

Lawmakers eye new votes on assisted suicide, term limits

By Brad Cain
The Associated Press

SALEM — Now that Oregonians have agreed to rewrite the state's property tax limit and prison work rules, the Legislature may have voters revisit assisted suicide and term limits this fall.

On Tuesday, voters by a 56-44 percent margin approved Measure 50, a legislative rewrite of the property tax limit enacted by voters last fall. The rewrite was aimed at working out some of the bugs in the tax limit to keep it from being tossed out by the courts.

Another legislative retooling, Measure 49, to clear up legal problems with a law voters passed in 1994 requiring prison inmates to work, was endorsed Tuesday by a commanding 91-9 percent margin.

The success of the two measures Tuesday showed that, despite conventional wisdom, it isn't necessarily political poison for

the Legislature to tinker with voter-passed measures.

"People expect us to be engaged in all parts of public policy," says Rep. Bryan Johnston, D-Salem. "I disagree with anyone who says our role here is simply to be scribes" who implement ballot measures.

However, the tax limit rewrite approved Tuesday was done with the participation and blessing of Bill Sizemore, the author of the original Measure 47 tax limit. Likewise, the sponsor of the 1994 prison work rules, former Rep. Kevin Mannix of Salem, didn't oppose Tuesday's rewrite.

That's not the case with the two measures that appear headed for this fall's ballot.

The assisted suicide re-vote would ask Oregonians to reverse the 1994 vote by which they made Oregon the first state in the nation to allow the terminally ill to legally obtain prescriptions for life-ending drugs.

Backers of the assisted suicide law say that trying to put the issue back up for a vote in November amounts to an end-run around voters.

"If the voters pass something, we have a responsibility to implement it," says Rep. Floyd Prozanski, D-Eugene.

The possible November re-vote on term limits seeks to soften a 1992 ballot measure that limits House members to serving six years and Senate members to eight years. Under that law, legislators can't exceed a total of 12 years combined in both houses.

However, it appears likely the Legislature will send a retooled version to voters this fall that would keep the 12-year overall limit but remove the restrictions on years served in either house.

Sizemore said he sees a big difference between the Legislature trying to blunt the term limits law and working with him to fix flaws in his property tax limit.

Low turnout stops some measures

■ **VOTE:** Ten measures that included new taxes passed by a double majority vote

By Jeff Barnard
The Associated Press

PORTLAND — Linn County and Ashland had to mount major campaigns to get the 50 percent voter turnouts required to pass their money measures under a new state law.

And that's just the way the author of the law likes it.

"My congratulations to them," Bill Sizemore, the leader of Oregon Taxpayers United, said Tuesday. "They only proved that you can get a 50 percent voter turnout in a special election if you really work at getting broad-based public support. That's all that double majority requirement was intended to do."

In all, 28 cities, counties, school districts, library districts, fire districts and other taxing districts sought voter approval for \$138 million in bonds, levies and fees around Oregon. Under Sizemore's Measure 47, those representing new taxes needed a 50 percent voter turnout in addition to a majority of "yes" votes for passage.

Final, unofficial returns showed 10 measures cleared both hurdles, while 10 failed for lack of

a 50 percent turnout. Four didn't need 50 percent turnouts; of those, all four passed. Others failed for a variety of reasons.

Linn County Commissioner Cathy Skiens said that after the law enforcement levy failed the first time for lack of sufficient turnout, the county culled inactive voters from the rolls, public employees conducted rallies and volunteers staffed phone banks.

"After the levy failed in the March election, the county really rallied together and said we need to work together as a group," she said. "I think that woke people up. In fact, I think it made a lot of people mad."

The effort earned 83 percent approval for the levy and a turnout of 56 percent. The levy raises \$7.9 million to \$8.9 million a year for three years.

In Ashland, the city's \$1.25 million flood repair bond also passed, with 58 percent in favor and a 53 percent turnout.

Ashland Mayor Cathy Golden attributed the reversal of the March loss to a better get-out-the-vote effort, as well as asking for \$1 million less.

But in Lane County, a one-year \$2.45 million levy for public services and increased jail capacity failed to get the 50 percent majority, as did a \$32.7 million serial

LANE ELECTION RESULTS

■ Lane County — One-year \$2.45 million levy for public services and increased jail capacity, failed for lack of 50 percent turnout.

■ Eugene — Three-year \$32.7 million serial levy to replace an estimated \$36 million lost under Measure 47 cuts, failed for lack of 50 percent turnout.

■ Willamalane Parks and Recreation District — \$5.1 million bond for swimming pool roof and infrastructure, failed for lack of 50 percent turnout.

■ Siuslaw Library District — Three-year \$2.7 million serial levy for construction and operations, passed with more than 50 percent turnout.

levy for Eugene to replace an estimated \$36 million lost under Measure 47 cuts.

When the 50 percent voter turnout got its first test March 11, one-third of the measures were approved with a majority of votes and a 50 percent voter turnout, while another third were voted down. The rest were backed by a majority of voters but fell short of the 50 percent turnout.

Think your dad dresses
goofy now?

Go ask him about
Copacabana and his white suit.

Summer Jobs

United Parcel Service part time package handling positions available in Portland and Tualatin only. Extra Income and a great workout.

\$8.00 and \$9.00 an hour

5 different shifts:

3:00-6:00 a.m.

5:00-9:00 p.m.

4:00-8:00 a.m.

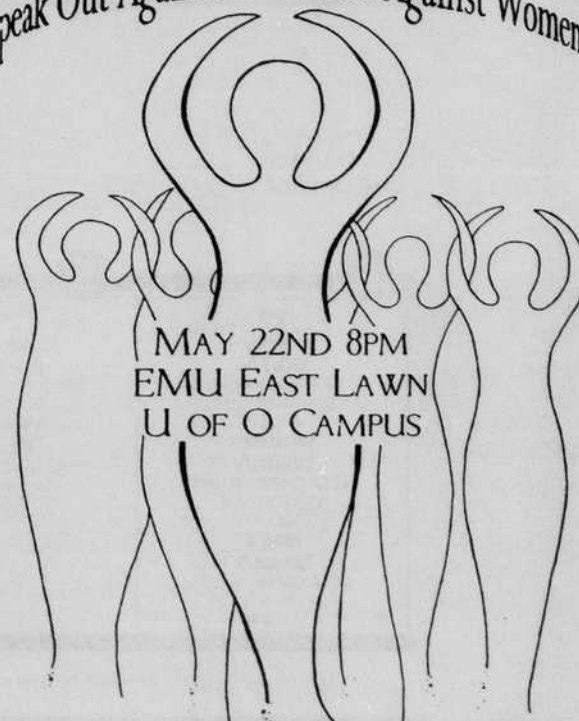
10:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m.

11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Will be on campus May 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to interview. Please pick up application in Century Room B.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT
Speak Out Against Violence Against Women

COME AND SHARE YOUR VOICE



MAY 22ND 8PM
EMU EAST LAWN
U OF O CAMPUS

MARCH AND RALLY

RALLY WITH SPEAKERS AND SOROMUNDI
THE MARCH ENDS DOWNTOWN WITH A SPEAKOUT
AND DRUMMING BY WOMYN AT PLAY

For More Information contact SASS at 346-4095

SPONSORED BY SEXUAL ASSAULT SUPPORT SERVICES AND ASUO WOMEN'S CENTER

posters
\$2 OFF
with this coupon
LAZAR'S
57 W. BROADWAY 687-0139

Advertise in the ODE
346-3712

Rags to Riches
Resale Clothing
NEED EXTRA CASH?
We buy used clothes
Call for Appointment
344-7039
Mon.-Fri. 10-6, Sat. 10-5
• 360 E. 11th •

keep in touch

<http://darkwing.uoregon.edu/~ode>