

Voters say 'yes' to reopening of Willamette Street

Marcelene Edwards
Oregon Daily Emerald

Voters approved a plan that supporters say will bring economic growth to the downtown mall area in a mail-in-ballot election Tuesday.

Measure 20-43 asked voters to reopen Willamette Street to cars between 8th and 11th Avenues and remove the fountain on the mall.

Preliminary results from the Lane County Elections Office

showed that 61 percent, or 18,986 people, voted yes and 11,821 people voted no on the measure.

Russ Brink, executive director of Downtown Eugene, Inc. said the outcome is fantastic.

"I'm elated," he said. "It has been a long hard struggle."

Eugene Mayor Ruth Bascom was happy with the results of the vote.

"This will give us a chance to

continue in the positive direction Eugene downtown has been going," Bascom said.

Many of the businesses in the downtown mall area supported the street's reopening because they have experienced an economic decline in the last several years.

The opponents of the measure, who say the plan will cause traffic problem downtown, were not surprised by the outcome.

"It's pretty much what we expected," said Neale Hyatt, from the Committee for Downtown Planning. "We spent 96 cents and they spent \$40,000."

The cost of the project at Willamette Street is projected at \$1.3 million. The Urban Renewal Fund will pay \$450,000 and the Lane County Road Fund would pay \$750,000.

Downtown property owners will contribute \$100,000 to the project from funds raised by the

Downtown Eugene, Inc.

Construction is scheduled to begin in the fall and should be completed before the 1996 Eugene Celebration.

The plan will add a two lane street through the mall; raised crosswalks outlined with brick pavers at the intersections of Broadway and the alleys; sidewalks for pedestrians and 17 short-term parallel parking bays and about 40 short-term bicycle parking spaces.

Voters approve bond for new juvenile detention center

Ben Moebius
Oregon Daily Emerald

Eugene voters approved a \$39 million bond measure to build a new juvenile detention center in a mail-in ballot election last night.

Preliminary results from the Lane County Elections Office show that the measure passed by more than 5,000 votes, with 38,671 votes for and 33,559 votes against. A total of 72,230 votes were tallied.

Eugene voters set a precedent for civic responsibility, said Kip Leonard, Lane County Circuit Court Judge.

"It is important to look how we are compared to other communities in the area," Leonard said. "We are way ahead."

"I have always told people that Eugene is the place to be to get help. Our youth services workers are very helpful and capable, there just weren't the resources," he said. "Now we have the facility we need to provide early intervention."

Greg Vik, chairman of Citizens for Juvenile Justice, said Eugene voters have

made it clear that they care about juvenile justice and prevention.

"They are not just concerned with warehousing offenders and dealing with adult convicts," Vik said. "Eugene voters should be very proud about this."

For the past two years juvenile cases involving \$750 or less have not been prosecuted, said Steve Carmichael, the director of the Eugene Department of Youth Services. Notification letters are sent to the parents and the charges are dropped.

The bond measure will be repaid over a 20-year period. Youth services statistics estimate the cost for an owner of a \$100,000 home to be \$25.70 per year, or about \$2 a month.

The proposed detention center will have 96 beds each with its own sink and toilet.

The center will house juvenile courts, youth parole and probation offices and the Department of Youth Services. Other features of the 30-acre site north of Autzen Stadium will include a work training center and a 20-bed residential youth center.

Measure will give \$42.8 million to Lane Community College

Samantha Martin
Oregon Daily Emerald

Results of Tuesday's mail-in election prove community college has not been neglected by taxpayers.

Ballot Measure 20-44, which will allocate \$42.8 million to Lane Community College, passed by more than 10,000 votes. The bond measure will cost home owners about 25 cents per each \$1,000 of assessed value of the home, and will be repaid over a period of 15 years.

Lane Community College President Jerry Moskus said he was "ecstatic" the measure passed.

"It's difficult for people to give up their tax dollars and it's gratifying to know that they believe in education this much," Moskus said. "I'd like to thank everyone who supports the college and the people at the college who worked so hard to get this passed."

Work on the final architectural plans will begin right away, Moskus said.

Funds will be used to upgrade facilities and equipment related to job-train-

ing, retraining and other instructional programs; replace obsolete instructional equipment with newer technology, improve community access through outreach centers, meet health and safety mandates, build additional classrooms and do major renovations and upgrades both on the LCC campus and its community outreach centers.

The 30-year-old community college enrolls about 36,000 students a year and provides college credit classes, retraining for dislocated workers and training programs for local businesses and other employers. Enrollment at LCC has increased more than 10 percent in the last five years. The student body at LCC ranges from the traditional twenty-something college student to dislocated workers seeking job training in other fields.


LCC originally developed a list of possible projects that totaled \$64.8 million. In 1994, a citizen advisory committee advised LCC to streamline the list, resulting in the \$42.8 million wish list.

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