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MEASURE 30

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Oregon University System spokeswoman Di Saunders said if the measure fails, there will be immediate cuts of \$7.5 million with potential for further cuts. Programs may be eliminated and tuition increased.

"There's no really good or easy choices of where that money is going to come from within the system," she said. "I think everyone hopes that it won't fail."

If the measure passes, Oregon stands to gain \$1.2 billion from the entire tax package, more than \$800 million coming directly from the income tax increases alone.

If it fails, the state will implement budget cuts worth \$544.6 million in education, human services, health care and public safety.

Libertarian Party of Oregon's Executive Director Richard Burke doesn't think Measure 30 is the answer to the state's budget woes.

"Higher taxes doesn't equal caring," he said. "We can care for people by building a sustainable system."

Burke said government expenditure has increased faster than the taxpayers' ability to pay for it, and that Oregon's current spending habits are wasteful. Therefore, he said, long-term structural changes in the government are needed to solve the state's financial problems — something he said won't happen if Measure 30 passes.

"We won't make (changes) if we give them the money," Burke said, adding that the measure was not so much a budget fix as it was a political fix.

He said passing the tax would hurt people, such as struggling working families. Rejecting it would also hurt other people, Burke added.

"The question is who are we going to hurt?" he said.

While Burke said he understands arguments about the need for various services, he said needs are infinite and the state's resources are finite.

"If you want to show compassion, we have to do what's necessary to fix the system so we can have money in

MAIN ARGUMENTS FOR MEASURE 30

Approving Measure 30 will prevent:

- \$284.6 million worth of cuts to K-12
- \$14.3 million worth of cuts in higher education
- \$187.6 million worth of cuts to health and human services
- \$58.1 million worth of cuts to public safety services

SOURCE: Oregon Secretary of State

MAIN ARGUMENTS AGAINST MEASURE 30

- \$856 million in personal income taxes is excessive
- Oregonians will pay \$40 million more per year in property taxes due to reductions in the discount for making an early payment
- Senior citizens will pay more than \$86 million in addition to any income tax increases due to changes in the medical expenses that can be deducted from state taxes
- Businesses will pay more money and may be forced to close
- The state could balance the budget with current resources
- Oregon needs more jobs, not more taxes

SOURCES: Oregon Secretary of State and Taxpayers Defense Fund

the long run," he said.

But Debbie Dorris, spokeswoman for Our Oregon Coalition, a statewide coalition of businesses and other organizations, is in favor of the measure.

"We truly believe Measure 30 is the way to keep Oregon's economic recovery on track," Dorris said. She added that there would be drastic cuts to health care and education if the measure fails. For instance, schools might have to reduce school days. Parts of the Oregon Health Plan would also be dismantled and health insurance costs would go up, she said.

Dorris said opponents' claims that the measure will hurt businesses are not valid. In fact, many small businesses are endorsing the measure, she said.

Suzy Rice, a University alumna and small-business owner, said she does not support the measure, however. She said she has experienced the ups and downs of the economy and feels further taxation will destroy small businesses.

"We can't afford it," she said.

Angela Wilhelms, campaign manager for the Taxpayer Defense Fund,

said she also believes Measure 30 should be rejected.

"We believe that taxes are the absolutely worst thing you can do during a recession," she said. She added tax increases may actually lead to reduced state revenue due to loss of jobs.

Wilhelms said some voters do not believe that the state government needs more money and are frustrated that the Oregon Legislature pushed the measure even after voters rejected Measure 28.

"They feel that government and legislators are not listening to them," she said.

While Wilhelms said she is not in favor of budget cuts in programs like human services and education, she says the government should re-prioritize its spending.

"Those programs are being held hostage," she said. "Those cuts don't have to happen."

The voters will decide on Feb. 3.

Contact the news editor at ayishayahya@dailyemerald.com.

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CAMPUS BUZZ

Tuesday

Center for the Study of Women in Society lecture featuring University of Lethbridge anthropologist Catherine Kingfisher, entitled "Welfare Restructuring and Globalization," EMU Fir Room, 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Yeon lecture series featuring Portland architect Brad Cloepfil, entitled "New Museums: Anticipation and Dissonance," Room 177, Lawrence Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 "How to Make the Career Fair Work for You," Career Center workshops, EMU, throughout the day.

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