

POLITICS

Measure 2 eases school mergers

By Rene DeCair
Emerald Reporter

On Nov. 6 voters will have the opportunity to eliminate one of the pesky bugs that irritates the state's school districts each time one plans to merge with another.

Ballot Measure 2 is a constitutional amendment proposed by the 1989 Oregon Legislature that would give merged school districts a tax base equal to the sum of their previous bases. The measure is not expected to have any financial impact on the state.

Proponents of the measure said it will eliminate the confusion of the complicated "formula" computation method that is currently used to figure tax bases for merging districts. There are no opponents to the measure.

"It gives them a better formula to calculate the tax base after a merger than the current system," said Donnella Slayton, administrative assistant for the secretary of state.

According to Steven Bender, an economist for Oregon's legislative revenue office, the state has two types of school district mergers - territorial and non-territorial.

Bender said Measure 2 would affect mergers that increase a district's territory, such as a merger that combines two high schools in one district. Mergers that do

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VOTE '90

Measure 2

Question: Shall constitution allow school district created by merger a tax base equal to sum of tax bases of merged districts?

SUMMARY

- This measure would amend the state constitution to allow a school district formed by the merger of two smaller districts to have a tax base equal to the sum of the tax bases of the component districts, plus 6 percent.

Under current law, the tax base of any special district — not just school districts — that is affected by a boundary change must be computed by one of three formulas, depending on the nature of the change.

- The measure retains voters' ability to increase the new district's tax base by election. Effective fiscal years 1991 and after.

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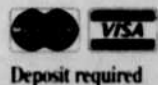
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