



Making it stick

Laurie Luckie, a second-year psychology major from Virginia, applies a new parking permit to her car's bumper Monday afternoon.

Photo by Jeff Paslay

Governor confident after tax tour

PORTLAND (AP) — Gov. Barbara Roberts says she feels better about her tax campaign now that she has spoken to thousands of Oregonians about it.

"I want you to know there is a certain anxiety that comes with trying something this big and this new," Roberts told about 2,000 people in the Portland Convention Center Sunday. "But the anxiety sure is less now than it was before."

The Portland meeting was the fifth in a six-stop tour of the state to initiate the governor's tax overhaul strategy. The tour ended with a Sunday afternoon meeting in Eugene.

She wants to get thousands of citizens involved in the issue in hopes the public can find an answer to Oregon tax problems. Voter-approved Measure 5 cuts property taxes and will drasti-

cally reduce the amount of money available to government. However, voters have repeatedly rejected a sales tax in the state.

About 700 people showed up in Pendleton at the kick-off meeting Thursday. The crowd dipped to about 300 in Bend on Friday, then increased to 500 in Medford and 900 in Salem on Saturday. More than 600 attended the Eugene session.

"I want to thank you for believing in Oregon," Roberts said in Portland. "We're going to make this work."

The regional meetings are expected to produce at least 1,500 volunteers who will interview 25,000 voters, asking them what services they want government to provide and what kind of taxes they want to pay for the services. Most of the sampling — about 20,000 —

will be randomly selected from voter registration lists.

At each of the regional meetings, voters have come to support as well as criticize Roberts' strategy. Many say the effects of Measure 5, with its cap on property taxes, make a new replacement tax inevitable. Many others want no part of more taxes and call for cuts in government spending instead.

Mary Ann Dunn, a Portland resident, finds herself in the middle of the dilemma. Until Measure 5, ever-increasing property taxes squeezed her income. Now that the property tax limit is in place, she worries about adequate funding for local governments and for schools.

"As a retiree, I want to be able to stay in my home," she said. "As a grandmother, I want good schools for my grandkids."

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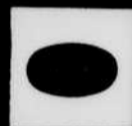
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