

Measure 8 asks voters to decide abortion issue

By Joe Kidd
Emerald Politics Editor

The impassioned debate over abortion will be put before Oregon voters Tuesday in the form of Measure 8, one of two anti-abortion initiatives on the ballot. And proponents and opponents of the measure have been heatedly campaigning their causes.

"We will not stand by and see the murder of thousands of babies," said Rod Augee, a coordinator for the Oregon Human Rights Coalition, the group that put the initiative on the ballot.

"We're dealing with a human rights issue," he said. "We are pro-choice when it comes to the choices made before conception. After conception, there are two individuals involved, and then it becomes a human rights issue."

Opponents of the measure see it as a rights issue as well.

"The issue is who will decide what will happen when there is an unwanted pregnancy," said Jeanette Turk, manager of the No on 8 and 10 Campaign. "Will the woman make the decision with her physician ...or will the fundamentalists or religious groups trying to

VOTE '90

Measure 8

Question: Shall state constitution prohibit abortions except to prevent death of pregnant woman and in reported cases of rape or incest?

SUMMARY

- Adds new provision to Oregon Constitution. The new provision would prohibit abortion with three exceptions.
- The exceptions, in which abortion would not be prohibited, are to prevent the death of the pregnant woman and in reported cases of rape or incest.

impose their morality on the public?"

If passed, Measure 8 would prohibit all abortions exception in cases of reported rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. Another initiative on the ballot, Measure 10, calls for parental notification before a minor could receive an abortion.

Proponents of Measure 8 claimed the initiative at what they call "con-

venience abortions," believing that most of the 13,000 abortions performed in Oregon last year were done for reasons other than of necessity. Supporters claim that only 1 to 3 percent of abortions performed are done in cases involving rape or incest.

Turk said she believes those figures may not be accurate, and that that isn't really the issue anyway.

"Any law enforcement officer will tell you that rape and incest are the most underreported crimes," she said. "...I don't know if that (figure) is accurate. ...The issue is not numbers. It is a woman's right, and whether a zealot group is going to control that."

Turk said she believes the measure's proponents are "trying to impose their morality on the public."

However, Augee argues that many of the current laws legislate morality to some extent.

"Murder, child abuse and speeding are illegal," he said. "Society has the definite privilege to establish limits."

Opponents of the initiative also point to the issue of whether unsafe, illegal abortions will result if the measure is passed.

"The measure will not eliminate abortions," Turk said. "Women will be force back to back alley abortions."

While supporters of the measure concede that abortions will still be obtained illegally, they say that the threat to women's lives will not be greater than it is now.

Dr. Gregory Thomas, a Salem-area physician who has spoken out in favor of Measure 8, points to figures from the National Center for Health Statistics to support that claim.

Thomas points out that in 1960 the president of Planned Parenthood stated that 90 percent of the illegal abortions performed then were done by physicians.

"If Measure 8 made abortion totally illegal, which it doesn't, there is no reason to believe (those seeking illegal abortions) would go to anyone other than a doctor," he said.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, the number of women who died from abortion complications dropped to below 200 by 1960, and to about 50 by 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion.

University professor takes on incumbent in District 43

By Carrie Dennett
Emerald Reporter

To hear Democrat Lynn Kahle tell it, he has a good chance of beating Republican incumbent Larry Campbell, District 43 state representative since 1979 and House minority leader.

Kahle, a University professor, said he is making headway in a district that, while predominately Democrat, has consistently re-elected Campbell.

"I think I'm reaching the Democrats, and I think I'm reaching some Republicans, too," Kahle said.

Campbell said he was unavailable for an interview until after the election.

Kahle points out that Campbell ran unopposed in the last election, and before that ran against opponents who were severely underfunded.

Kahle said Campbell's campaign is more about money than the issues.

"His campaign is a big bucks cam-

aign...I wish he was dealing more with the his voting record and more with the issues," he said.

Kahle said Campbell has received more campaign contributions than any legislator in Oregon, including many from political action committees while he said his funds are mostly from small contributions.

The issues of property tax reduction and support for schools have created a lot of attention in the election, and

Kahle said while property taxes need to be reduced, a plan to replace those lost taxes must be part of the package. He said this can perhaps be best accomplished with a progressive income tax or a luxury tax.

The connection between drugs and crime is another issue that promises to be a continued focus for legislators.

Kahle has also come out against the export of raw logs, supporting the production of secondary wood products to replace lost jobs in the timber industry.

BIOGRAPHY

Lynn Kahle

Candidacy: State representative, District 43

Party: Democrat

Age: 39

Home: Eugene

Occupation: Associate professor for consumer behavior and communications at the University

Background: Legislative aide, 1989; B.A., Concordia Senior College; M.A., Pacific Lutheran University; Ph.D., University of Nebraska

Larry Campbell

Candidacy: State representative, District 43

Party: Republican

Age: 59

Home: Eugene

Occupation: Director of public affairs, Louisiana-Pacific Co., Portland

Background: State representative, 1979-present; House minority leader, 1983-87; B.S., Lewis and Clark College

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Bill Bowerman
Former U of O Track Coach
Co-Founder, NIKE
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