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Schools, public services hurt by measure

By Jane Wilcox
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Services provided by the police, fire and sheriff's department's will suffer heavy budget cuts if Ballot Measure 2 passes Nov. 6.

As a property tax limitation, Measure 2 will limit the ability of state and local governments to raise revenues from property taxes, income taxes, assessments, user fees or changes that would increase revenue without the consent of the voters.

Measure 2 would limit real property taxes to 1½ percent of assessed property based on July 1, 1981 values and limit it to no more than 2 percent per year over the prior year's assessment value. The tax of any real property would be limited to 1½ percent, or \$15 per \$1,000 of assessment, or the amount levied for the 1983 tax year if that amount is less than the amount produced by a \$15 per \$1,000 rate.

The measure would cause a decrease in the amount of money now available to schools and local governments. Voters can exceed the 1½ percent tax limitation by a 50 percent voter turnout on the proposed increase, and a simple majority to approve it.

The argument in favor of the tax limitation is simple: Who should have the final say on the level of taxes in Oregon? Measure 2 will give Oregonians control of the level of taxes in Oregon and their rate of increase.

"It is not a 'tax limitation' as much as it is a floor from where the Oregon taxpayers can work from," Ray Phillips, a member of the committee that authored the bill said.

Measure 2 has a provision by which any money for any service can be approved or turned down. This is accomplished by a 50 percent voter turnout, and only three elections since 1964 have failed to meet this criteria, Phillips said.

Tax limitations have worked in Washington and supporters of Measure 2 are confident it will work in Oregon.

The argument for the opposition to Measure 2 is that it will cut funding to police, fire, schools and other social services to an unacceptable level.

Measure 2 will "cut funding for economic development, cripple the Veterans' Farm and Home Loan Program, slash police/fire budgets and services, major factors in attracting and keeping industry in our communities; further reduce funding for education and retraining for Oregon's work force and virtually eliminate local government's ability to bond for sewers, water and roads, necessities for economic growth and adequate housing," Donald J. Connelly, certified public accountant of Salem, said.

Specific cuts to be made will include the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department, the Clackamas County Police Department and the Clackamas County Fire Department.

"Measure 2 will require approximately a 42 percent funding cut to the Clackamas County Sheriff's Department," Chief Deputy Sheriff Risley Bradshaw said.

This 42 percent budget cut would mean laying off between 36-45 people. Of these people, 75-80 percent would come from the patrol and investigations department. This is about a third of the patrol department, Bradshaw said. The budget cuts would not affect the prison as far as staffing and continued incarceration of the inmates already there, but it would have quite an affect on the number of criminals caught due to the lack of patrolmen.

David Haney, a firefighter with the Oregon City Fire Department, said out of their 24 full-time firefighters, at least six would be laid off. The fire department would also have to decide which calls were important enough to answer because of the reduction in staff.



YES OR NO--Examples of campaign publicity for and against Ballot Measure 2 include "No on 2," bumper sticker and a billboard which happens to be located on Molalla Ave.

Photo by Joel Miller

College's board meets, finalizes brochure criteria

The first concrete steps toward selecting a new president were made last night when Clackamas Community College's Board of Education met to finalize criteria for a College brochure.

The brochure was drafted in order to describe the job qualifications for the next College president. Copies are scheduled to be mailed out nationwide on Nov. 1.

A salary of \$58,000 plus fringe benefits, a minimum master's degree for educational qualifications and an understanding and commitment to the role of a community college were criteria topics that were agreed upon

by the Board and will appear in the brochure.

The Board, which met in an emergency session at 7:30 p.m. in the small dining room of the College's cafeteria, had also intended to finalize its presidential search procedures, but ran out of time to do so. A tentative date has been set, Dec. 12, for the Board to come to a decision on the members for a screening committee.

This screening committee was designed to help the Board select possible candidates for the presidency, which will be vacated by current College President Dr. John Hakanson when he retires in December.

