

# Bradbury introduces 12 new ballot measures

The proposed measures include higher minimum wage and labeling genetically engineered foods in Oregon

By Jan Montry  
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the November election creeps closer, Oregon could undergo sweeping changes, including a 40-cent increase to the minimum wage and required labeling of genetically engineered foods in Oregon.

This past week, Oregon Secretary of State Bill Bradbury released 12 new ballot measures, an extremely low number compared to the 26 measures released in 2000.

Despite the low number, however, the battle between supporters and opponents has already begun.

Measure 27, which would require labeling of genetically engineered foods in Oregon, is especially controversial in the food industry. In this case, "genetically engineered" food is defined in the measure as "(food) produced or altered with techniques that change the molecular or cell bi-

ology of an organism by means ... not possible under natural conditions or processes."

Katelyn Lord, a chief petitioner for Measure 27, said the measure is based on the right for consumers to know what they're eating.

"Our interest is for from the consumer's point of view," she said, "giving people a choice and making sure people are informed."

Lord, who is the Community Outreach and Member Services director for Food Front Cooperative Grocery, added that since Oregon doesn't produce a lot of genetically engineered foods, the bill is aimed more at food imports than exports.

Pat McCormick, who was hired to gain support against Measure 27, said the opposition is worried about consumer and retail costs.

"There are substantial logistical problems," he said. "The sheer breadth of the measure causes concerns for cost."

McCormick, a Portland political consultant, also said the opposition is primarily composed of Oregon farming, retail, restaurant and grocery industries.

## 2002 Ballot Measures

**Measure 14:** Removes historical racial references in obsolete sections of Oregon Constitution.

**Measure 15:** Authorizes state to issue general obligations bonds for seismic rehabilitation of public education buildings.

**Measure 16:** Authorizes state to issue general obligation bonds for seismic rehabilitation of emergency services building.

**Measure 17:** Reduces minimum age requirement to serve as state legislator from 21 years to 18 years.

**Measure 18:** Allows certain tax districts to establish permanent property tax rates and divide into tax zones.

**Measure 21:** Revises procedure for filling judicial vacancies, electing judges; allows vote for "none of the above."

**Measure 22:** Requires Oregon Supreme Court judges and Court of Appeals judges to be elected by district.

**Measure 23:** Creates health care finance plan for medically necessary services; creates additional income, payroll taxes.

**Measure 24:** Allows licensed denturists to install partial dentures; authorizes cooperative dentist-denturist business ventures.

**Measure 25:** Increases Oregon minimum wage to \$6.90 in 2003; increases for inflation in future years.

**Measure 26:** Prohibits payment, receipt of payment based on the number of initiative, referendum petition signatures obtained.

**Measure 27:** Labeling of genetically engineered food sold or distributed in or from Oregon.

Source: Office of Secretary of State

Another controversial measure to appear on the ballot deals with health care and the fate of insurance companies in Oregon.

Measure 23 would create the Oregon Comprehensive Health Care Finance Plan, designed to pay various medical bills for all Oregon residents. A state fund would finance the plan and be composed of government funds, a payroll tax and a progressive income tax.

John Partidge, a chief petitioner

for the measure, said he hopes to establish the health care system state-by-state.

"I think this is a good thing for the whole nation," he said.

Mike Becker, vice president of Public and Community Affairs for Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon, said significant harm would be done to Oregon industry as a result of the new taxes accompanying Measure 23.

"I don't see it as just a health plan issue," he said. "Oregon individuals and businesses can ill afford the largest tax increase in

Oregon's history."

Oregon voters will also vote on two measures — 19 and 20 — in a September special election.

Measure 19 would authorize the use of education stability fund principal in some circumstances, and transfer \$150 million to the state school fund.

Measure 20 would increase the cigarette tax to 60 cents, and use the revenue for the health plan and other programs.

Contact the reporter at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

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Adam Jones Emerald

Oregon head coach Mike Bellotti, swarmed by a multitude of reporters Friday, emphasized the need for his players to "stay hungry."

## Ducks

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"If I can take a little bit of pressure off of them and get them with in their rhythm, then that would be great and would help the team a large deal," Smith said of whomever ends up Oregon's quarterback.

Oregon's offense: check.

And the defense?

Last year the Ducks had the luxury of jamming the middle with seven players, often leaving the secondary in single coverage. But with the departure of Rashad Bauman and Steve Smith to the NFL, some question whether the cornerback

position will be adequately filled.

"I always set my goals high ... to be better than the next man, whether they're on my team or not," said Steven Moore, Oregon's No. 1 cornerback this season.

"I think our biggest challenge is going to be to prove to everybody that, even though we lost some NFL-talented players, we can come out and do the same thing — or even better," he added.

"I think we're going to be strong all around," Moore said. "Honestly, I don't think we have any weaknesses."

Contact the sports editor at bradschmidt@dailyemerald.com.

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