

# Unions say 'No' to proposed Water District ballot measure

By JEFF KLATKE

The proposed Portland Water District Measure 26-156 that will appear on the May ballot has so many flaws that it is hard to list them all. The main concerns, however, are quite simple, especially to union members. Please

keep in mind these few things when you talk to your co-workers, friends and family about it.

This ballot measure was written by a lobbyist for known corporate polluters. These large, industrial water users and polluters don't want to pay to clean up

our rivers or to use our water. Siltronic, Portland Bottling Company, American Property Management, and others want you to pay for it.

As of this writing, those industrial water users and polluters, and the law firm that represents some of them, have contributed over \$165,000 to this campaign — 79 percent of the total contributions received. Why, one might ask, would these large, industrial water users and polluters and their lawyers be willing to spend so much money to change the oversight of our water and environmental services infrastructure? Is it for the benefit of the public and residential rate-payers? Of course not.

The Portland Fire Fighters Association, the Portland Police Association, and the Portland Association of Teachers urge you to vote no on Measure 26-156. According to estimates by the

City of Portland auditor, the City would lose about \$20 million out of its general fund, most likely causing cuts to police, fire, schools and parks, among other things.

The Portland League of Women Voters urges you to vote no on Measure 26-156. About 20 percent of all Portland residential water users, those living in east Portland, would be excluded from any voice in the oversight of this proposed water district. According to Multnomah County Judge Leslie Roberts, all Portland residents in the David Douglas, Parkrose, Centennial and Reynolds school districts would be barred from voting for or serving on the board of this proposed water district, and would not have representation. This is an affront to democracy itself.

Laborers Local 483, Professional and Technical Employees (PTE) Local

17 and AFSCME Local 189, urge you to vote no on Measure 26-156. The jobs of nearly 900 union employees of the City who work in the Water Bureau and Bureau of Environmental Services — members of Local 483, PTE 17, Operating Engineers Local 701 and AFSCME Local 189 — would be up in the air. The new structure has yet to be plausibly explained by proponents, which means there is no job security in the measure.

For these and so many other reasons, the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, the District Council of Trade Unions, the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, and the Oregon AFL-CIO strongly encourage you to vote NO on Measure 26-156.

(Editor's Note: Jeff Klatke is president of Oregon AFSCME Council 75.)

## Local Motion

### March 2014

A list of Oregon and Southwest Washington workplaces deciding whether to be union-represented — as reported by the National Labor Relations Board and the Oregon Employment Relations Board.

### Voting in union elections

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Yes	No	
2/21	Jaspers Food Mgt. (Wilsonville) Bakers Local 114 <b>DECERT</b>	1	2	☞
3/6	Good Samaritan (Corvallis) SEIU Local 49	30	14	☞
3/6	Good Samaritan anesthesia & EKG techs (Corvallis) SEIU Local 49	8	3	☞

### Unionizing by majority sign-up

Date	Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
3/5	City of Medford Fire Department chiefs (Medford) IAFF Local 1431	5
3/7	City of Salem Fire Department chiefs (Salem) IAFF Local 314	6
3/26	Tualatin Valley Fire District chiefs (Medford) IAFF Local 1660	10

### Requesting a union election

Workplace (Location) Union	Number of workers in unit
LinkUs satellite dish techs (Florence) IBEW Local 280	10
Asante Ashland Community Hospital RNs (Ashland) Oregon Nurses Association	95
Lawrence Convalescent Center (Portland) SEIU Local 503	37

#### LEGEND

☞ : workers will be union-represented ☞ : workers will be on their own  
**DECERT** : A decertification election occurs when some union-represented workers declare that the union no longer has majority support. A 'yes' vote is a vote for the union.

## OSHA website offers information on how to protect hospital workers

WASHINGTON — A website with information on how to help hospitals prevent worker injuries, assess workplace safety needs, enhance safe patient handling programs, and implement safety and health management systems is available through the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The materials at <http://www.osha.gov/hospitals> include fact books, self-assessments and best practice guides.

"At the heart of these materials are the lessons from high-performing hospitals that have implemented best practices to reduce workplace injuries while also improving patient safety," said Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health.

Hospital workers face serious hazards, including: lifting and moving patients, workplace violence, slips and falls, exposure to chemicals and hazardous drugs, exposures to infectious

diseases and needlesticks. In 2012, U.S. hospitals recorded 250,000 work-related injuries and illnesses, almost 60,000 of which caused employees to miss work. Nationwide, workers' compensation losses result in a total annual expense of \$2 billion for hospitals.

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THURSDAY  
 JUNE 12

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