

NORTHWEST OREGON LABOR COUNCIL 2016 General Election Endorsements

OREGON STATEWIDE

Governor: **Kate Brown**

Secretary of State: **Brad Avakian**

Attorney General: **Ellen Rosenblum**

State Treasurer: **Tobias Read**

Measure 97: Increase the Corporate Minimum Tax

Measure 98: Career & Technical Education in High Schools

CLACKAMAS COUNTY

County Chair: **Jim Bernard**

Commissioner: Position 4: **Ken Humberston**

Measure 3-494: Clackamas Fire District, Annexation of Boring RFPD #59 boundaries into Clackamas Fire District #1

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Commissioner: Position 1: **Margaret Magruder**

CITY OF GLADSTONE

Mayor: **Tammy Stempel**

Councilor: Position 2: **Bill Osburn**

Councilor: Position 4: **Neal Reisner**

Councilor: Position 6: **Frank Hernandez**

CITY OF HILLSBORO

Mayor: **Aron Carleson**

CITY OF LAKE OSWEGO

Mayor: **Jon Gustafson**

Councilor: **Theresa Kohlhoff**

CITY OF PORTLAND

Commissioner, Position 4: **Steve Novick**

Measure 26-179: Affordable Housing Bond

CITY OF WEST LINN

Mayor: **John Carr**

METRO

Measure 26-178: Clean, Safe, and Healthy Water

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

Commissioner: District 4: **Amanda Schroeder**

Oregon Senate

(Within Northwest Oregon Labor Council's jurisdiction)

Dist. 18: Ginny Burdick; **Dist. 21:** Kathleen Taylor;

Dist. 22: Lew Frederick; **Dist. 23:** Michael Dembrow;

Dist. 25: Laurie Monnes Anderson

Oregon House

(Within Northwest Oregon Labor Council's jurisdiction)

Dist. 26: Ray Lister; **Dist. 27:** Sheri Malstrom; **Dist. 29:** Susan McLain;

Dist. 30: Janeen Sollman; **Dist. 31:** Brad Witt; **Dist. 34:** Ken Helm;

Dist. 35: Margaret Doherty; **Dist. 36:** Jennifer Williamson; **Dist. 37:** Paul

Southwick; **Dist. 38:** Ann Lininger; **Dist. 40:** Mark Meek; **Dist. 41:** Karin

Power; **Dist. 42:** Rob Nosse; **Dist. 43:** Tawna Sanchez; **Dist. 44:** Tina Kotek;

Dist. 45: Barbara Smith Warner; **Dist. 46:** Alissa Keny-Guyner;

Dist. 47: Diego Hernandez; **Dist. 48:** Jeff Reardon; **Dist. 49:** Chris Gorsek;

Dist. 50: Carla Piluso; **Dist. 51:** Janelle Bynum; **Dist. 52:** Mark Reynolds

Authorized and paid for by the Northwest Oregon Labor Council, 9955 SE Washington, St., Suite 305, Portland, OR

SERVING ORGANIZED LABOR IN OREGON AND SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON SINCE 1900



IN THIS ISSUE

FIVE LIES AND TWO TRUTHS What corporations are saying about M97. | Page 5

ELECTRICIAN FOR STATE HOUSE IBEW's Ray Lister has a fighting chance. | Page 3

Union-built courthouse p.2 Meetings p.8

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Measure 97 would increase funding for schools, health care and senior services by raising taxes on the top 0.25 percent of corporations doing business in Oregon. It qualified for the ballot thanks to the efforts of over 6,000 volunteers, and above all Oregon schoolteachers, who collected 85,238 of the 130,000 signatures the campaign submitted on May 20 (above).

MEASURE 97: The Game Changer

After decades of legislative failure to solve the state's revenue problem, union-sponsored Measure 97 will make a better Oregon — by asking giant corporations to pay their fair share. And that could lead to similar efforts around the country.

By **Don McIntosh**
Associate editor

Twenty-six years ago, Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 5, by 52 percent. Measure 5 limited property taxes to 1.5 percent, and shifted school funding responsibility from local school districts to the state. Many who voted for Measure 5 in 1990 felt property taxes were too high, and wanted the Legislature to find other sources of revenue. But voters rejected the 5 percent sales tax that lawmakers sent to the ballot in 1993 — by a three-to-one margin. That was followed by measures 47 and 50 in

1996 and 1997, which reduced “assessed” property values by 10 percent, and limited future increases in assessed value to 3 percent a year regardless of how much market value increased.

It's been 20 years. Together, the property tax limitation measures fed a long slow decline in schools, along with occasional acute budget crises. Today, Oregon has the nation's third-largest class sizes, the fourth-highest high school dropout rate, and some of the nation's shortest school years — on average two weeks shorter than the 180-days-per-year national standard. Oregon today has one guidance counselor for every 549 students, one school librarian for every 674 students, and one school nurse for every 4,635 students. And pinched school

districts have deferred and deferred building maintenance — a backlog that reached \$7.6 billion statewide by 2014.

“Drive by any school and take a look,” said Portland Public Schools IBEW Local 48 union rep Donna Hammond. “We're talking superglue and bandaids.”

Only once in the last two decades has the legislature tried to come up with additional revenues to offset the reduced property taxes: Measures 66 and 67, which voters passed. Pitched as rescue measures in 2010 during the height of the recession, 66 and 67 slightly (and in some cases temporarily) increased income taxes on corporations and on the top 2 percent of income earners. That might have been



Turn to Page 4