crime.

## Judge suspended for polygamy

PORTLAND (AP) - A judge who admitted being married to two women at the same time was suspended Wednesday by the Oregon Supreme Court.

Multnomah County District Judge Robert Kirkman will be suspended with pay effective Monday pending a final decision by the court.

The Supreme Court action came af-

ter the Oregon Judicial Fitness Commission unanimously recommended he be removed from office for "premeditated and calculating criminal misconduct."

The Supreme Court said a hearing to decide the matter probably will be conducted in January. Possible sanctions range from reprimand to removal from office.

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