

Measure makes housing possible for many people

Here are 10 reasons to vote for 20-54, the Affordable Housing Measure:

- The need for affordable housing is enormous and growing fast. There has been more than a 30-percent increase in the last few years in the number of families that are asking for emergency help. There is a six-to-eight-week waiting list at the emergency shelters, and the Interfaith Emergency Shelter Program has a two-to-four-week waiting list. That's a long, cold time if you are one of the 1,200 people who are on the streets every night.

- The people who need affordable housing or emergency shelter are no more dysfunctional than you or I; more than half of these families have one or both adults working, but the enormous cost of getting a place to live while paying for child care and all the other day-to-day necessities make it impossible for them to find shelter. Forty percent of the people in shelters are children.

- Twenty-five percent of the families looking for shelter are women fleeing domestic violence; Womenspace's numbers have increased by 30 percent in the past year.

- Not only emergency shelter will be supported by the money raised. Existing units will be rehabilitated; rental units will be built, and home-ownership units will be built for low-income buyers. Ten percent of the money raised will be dedicated to helping low-income rate payers, who will not have their utilities cut off for the non-payment of the tax. This truly a comprehensive plan.

- Non-profit agencies that are already in the business of building affordable housing will be the ones receiving the money, not city government. These agencies have excellent track records. Let's help them continue their work.

- The proposed tax will end in 10 years, and it cannot be raised or continued without a vote of the people.

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COMMENTARY

Donna Taggart

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- The money raised will help bring in additional dollars. To raise this additional money, we first need to raise money from the community. Lane Fair Share, one of the many and diverse organizations that support this measure, will continue to search for corporate donations. But in the meantime, we need to get on with the business of building housing for those who so desperately need it.

- This is the most broadly based tax measure to ever come before the voters of Eugene. Everyone but the homeless pays. Businesses, churches, government and non-profits pay their share as well as residents.

- The cost to an average household will be \$1 per month — no more than a cup of coffee! Can you spare a dollar to help a neighbor?

One last note: If you are concerned about the effect of this tax on low-income residents, consider contributing to Eugene Water and Electric Board's Energy Share Program. You simply pledge a monthly amount to be added to your EWEB bill. It's easy and painless. I am upping my monthly contribution to \$5, and I offer a personal challenge to all of you who can afford to join the program.

Please vote yes on 20-54. It's necessary, affordable and compassionate!

Donna Taggart is a board member of Lane Fair Share.

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HIS 308 CRN 32912
U 16:00-16:50 3/48 PLC
7/22/95 5/30/5/21/5/28

ESL
ESL 101 CRN 34812
U 16:00-16:50 1/6 ESL
1/24/95 5/3/5/24/5/31

SOCCER
SOCC 101 CRN 34777
U 16:00-16:50 1/60 PLC
4/2/95 5/1/5/22/5/29

ENGINEERING
ENGR 301 CRN 33178
U 16:00-16:50 2/6 ALL
5/1/95 5/22/5/29

BUSINESS
MGT 301 CRN 33572
U 16:00-16:50 1/27 CHL
5/4/95 5/30/5/27

PHYSICS
PHYS 301 CRN 33572
U 16:00-16:50 5/21/5/28

ENGLISH
ENGL 301 CRN 31675
U 16:00-16:50 5/17/22

WORLD
WORLD 2030 CRN 33576
U 16:00-16:50 5/1/5/22/5/29

ALL MAJORS
PEPL 101 CRN 34432
U 16:00-17:20 105 ESL
4/1/95 5/18/5/22/5/23/5/30

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