

Poll: Students favored Clinton

By Lisa Kneefel
Emerald Reporter

An informal exit poll of voters leaving the poll in the EMU Walnut Room Tuesday indicated University students favor Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton and Democratic senatorial candidate Les AuCoin.

All of the students questioned voted "no" on Ballot Measure 9. The proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution would require all state agencies and institutions to discourage homophobia and recognize it as "unnatural" and "perverse."

Votes on Ballot Measure 7 among the students differed, however. Measure 7, also known as the "split-roll tax initiative," would increase the maximum rate of taxes on non-owner-occupied property and increase property tax revenues to local school districts and community colleges.

Matt Cox, a senior in psychology, said he voted for Bill Clinton because he believes the Democrat can "do away with trickle-down economics" and increase investment.

"I've been a Democrat for a long time, and he's the best candidate (the party) has put out in at least eight years," Cox said.

Cox said he's concerned about finding a job after he graduates this year, and he believes Clinton and running mate Al Gore are capable of creating jobs.

Cox said he voted for Les AuCoin. He said he voted "no" on Measure 9 and "yes" on Measure 7.

Brian H. Thompson, a sophomore in fine arts, said he voted for Clinton because he "just didn't trust Bush." He said he had planned to vote for Perot until the independent candidate dropped out of the race in July.

Thompson said he voted for AuCoin because he doesn't agree with incumbent Bob Packwood's environmental views. He also said he voted "yes" on Measure 7 because he believes it would support the state school system.

Thompson said he voted "no" on Measure 9 and called the proposal discriminatory.

"That's just putting people down. It's completely unconstitutional," Thompson said.

Jason Norton, a sophomore in computer information and science, said he voted for Clinton because he likes the provisions for education and the environment in the Democratic platform.

Norton said he voted for AuCoin "mainly because I didn't like Packwood's campaign."

"Packwood never said much about himself, he just said how bad AuCoin would be," Norton said. He said he voted "no" on Measure 9 because he believes it would promote bigotry and "yes" on Measure 7 because "businesses should pay an equitable amount of taxes."

Ernest Villareal, a freshman in pre-medicine, said his Republican parents voted for George Bush in the past, but he said he believes Bush "hadn't done much," so he voted for Clinton.

Villareal also said he voted for AuCoin. He said he voted "no" on Measure 9 because the proposed amendment would deprive homosexuals of their rights, and he said he attributed his "yes" vote on Measure 7 to his friends' decision to support the measure.

Morgan Natt, a freshman in history, said he had already voted by absentee ballot for Deschutes County. Natt said he voted for Clinton and running mate Al Gore mostly because "they're going to keep abortion safe and legal." He also said he is unimpressed with the Bush administration's performance.

"I'm sick and tired of the same old bull that's been happening in the past 12 years," Natt said.

Natt said he voted for AuCoin and voted "no" on Measure 7 because property taxes are already high. Natt said he also voted "no" on Measure 9.

"Measure 9 will hurt the Oregon economy," he said, "but it also violates First Amendment rights."

Some voters at poll for hour or longer

By Erick Studenicka
Emerald Reporter

Although polls officially closed at 8 Tuesday night, many students residing in precinct 369 found themselves waiting in line until 9:15 p.m. to cast their vote.

The precinct polling location, located on Ferry Street at the Central Presbyterian Church, was swamped with voters throughout the day. The average waiting time was more than one hour throughout the afternoon.

As polls closed at 8 p.m., more than 50 people remained in line to vote. In accordance with election law, a polling official went to the end of the line to confirm those who had been in line before the deadline. Anyone who arrived after 8 p.m. wishing to vote was turned away.

Betty Trask, the polling official in charge of precinct voting, said everything possible had been done to shorten the average wait.

"We called in to headquarters to request additional booths for the hallway; that helped some," Trask said. "I don't think this level of voter turnout was anticipated."


The additional three booths from election headquarters raised the church's total to 16.

"We've just been busy because everyone is interested in this election," Trask said. "All the young people are showing up because they're interested in Measure 9."


Trask estimated voter turnout in the precinct might have reached the 80-percent level. The total voter turnout was 1,651, up dramatically from the 600 voters who turned out for the June primary.

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