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Lee: Public may vote to amend measure

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programs will be eliminated.

Q What's the debate in the state legislature over Measure 47?

A The state [legislature] has been having a very difficult time just codifying what 47 is really trying to do to the state tax infrastructure. There's so much confusion...not only just because of Measure 47, but because of Measure 5 on top of Measure 47. So, the puzzle of different policy that addresses different areas of property taxes really doesn't fit very well. That's why the state is coming out with Measure 50, which is the son of Measure 47. On May 20, through the mail ballot system, citizens will have another opportunity to vote on [Measure 47]. [Measure 50] clarifies the language or the intent of Measure 47.

Q What's the difference between the two versions?

A Essentially, it is the same thing, but Measure 50 is a cleaner version of Measure 47. It may still be found unconstitutional, however. The reason why 50 was created was because the Republican legislative body came to a realization that Measure 47 could be thrown out in court. But Measure 50 also has certain elements that could be interpreted as unconstitutional as well. [The constitutionality question] in simplified terms has to do predominantly with if it is a revision or an

amendment to the constitution. There's also single-subject law. Also, the 50 percent threshold may be found unconstitutional as well.

Editor's note: The Oregon single-subject clause states that a proposed law or amendment must correspond to only one subject or subject matter specifically connected to the subject.

Q What is the 50 percent threshold?

A Both Measure 47 and 50 have this language which says if you want to increase property taxes to pay for public services through the city, you have to have at least a 50 percent turnout by all the registered voters. Well, essentially you are giving more power to people who don't vote, because if you don't vote you are helping to defeat a measure. People believe that is just bad government. How can you support democracy on one hand and say if you don't participate in democracy you'll still be counted?

Now what the Republicans are doing is they came out with a new Senate joint resolution that basically says [next] November there will be a special election where the public will be able to vote on whether to amend Measure 47 or 50, depending on which is there, and see if we can eliminate the 50 percent requirement.

LTD: New express routes planned for fall

Continued from Page 1

tify keeping the route, she said.

"Feeder-loop" routes will be started in West Eugene neighborhoods. The feeder-loop buses are smaller buses that service the neighborhood streets and then feed into the larger routes such as W. 18th Avenue.

The feeder loops will decrease neighborhood complaints about the large buses on neighborhood roads.

"There really is no reason to have the large buses going into the

neighborhoods," Rees said. "It is part of our long-term plan to have the smaller 30-foot-buses going into the neighborhoods and then people would transfer at the bigger routes."

Not all of the busses in the West University area will become feeder-loop busses. Two direct routes will remain.

"We had a lot of people calling with concerns about having to deal with transfers and waits," Rees said. "So, we decided to implement the feeder-loop busses but

keep some of the routes direct."

Summer service routes on the UO/Bertelsen route are also being added to the list of new bus routes, Rees said.

"This is the first time we have offered summer service for that route," she said. "We are also going to be increasing our weekday service on that route in the fall."

Cottage Grove city officials also recently signed an agreement with LTD, and residents from Cottage Grove will soon be able to commute to Eugene by bus.

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