

Unions in Washington mobilize to defeat pair of initiatives

Labor backs an initiative in Clark County that will help fund C-Tran

Organized labor is mobilizing in Washington state to defeat a pair of statewide initiatives on the Nov. 8 ballot.

And in Clark County, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757 is urging voters to approve a 0.2 percent increase to the local sales tax that pays for C-TRAN bus and paratransit service.

I-1125: MUCKING UP TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

Initiative Measure 1125, authored by perennial union foe Tim Eyman, would forbid tolls that varied by day of the week or time of day, or tolling one bridge to pay for another. It would also take away the responsibility of setting toll rates from an independent non-partisan commission and give it to the Washington Legislature instead. If it passes, Washington would be the only state to set tolls by legislature. The measure is opposed

by a coalition of business and labor groups known as Keep Washington Rolling that also includes environmental and community groups and state and local Democratic Party organizations. They say the measure would politicize tolling and make funding more volatile, thus driving up bond interest rates and making the Columbia River Crossing, Seattle's Alaskan Way Viaduct, and other projects unaffordable.

I-1183: PRIVATIZING LIQUOR SALES

Initiative Measure 1183, funded by Costco, would close 165 state liquor stores and sell their assets, and license private parties — if they have 10,000 square feet or more of retail space — to sell and distribute liquor. It would also eliminate the requirement that wine and liquor be sold at a uniform price. Washingtonians just last year voted down two similar initiatives, but Costco has invested \$11 million to persuade voters to change their minds. The measure's critics — including 22 labor organizations signed onto the Protect Our Communities coalition — say it would allow four times as many liquor outlets, and give big

box chains an advantage over little stores. Teamsters and United Food and Commercial Workers in particular are opposed to the measure, because it would eliminate family-wage jobs for their members.

While Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, opposes I-1125 and I-1183, it's recommending a "yes" vote on another measure — **INITIATIVE 1163**. Supported by Service Employees International Union, I-1163 would require long-term care workers to get training and certification. "Currently Washington requires licenses for people who cut hair, but not for people who care for the elderly in their homes," said WSLC spokesperson David Groves. "That doesn't make a lot of sense."

WSLC is also endorsing Vancouver state representative **Sharon Wylie** (Democrat, 49th District). Wylie was appointed in April to fill the seat of Jim Jacks, who resigned. She must win an off-year election to keep the seat.

PENNIES FOR TRANSIT

In Clark County, labor groups are urging passage of C-TRAN Proposition 1. The measure would increase the local sales tax by 0.2 percent — two pennies on a 10 dollar purchase — to preserve C-TRAN bus and paratransit service. The tax is currently 0.5 percent. Without it, C-TRAN will have to cut service by 35 percent — eliminating 14 routes, all Sunday service and the Camas Connector, and reducing the hours and frequency of the remaining service. The measure is backed by Amalgamated Transit Union Local 757, which represents C-TRAN employees, as well as Southwest Washington Central Labor Council, Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, Laborers, and Carpenters. Find out more at www.preserveourbuses.com.

Ballots are being mailed Oct. 21 and must be postmarked by Nov. 8 to be counted (this is unlike Oregon, where ballots must be received by Election Day.)

Labor Council weighs in on Clackamas County urban renewal district measures

The Northwest Oregon Labor Council's (NOLC) Executive Board has taken action on several ballot measures that will appear on the Nov. 8 general election ballot in various cities and counties within its jurisdiction.

In **Clackamas County**, the labor council is backing Ballot Measure 3-388. Referred to voters by the county Board of Commissioners, the measure

requires local voting on all proposed urban renewal districts in unincorporated Clackamas County. The measure would require residents within the boundaries of a potential urban renewal district to vote to approve it before it can be created — and not the entire county.

"This allows residents who would be most affected by a urban renewal district, and most familiar with the

needs of the area, to vote," Commissioner Ann Linger told the NOLC Executive Board.

The measure was referred to voters as an alternative to another measure on the November ballot. Ballot Measure 3-386 would require *all* Clackamas County residents to vote prior to creation of a new urban renewal area

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Keep Our Communities Safe

Reducing the Early Release of Inmates

The levy reduced the number of jail inmates released early into the community from 3,798 to 289 a year, a **92 percent decline**.

Increased Patrol

The levy funds law enforcement patrols **covering 150,000 residents**.

Fighting Drugs

The levy funded a **focused attack on meth, other drugs and the crimes that go with them**, such as property crimes, mail and identity theft.

Protecting Children

Thanks to the levy, the **Sheriff's office was able to get 72 children out of dangerous and abusive situations**, and target predators who seek out children for sex on the Internet.

Measure 3-378 will not increase taxes currently paid by Clackamas County residents. It will simply continue the critical public safety services that are making our communities safer places to live and work.

Yes on 3-378
RENEW CLACKAMAS COUNTY'S
PUBLIC SAFETY LEVY

Paid for by Police PAC.



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