

Measure 97 tax defeated handily by voters

GORDON FRIEDMAN
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Measure 97 was rejected by Oregon voters according to early election returns. In light of the tax's failure, the state will face a \$1.4 billion budget hole — a problem lawmakers will be forced to confront in the coming months. The tax was slated to pump \$3 billion a

year into state coffers. "Our coalition ran a fact-based campaign outlining Measure 97's flaws," Defeat the Tax on Oregon Sales spokeswoman Rebecca Tweet said in a statement. "We're grateful Oregonians agreed with us and rejected the costly and damaging proposal."

Ben Unger, executive director of Our Oregon,

the group that proposed Measure 97, conceded the race shortly after the first election results were posted.

He said that despite Measure 97's failure, the campaign succeeded in changing the conversation around taxes in Oregon. "I'm very confident that as we move forward now you just won't hear people talk about budget cuts unless they're also talking about corporate taxes," he said.

Proponents of the tax said the revenue Measure 97 would have generated is much-needed, and would have funded schools, health care and programs for the elderly. Critics said there was no

guarantee over how the money would have been spent, and that some of the funds would have paid for public employee pensions.

The fight over Measure 97, which would have taxed companies at 2.5 percent on sales above \$25 million, was heated. More than \$40 million was spent by campaigns on either side of the issue, the most ever spent on a political issue in Oregon.

The tax was proposed by a coalition of labor unions and left-leaning advocacy groups working under the name Our Oregon. Its efforts were funded largely by the state teacher union and public employee union.

Opposition to the tax was led by the state's business community. Defeat the Tax on Oregon Sales marshaled to its cause large local and out of state businesses that were likely to fall under the tax. Millions of dollars was pumped into the "no" effort by large retailers and grocers such as Walmart, Target and Safeway/Albertsons.

Both sides spent heavily on broadcast and digital advertising and print mailers. The "yes" campaign had pushed the message that Measure 97 would help schools and provide valuable revenue for other necessary programs. The "no" campaign had said the tax

would be passed on to consumers, who would see its effects as price increases.

Now that the tax has failed, officials will need to switch their focus on tackling the looming budget hole problem. The governor is expected to propose a balanced budget in December, and the Legislature will take up the issue in 2017. Unger added that he's "sure" another corporate tax will be proposed, though this time in the state Legislature.

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Lynn

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coaches, but to scouts and employees throughout the organization.

Bladt doesn't have an extended affiliation with the Cubs like Geddes, but he does have a few keepsakes. His royal blue game hat with red C logo — a bit snug on his head and the bill brittle after all these years — is on display in his home office.

An 8-by-10 color photograph of him in the still familiar white pin-striped Cubs uniform, shows him

kneeling on the grass along the third base line at Wrigley Field with bat in hand. Noticeable in the background is the historic ivy-covered outfield wall.

The photo was taken when Bladt was called up from the organization's Triple-A club in Tacoma. It was in June of that season, long before the collapse. But even then, based on what he witnessed, there were signs of trouble in the clubhouse.

Something was just off, Bladt said, although it was and still is hard to pinpoint. Much has been written since about mismanagement of the team

by manager Leo Durocher.

One of Bladt's most vivid memories of wearing a Cubs uniform, and of Durocher, is of the time he ignored a signal from the skipper. Bladt was in center field at Wrigley, and the manager signaled from the dugout for him to shift to right center for the next batter up. Bladt didn't budge.

"I thought I was in trouble, until the guy hit a line drive right at me," said Bladt, who still had some explaining to do when Durocher confronted him.

"He didn't know the hitter, I did. We had been in the minors together. I

knew him from the Pacific Coast League."

Bladt was with the Cubs for less than a month, an organization he signed with in 1966 as an undrafted amateur free agent. He received a \$2,000 signing bonus.

"Forward This" appears Wednesdays and Sundays and highlights the people, places and organizations of the Mid-Willamette Valley. Contact Capi Lynn at clynn@StatesmanJournal.com or 503-399-6710, or follow her the rest of the week on Twitter @CapiLynn and Facebook @CapiLynnSJ.

Threats

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respond positively to their demonstration.

"One student felt the need to circle us with his car multiple times speeding through the parking lot and even tried swerving at us to try and hit us or intimidate us," he said. Sandlin said he was

"never okay" with the one young man flying the confederate flag.

"We did not mean for any racism and did not mean for any feelings to be hurt," he said. "Our event was only meant to show support for our political views not demean anyone."

He was not aware of who was suspended and believes they were not connected with the demonstration.

To address this moving forward, Lieuellen said, the school is having discussions with students about respecting others and where the line is drawn between freedom of speech and intimidating words and actions.

They will also be speaking to students about the consequences they could receive if they violate these restrictions, ranging from detention to expulsion within the

school, or further with the police if there are any physical altercations.

He said there haven't been any physical altercations at this point that he knows of.

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Pot

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his commercial expertise on hemp, the non-psychoactive cousin of pot. Hemp contains 0.3 percent or less THC, the ingredient in marijuana that produces its famed high. Hemp is a source of nutritional seeds and oil, as well as fiber for rope, cloth and other materials.

"It's nothing to be scared of. It's not going to make your mind go crazy," he said.

Marion County voters' approval of a ban on recreational marijuana business in incorporated areas won't touch Holden's hemp crop, nor would it stop him from obtaining a license to grow medical marijuana, if he wishes.

The defeat of Measure 24-404 now allows medical marijuana businesses to operate in unincorporated Marion County. At the same time, voters approved Measure 24-405, which bans the recreational marijuana industry in these outlying areas.

Fifty-three percent of voters said "no" to the recreational marijuana industry in rural Marion County, while only 49 per-

cent said "no" to medical marijuana processors and dispensaries.

Under Measure 91, personal use of marijuana is allowed throughout the state, and cities such as Salem and Silverton allow shops too.

In the Appeal's coverage area, the cities of Mt. Angel and Scotts Mills both voted in the Nov. 8 election to outlaw recreational marijuana sales and medical marijuana dispensaries in town, by 55 percent and 63 percent majorities, respectively. They were among 34 Oregon cities that passed some kind of ban.

Mt. Angel council remains the same

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

MT. ANGEL - Mayor Andy Otte, Council President Kelly Grassman, and Councilor Pete Wall will all continue to serve on the city council.

All three ran unop-

posed in the Nov. 8 general election. The seat being vacated by Councilor Darren Beyer in January didn't generate any applicants, although some voters wrote Beyer's name on their ballots.

With 15 votes, Beyer is the official winner of the

seat, said Marion County Elections officials. He can choose to accept the nomination, and, if not, it's likely the council will need to appoint a new member, said Wall and Assistant City Manager Justin Hogue.



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