

Measures 8 and 91 are not what they seem for taxpayers

GUEST COMMENTARY

**Dave
Frohnmayr**

On Election Day, being careful about our decisions is always a good idea. But as a fiscally conservative Republican and former Oregon Attorney General, there are some things I believe call for particularly careful scrutiny:

- Money
- Fairness
- Changing our Constitution
- The future of our state.

Those are just four of the reasons Oregon should look carefully

at Measures 8 and 91, and then vote a resounding no.

I'll start with Measure 91. This measure offers individuals and corporations unlimited deductibility of their federal taxes from their state taxes. It sounds great — more money for taxpayers, right?

But most Oregonians won't see a dime if Measure 91 passes. Because it would cancel the kicker next year, the majority of Oregonians would experience what amounts to a tax increase. The state Legislative Revenue Office reports that a typical family of four earning \$81,000 would merely break even; typical families earning less would actually lose money.

Yet this is a \$2 billion tax break.

Who benefits? The top six percent of individuals enjoy a whopping 69 percent of the personal income tax benefit.

The \$2 billion hit represents almost 20 percent of the state's general fund, which supports health care, public safety and other vital services — including Oregon's public colleges and universities. Not only is that the soul of unfairness, it is a direct hit to our ability to invest in our future.

And then there is Measure 8. Although it is advertised as a limit on government, it is written in a way that simply makes no sense for Oregon taxpayers.

The limit of Measure 8 covers far more than the spending of our state tax dollars. It also covers state spending of federal matching

funds and grants, and dedicated fees that people willingly pay for services. And it would cut \$5 billion in the next budget alone.

Measure 8 could force us to send back billions of dollars in federal funding that is rightfully ours and pays for things like transportation and services to seniors — and it wouldn't even lower our taxes.

As a matter of fact, Measure 8 would actually remove the incentive for government to find ways to pay for services without relying as much on taxes. For example, universities could not raise tuition or accept donations to offset cuts, because any extra funds that come in would be counted against the limit.

Neither of these measures is re-

ally what it seems. They are unfair to most taxpayers. They are filled with unintended consequences that would be locked into our Constitution. And they will harm our economy, our state and our future. That is why an unprecedented coalition has formed to oppose these measures: Republicans and Democrats, business and labor, teachers and parents, seniors and Oregonians from every walk of life, from every corner of the state.

Tax reform and reasonable limits on government? I'd love to see them. But Measures 8 and 91 don't even come close. Please join me in voting no.

Dave Frohnmayr is President of the University of Oregon

Letters to the editor

Holding the bag of governmental debt

The government is not really paying down the national debt. In the next 10 years, it will replace \$3.3 trillion of publicly-held debt with government-held debt. The government has no plans for repayment. This policy is freeing trillions of dollars to chase equity investments and has helped to create trillions of dollars of profits for stockholders. It is the younger generation that will be left holding the bag for this debt.

The government is borrowing

trillions of dollars from the Social Security trust fund. A repayment plan should be in effect before this money is loaned to the government. It is likely that this money has been stolen. In any case, if it doesn't get repaid, then it has already been stolen. It is the younger generation that will be left holding the bag for this debt.

Fraudulent government accounting is creating structural deficits which can be expected to average \$400 billion to \$500 billion annually in the period 2015-2035. It is the younger generation that will be left holding the bag.

We are receiving bad government. The media are doing an F-minus kind of job and are not

properly informing the American people about what is really happening. The politicians tell their lies, the media repeat the lies and the younger generation will be left holding the bag. What a sordid mess.

This is an excellent opportunity for some outstanding journalism on an important national issue.

Steven Gerdsmeyer
Yorba Linda, Calif.

Nader helps Bush in polls

I hope that George W. Bush writes Ralph Nader a long and sincere thank you card. Polls show Bush and Gore nearly tied,

and it is no secret that Republicans aren't transferring their votes to Nader, who has about 5 percent. Four years ago, when Clinton was ahead of Dole by a considerable amount, I supported Nader. He appeals to people with strong social consciences, which is undoubtedly why he has gained so much support in Eugene. However, this time around, things are different. An election is in the balance.

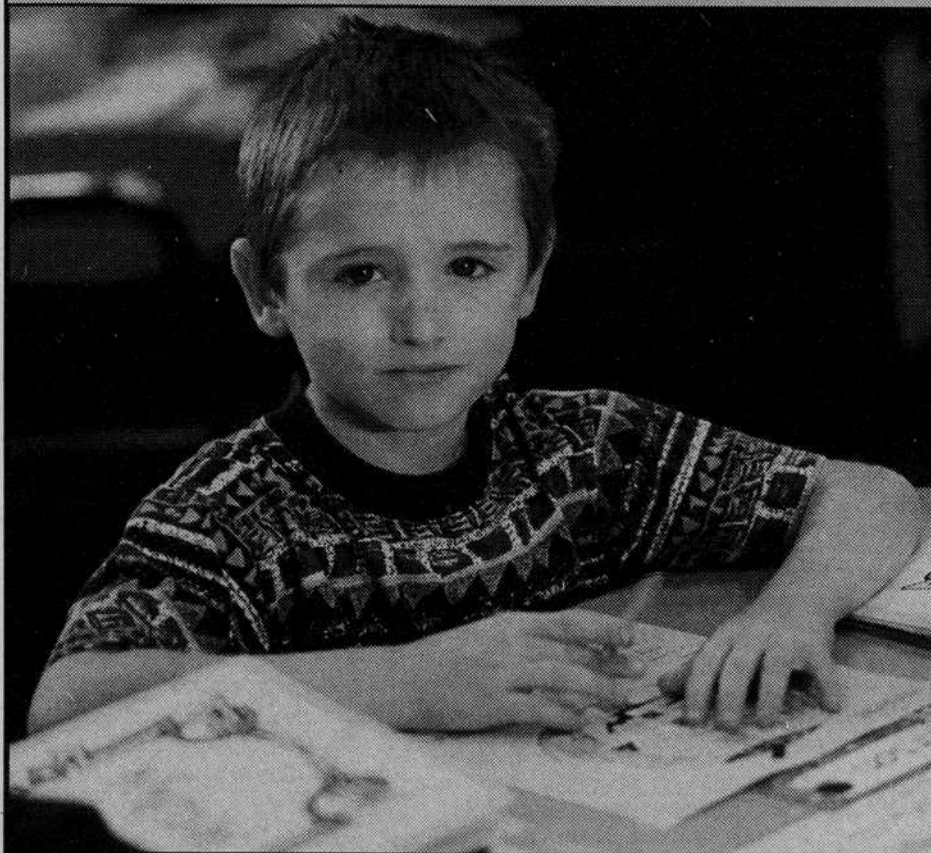
Our next president will select new Supreme Court justices, the people who will be making decisions in our country for years. By voting for Al Gore, you will support an ethical man with strong environmental policies and con-

tinue the prosperity of the Clinton years, without the scandal. Your vote elsewhere could allow George Dubya to give the rich generous tax cuts, destroy public education, demean hard-working teachers with school vouchers and drill for oil in one of the most pristine places on earth, the Alaskan Wilderness Refuge.

Ralph Nader is a great person, who has aided Americans and consumers for years, but he will not be our next president. The bottom line is this: A vote for Nader is a vote for Bush.

Olivia Roundy
senior
French

VOTE NO ON 9!



- ☞ We are people of many different faiths.
- ☞ We believe Measure 9 is destructive to our children and our schools.
- ☞ We are taking a stand against discrimination.

See our ad with over 1,000 supporters in the Register Guard on October 21st.

Join us at our service of 'Resistance and Restoration: an interfaith service in response to Measure 9'; October 26, 7pm, at the Central Presbyterian Church, 555 E. 15th

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VOTE NO ON 9!