

Oregon Daily
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THE EMERALD'S ENDORSEMENTS

State Ballot Measures



Measure 68: YES. The measure would protect private-sector, certain government and nonprofit jobs from competition with prison labor programs.



Measure 69: NO. The measure would infringe upon the rights of the accused by allowing "victims" the right to refuse deposition; deposition is key to any person's right to face his or her accusers.



Measure 70: NO. This measure would too strongly enhance prosecutorial power by giving prosecutors the right to demand trial by jury in criminal cases; the right to a trial by jury is the right of the accused.



Measure 71: NO. This measure seeks to limit the offer of bail to persons accused of violent crimes in order to protect victims and the public, but in doing so presumes guilt instead of innocence.



Measure 72: NO. The measure would allow people to be convicted by a non-unanimous vote (11 to 1); but if any member of a jury doubts the guilt of the accused, the prosecutor has not proven guilt beyond reasonable doubt, the standard to which our courts have long been held.



Measure 73: NO. This measure would limit immunity for persons who testify about their own criminal conduct, but such immunity is often key to investigations and compelling someone to testify against themselves (à la Kenneth Starr) is a blatant disregard for the Fifth Amendment.



Measure 74: YES. This measure would require people who are convicted to fulfill their full sentences, by limiting parole discretion to judges and not to parole boards easily swayed by the reports of "good behavior" of prison inmates.

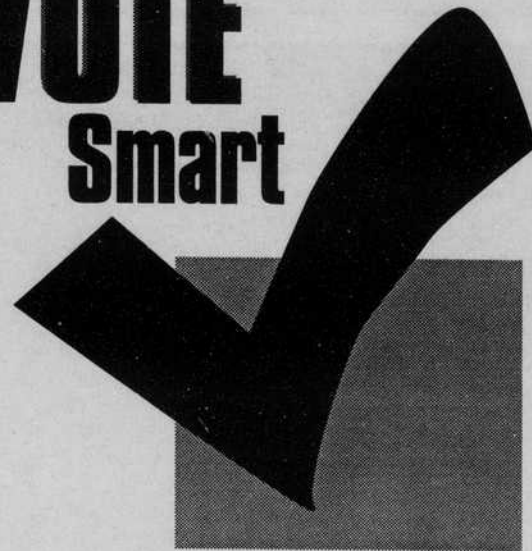


Measure 75: NO. This measure would bar people convicted of "certain" misdemeanors (involving violence or dishonesty) from serving on grand juries or criminal trial juries; "certain" is quite ambiguous and not all "dishonest" misdemeanors are severe enough to warrant barring such criminals from doing their civic duty. (A dishonest misdemeanor could be as silly as a Minor in Possession — think about that.)



Measure 76: NO. This measure would amend the Oregon Constitution to require light and heavy vehicles to share highway costs; this is not a constitutional issue, and the measure would not change current practice.

VOTE Smart



Lane County voters smart to stay away from Measure 20-25

How many times do we have to say "no"? Lane County voters may experience déjà vu when they open their ballots this week. Measure 20-25, the sole issue on the county ballot this year, is eerily familiar to a measure defeated last year. Both hoped to increase community resources against crime, with drug courts, jail beds and at-risk youths being at the forefront.

Think, then, that you already know the issue? Think again. New, careful wording and sneaky advertising may have you believing that Measure 20-25 different enough from 1998's measure. Well it's not new, and it's not improved.

First up, the funding has shifted. Last year's voters turned down a measure that would have increased your taxes. This year, voters will see that the tax has been changed to an 8 percent state personal income and corporate excise tax surcharge. Careful working, indeed. Because while a 51 percent voter turnout for a tax-increase measure is required, the "surcharge" does not have such stipulations.

A few number of voters have the power to increase taxes for all.

What's more, the Legislature can make the surcharge permanent before 2006, when the measure would be up for renewal. Now an even smaller number of people would have the power to increase taxes for all.

Secondly, proponents for Measure 20-25 have tried to appeal to public sympathy and empathy for at-risk youth and safety concerns. The pro-measure advertising has come from county resources, and it hasn't given the whole story. The at-risk youth referred to in the ads will not get the majority of the money, by a margin of 10-1. The majority would go to funding additional jail beds, the currently unfunded juvenile justice center and 40 new police officers.

Honesty has not been the policy.

The proponents of Measure 20-25 have tried to force this safety measure down our throats. Last year it failed. No rewording and confusion of its effects should help it pass this time.

Vote NO on Measure 20-25.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board. Responses may be sent to ode@oregon.uoregon.edu.

QUOTED

"They're all autistic in some form or fashion. I don't mean to say that as a snide remark toward a certain population in our society, but they have a limitation of their attention span; a lot of it is probably due to too much rap music going in their ears or coming out of their being. So, they need to get a focal point that lasts longer than a TV commercial or one short, 15-second span."

— Los Angeles Lakers' head coach Phil Jackson on the "maturity" of his new team. Oregon Live, Oct. 25.

"Our creative team, headed by Vincent McMahon, develops soap opera-like story lines employing the same techniques that are used by many successful dramatic TV series. The interactions among the characters reflect a wide variety of contemporary topics, often depicting exaggerated versions of real-life situations and typically containing 'good versus evil' of 'settling the score' themes ..."

— From the text of the World Wrestling Federation's initial public offering of stock last Wednesday. Sports Illustrated, Oct. 18, 1999.

"It's a very helpless feeling to pull up alongside another aircraft and realize the people inside that aircraft are potentially unconscious or in some other way incapacitated. And there's nothing I can do physically from my aircraft — even though I'm 50 to 100 feet away — to help them at all."

— Air Force Capt. Chris Hamilton on how he felt tracking the late Payne Stewart's doomed airplane. The golfer and at least four others died in the airplane on Monday. Oregonian, Oct. 26.