

Oregonians reject money measures

SALEM (AP) — Oregon voters had little use for money issues in Tuesday's election as they rejected a measure on urban renewal projects and rejected most school bond proposals.

With 99 percent of the votes tallied, the vote margin was 73 percent to 27 percent against Measure 1, which was aimed at making more money available for urban renewal projects.

Voters approved only three of 16 local school money measures on the ballot.

The urban renewal measure, put on the ballot by the Legislature, was the nation's first statewide vote-by-mail election. Measure 1 would have allowed local voters to exempt taxes for urban renewal projects from the statewide property tax limit passed in 1990.

The opposition to the measure was led by Gresham businessman Don McIntire, who was one of the chief architects of the property tax limit.

"The best lesson we can draw from this is how out of touch the Legislature is with the electorate," McIntire said Tuesday night. "The Legislature approved this measure 9-to-1 and the electorate turned it down 3-to-1."

He said lawmakers should heed that message from the voters and scrap efforts to put a sales tax on the ballot.

"A sales tax will go down by the same margin," McIntire said. "Those people absolutely don't get it. There is no question the sales tax will suffer the same fate."

Pat McCormick, a Portland public relations consultant who managed the campaign for Measure 1, said it was a difficult issue to sell to voters.

"We had the challenge of trying to communicate a very complicated issue," he said. "The other side had only to cast doubt and create confusion."

McCormick said surveys indicated the measure would lose but that the margin of defeat it took "was our worst case."

McIntire said the urban renewal proposal was an assault on the property tax limit that would only lead to rising property taxes.

McCormick said that claim was misleading because Measure 1 would not have increased anyone's taxes but only allowed local voters to exempt renewal projects from Measure 5.

Lawmakers referred the proposed constitutional amendment to the voters because the Oregon Supreme Court last year ruled that levies for urban renewal are covered by the Measure 5 tax limit.

McCormick and McIntire agreed on one thing, that voters are not in the mood to alter Measure 5. "I think that's very much the message," McCormick said. "They aren't ready to change Measure 5."

"This should be a warning signal to everyone about talking about amending the constitution with little public dialogue," McIntire said.

On school measures, Ashland voters turned down an attempt to use a city tax levy to get around a property tax limit on schools.

Ashland schools face a \$2.9 million shortfall in the coming school year because of the Measure 5 tax limit. Officials hoped to ease the crunch by diverting financing of some programs to a city levy.

Other defeats included the largest money measure on the ballot, a \$28.8 million bond issue for school construction and repair in the Bethel School District in the Eugene area.

One of the few bond issues to win was a \$9.8 million measure narrowly approved to expand Molalla High School.

OCA

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cent to 44 percent; Josephine County, 60 percent to 40 percent; Douglas County, 73 percent to 27 percent; Linn County, 69 percent to 31 percent, and Klamath County, 64 percent to 36 percent.

The measures prohibit cities and counties from passing laws to protect gay men and lesbians from discrimination. They also prohibit local governments from spending money to "promote" homosexuality.

Gay rights advocates said the local measures would open the floodgates for discrimination against homosexuals in such areas as housing and employment.

"The OCA is very effective in convincing people that the issue is special rights for homosexuals when in reality they are taking away civil rights and legalizing discrimination," said Marilyn Wagener of Albany, who fought the measure in Linn County.

Wagener also said Tuesday's vote showed the need for the state Legislature to pass a bill to ban discrimination against homosexuals.

"I guess I feel that since the OCA has decided to tear this state apart city by city and county by county, that this is only the beginning," she said.

Last year's statewide initiative sponsored by the OCA would have declared homosexuality "unnatural" and "perverse" and would have required state and local governments to actively discourage it.

After the measure was rejected by Oregon voters, the alliance reworked the initiative and said it would push the toned-down version in places that generally supported Measure 9.

In an early test last month in Cornelius, the first of the group's local initiatives was approved by voters in a town that had rejected Measure 9 by a narrow margin.

The Oregon chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union has challenged the Cornelius measure, arguing it violates constitutional guarantees of equal protection under the law and freedom of speech, religion and assembly.

STIPEND

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versity \$518 in tuition plus \$50 in late fees.

Her first petition came after the discrepancy was revealed in the *Emerald* during the ASUO Executive campaign last spring.

Collins Puente said she believed the revelation was politically motivated and that it was "too bad" the incident had to be dealt with in the media.

"I wish that the party that

brought this out would have talked to me," she said. "There were so many issues to be dealt with (in the campaign) that I wanted to concentrate on other things."

Collins Puente said she does not believe her opponents in the election, the Warren/Johnson campaign, had anything to do with the information being given to the *Emerald*.

"I have some ideas," as to who did it, she said, "but it was not Warren/Johnson."

The sexual assault that began this incident for Collins Puente was never brought to trial, she said. Collins Puente said injuries she received to her head during the assault caused her to lose consciousness during much of the assault, and she blacked-out other parts of it.

She was advised that going through a legal process would be difficult and most likely unfruitful because of her lack of memory.

ROSE

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ing only that Barbara Bush, among others, already has a rose named after her.

The AP was informed of its mistake and substituted a corrected version.

"A mistake was made and it was brought to our attention," said Rick Green of the AP Portland Bureau. "A correction was sent out."

However not before the original story, which was sent out to thousands of newspapers across the country on the AP's national directory, created some confusion.

"Some people called wanting to order the Barbara Bush rose," McCabe said.

A Jackson and Perkins employee said the company had the opposite problem — customers who had purchased the Barbara Bush called to ask if they bought the wrong rose.

The University had the rose created as a fundraising mechanism.

Approximately 6,000 bushes will go for sale at \$14.95 each or \$12.95 each for five bushes or more, shipping included. All proceeds will benefit the University.

"If we sell all 6,000 roses, we stand to make a considerable amount of money," McCabe said.

The limited-edition rose can be ordered through the University. Buyers will receive the rose bushes from Jackson & Perkins at planting time next spring. For more information, call 346-6000.

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