

...NOLC endorses school, safety levies

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in the unincorporated portion of the county.

"If 3-386 passes, it would functionally eliminate the use of urban renewal in unincorporated Clackamas County," Lininger said. "How could one win (or even fund) a countywide campaign to use an arcane finance tool to improve a neighborhood most voters likely have never visited?"

NOLC's Executive Board voted to actively oppose Ballot Measure 3-386.

If both ballot measures pass in November, the measure with the most

votes will be declared the winner.

NOLC also supports Ballot Measure 3-378, the renewal of a public safety levy first passed by Clackamas County residents in 2006. The 2006 levy costs homeowners 24.8 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value.

"That will not change under Measure 3-378, it's simply a continuation of that levy," said Steve Thoroughman, marine patrol supervisor for Clackamas County. Thoroughman said renewal of the levy will help reduce the early release of inmates, maintain or increase sheriff patrols, and help fight drug crimes.

In **West Linn**, the labor council supports Ballot Measure 3-377, a bond measure to raise \$8.5 million to build a new police station. The current police station was built in 1936 and is falling apart. Last May residents rejected a bond measure seeking \$10.8 million. The city came back with a lower bond after finding a cheaper piece of property. The cost to homeowners is about 16 cents per every \$1,000 of assessed value over the next 20 years. NOLC's endorsement came with a condition that any construction of a new police station must have a project labor agreement with unions from the building trades.

In **Beaverton**, the labor council endorsed Ballot Measure 34-193, a 5-year local option levy proposed by the Beaverton School District to help offset reductions in teachers and educational programs. The levy would be \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed home value. If passed, it would raise approximately \$14 million per year for the next five years.

The election is Nov. 8. Ballots will be in mailboxes starting Oct. 21.

(Editor's Note: The NOLC Executive Board also opposes Initiative Petition 3. The petition is currently on the street seeking enough signatures to qualify for the 2012 ballot. It is supported by friends of union foe Bill Sizemore. The initiative would prohibit public employees from making voluntary contributions to their union's political activities or to charities through payroll deduction. NOLC is asking union members, their families, and friends not to sign the petition.)

...Health care insurance

(From Page 1)

premium increase for family coverage, but it wouldn't explain the 8 percent increase in premiums for employee-only coverage.

The survey also found that union employers were significantly more likely to offer health benefits: 83 percent of firms that have at least some union workers offer health benefits, compared to 58 percent of firms with no union employees. And large firms with union workers were more than twice as likely to offer retiree health benefits than large firms without union workers - 44 percent versus 20 percent.

Benefits were more costly, on average, at unionized firms: For family coverage, the cost averaged \$15,610 at

unionized firms versus \$14,780 at non-union firms; employee-only coverage is \$5,615 at unionized firms, and \$5,330 at non-union. The survey didn't say whether that was because the union firms had more generous benefit levels, or employed older workers, or both.

Union and non-union workers paid about the same percentage of the premium for employee-only coverage (17 vs. 18 percent.) But employers picked up more of the tab for family coverage at unionized firms (79 percent versus 68 percent at non-union firms).

The survey was conducted between January and May of 2011 and included 3,184 randomly selected, non-federal public and private employers with three or more employees. More details are available at <http://ehbs.kff.org>.

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CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

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Nov. 8 GENERAL ELECTION

Endorsements of the

SW WASHINGTON CENTRAL LABOR COUNCIL

City of Vancouver

City Council, Position 4: **BART HANSEN**

City Council, Position 5: **LARRY SMITH**

City Council, Position 6: **ANNE McENERY-OGLE**

City of LaCenter

Mayor: **JIM IRISH**

City of Washougal

City Council, Position 4: **JOYCE LINDSAY**

Local Ballot Measures

Support: Proposition 1

(Approve 0.2 percent sales tax increase (2 cents on a \$10 purchase) to preserve C-TRAN local fixed routes and connector service.)

WASHINGTON STATE LABOR COUNCIL

ENDORSEMENTS

Washington House of Representatives

District 49, Position 1: **SHARON WILEY**

Statewide Ballot Measures

Oppose: Initiative 1125

(Defunding highway and transportation projects)

Support: Initiative 1163

(Training for long-term care workers)

Oppose: Initiative 1183:

(Privatization of liquor sales and distribution)

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