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Voters reject six tax measures

City Councilor David Kelly says funding measures often don't pass when a tax increase is involved

Oregon votes 2002

Ken Paulman
City/State Politics Reporter

City officials aren't sure why Lane County voters soundly rejected all six property tax measures in Tuesday's election. Among the levies, voters denied improvements and construction for jails, parks, a planetarium and a new public health building.

Ward 3 City Councilor David Kelly, who represents the University area, said funding measures often face resistance from voters, especially if a tax hike is involved.

"I think there is an understandable first reaction against any tax increase," he said. "The first reaction

	State measures	
	Yes	No
Measure 14	71.0%	29.0%
Measure 15	55.2%	44.8%
Measure 16	55.4%	44.6%
Measure 17	26.8%	72.2%
Measure 18	38.8%	61.2%
Measure 21	43.9%	56.1%
Measure 22	49.6%	50.4%
Measure 23	21.0%	79.0%
Measure 24	59.8%	40.2%

Measure 25	51.1%	48.9%
Measure 26	75.3%	24.7%
Measure 27	28.9%	71.1%
County measures		
	Yes	No
Measure 20-59	39.6%	60.4%
Measure 20-60	44.2%	55.8%
Measure 20-61	17.5%	82.5%
Measure 20-62	37.9%	62.1%
Measure 20-63	38.7%	61.3%
Measure 20-65	36.9%	63.1%

	City measures	
	Yes	No
Measure 20-67	53.4%	46.6%
Measure 20-68	73.9%	26.1%
Measure 20-69	70.3%	29.6%
Measure 20-70	59.8%	40.2%
Measure 20-71	47.9%	52.1%
Measure 20-72	67.3%	32.7%
Measure 20-73	67.1%	32.9%
Measure 20-74	76.4%	23.6%
Measure 20-75	59.9%	40.1%

SOURCE: Oregon counties

is often the one that dominates."

Kelly said that many measures may have failed simply because voters weren't aware of their importance or impact. The tax increases would have been minimal, he said, but voters didn't have the information necessary to weigh the costs against the benefits.

"There was almost no campaign

behind the county measures," he said.

University student Nancy Suryan, a post-baccalaureate art major, said the goals of many of the measures were not clear.

"I don't think that they gave enough information on a lot of them," she said.

Eugene Mayor Jim Torrey said the results indicate voters are willing to make sacrifices in some cases, but not others. A bond measure to improve schools narrowly passed in Eugene, and voters approved the hiring of more emergency workers in Springfield, but other services didn't make the cut.

"What you saw Tuesday night was what I think is a reflection of what's important to voters in Oregon in general," he said.

Torrey said he was pleased the school funding measure passed, and attributed its success to the hundreds of people who worked to inform the voters about the measure.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of the people who said 'yes,'" he said.

Torrey said voters in other parts of Lane County sometime resist paying for facilities in the city of Eugene, and noted that the sheer number of measures on the ballot may have caused some voters to tune out.

"I didn't receive one call on the county issues," he said.

Torrey and Kelly both said that the results need to be examined more thoroughly before any conclusions can be drawn.

"It's a little early to tell," Kelly said.

Contact the senior news reporter at kenpaulman@dailyemerald.com.

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558,470	14,226
46.3%	72.8%
Ted Kulongoski, D	Oregon Senate
592,591	District 4
49.1%	David Alsup, R
Tom Cox, L	17,009
55,136	41.8%
4.6%	Tony Corcoran, D
Oregon House	23,639
District 8	58.2%
Greg McNeill, R	
5,306	


SOURCE: Oregon counties



**Author & Artist
Madison Clell**

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Governor

continued from page 1

race against Republican David Alsup once Lane County numbers were finalized at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.

"I just thought my message resonated with the people," said Corcoran, who drew 58 percent of the votes against Alsup's 42 percent.

Contact the news editor at brookreinhard@dailyemerald.com.



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D	E	S	E	R	T	E	S	T	E	S			
B	I	F	F	D	A	L	I	T	A	G	U	P	
O	L	A	F	S	T	O	N	O	Z	O	N	E	
R	E	L	E	T	I	S	N	T	U	S	E	D	
G	A	L	L	E	O	N	Y	O	W	L			
S	T	R	O	L	L	S	O	U	R	O	O		
C	R	E	W	M	A	P	L	E	S	Y	R	U	
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