

# Measure 6 stirs up campaign controversy

■ Debate over November's campaign finance reform ballot measure has left grassroots politics in the air

By Bennett Lacy  
for the Emerald

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, national president of the League of Women Voters, visited Eugene Monday to support Oregon Ballot Measure 6, which would give public funding to candidates who limit the private contributions they receive.

Speaking in front of approximately 15 people at City Hall, Jefferson-Jenkins said campaign finance reforms, such as those proposed under Measure 6, would give citizens more of a voice in the political system while giving them more candidates to choose from.

"We must put citizens back in the driver's seat of American government," Jefferson-Jenkins said.

The measure would give candidates running for state offices \$25,000 to use for their campaigns. To qualify for public funding, candidates must limit private contributions and receive a specified number of \$5 contributions from Oregon residents. Candi-

dates running for governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general and legislative seats would be able to choose whether to seek the public campaign funding.

If Measure 6 passes, Oregon will follow only four other states — Arizona, Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont — that have passed similar measures. After her address Monday, Jefferson-Jenkins headed toward Missouri, the other state this year with a measure similar to Measure 6 on the ballot.

“We must put citizens back in the driver's seat of American government.”

Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins  
President  
League of Women Voters

"Oregon can set the direction for reform across the country," Jefferson-Jenkins said. "Campaign finance needs to be reformed because the political system needs to be reformed. Both go hand in hand."

The League of Women Voters of

Lane County is supporting Measure 6 because they want to see an increase in grassroots campaigning, Dian Smissar, a member of Lane County's league, said.

"Measure 6 forces grassroots politics so that politicians know who they are representing," Smissar said. "I would rather put campaigns back in the hands of the everyday voter. I think the taxpayer's dollar is a more sound dollar to apply toward voting issues than the corporate dollar."

Measure 6 is faced with heavy opposition, most noticeably from Oregon Taxpayers United, an anti-tax organization that placed six measures on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Becky Miller, an executive assistant for Oregon Taxpayers United, said she is voting no on Measure 6.

"Measure 6 would support candidates people don't agree with," Miller said.

Another problem opponents see in Measure 6 is that it will not completely solve the problem of corruption in campaign financing.

"The power to be gained in elections is so great, there will always be corruption," Miller said. "There are ways to corrupt Measure 6, and taxpayers would have to pay for it."



Erin Swanson-Davies Emerald

The League of Women Voters' President Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins speaks in support of Measure 6 to a group of women in the City Council Chambers Monday.

## Experts attribute enrollment boom to economy

■ Universities statewide are enjoying an increased student enrollment

By Kristy Hessman  
Oregon Daily Emerald

A boost in enrollment at Lane Community College this year mirrors a statewide increase in enrollment at colleges and universities, which experts are attributing to the strength of the economy, dual-enrollment programs and new technology.

Lane Community College has grown in overall enrollment by 10 percent since last fall, leaving some to wonder if this could mean a future boost in enrollment at the University.

"We have seen an increase in enrollment in full-time equivalent students, which went up 4.5 percent, and in the overall headcount, which increased to 17,500," said Marie Matson, LCC community vice president for college operations.

According to Matson, about one-third of LCC's enrollment population is in lower-division transfer courses, but even though a large number of students are working toward their transfer degrees, they may not choose to transfer to the University.

"It would not necessarily impact the University," Matson said.

A number of students who attend LCC are working toward specialized programs.

"A lot of students are not on typical tracks. There are many professional and vocational tracks," Matson said.

The programs students pick will ultimately determine if more students from LCC will come to the University.

"It certainly could impact the University if students enrolled in transfer programs [at LCC] continue their education at U of O," said Martha Pitts, University director of admissions.

The University has recorded an increase of about 400 students this fall compared to last fall.

One factor that may contribute to the rise in enrollment at both LCC

and the University is dual enrollment, where students register at both the University and at LCC, Matson said.

While many students may be taking classes at both LCC and the University, the exact numbers are not available.

"What we are working to do now is to have a better opportunity to track dual students through a formal program," Pitts said.

The presence of dual admission programs is also believed by University officials to be a factor for the jump in enrollment at other schools around the state.

Bruce Clemetsen, enrollment director at Linn-Benton Community College, said their site grew more than 8 percent this year.

"We suspect a lot of it has to do with dual admissions programs with Oregon State," he said.

Linn-Benton has seen the number of full-time applicants increase by almost 300 since last year.

Clemetsen also attributes the growth in the number of high school-age demographics.

The strength of the economy and the shift to a more technologically-driven society are two forces Matson said could be contributing to the rise in college institutions. These two forces require people to update their skills more often, she said.

"Enrollment in community colleges in the past usually goes up

when the economy is down, because many people are training for jobs. We are seeing the opposite in the economy," Matson said.

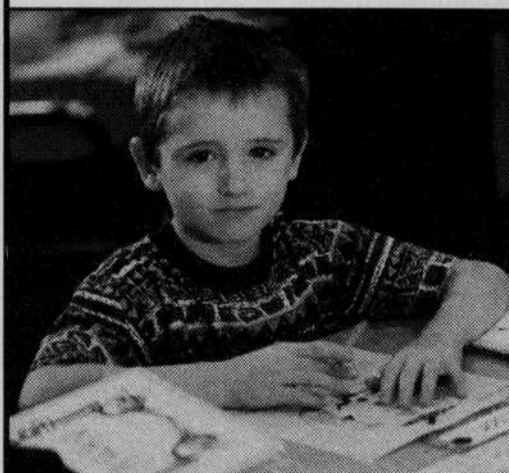
The rise in relative wages for those who are college educated could also be a contributing factor, said Scott Merryman, a graduate student in economics.

"One study [Kane and Rouse (1993)] found evidence that enrollment in a two-year or four-year college program increases earnings by 5 to 8 percent per year of college credits, whether or not a degree is earned," he said. "These results hold for returning adults as well as continuing high school graduates."

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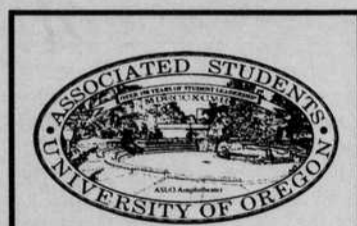
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