

Sales tax to be controlled by people not state

Yes

by Frank Jordan
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the voters of the state of Oregon will once again have the chance to pass a five percent sales tax to benefit public schools and community colleges in the state.

What is different about this vote on Ballot Measure One is that Oregonians will be able to pass this sales tax on a trial basis.

That is, if Measure One passes, it does not become permanent forever and ever. The measure comes up for an automatic revote in the 1998 general election. If we, as voters, do not believe that the sales tax is worth it, then we can vote it out.

The sales tax rate of five percent cannot be raised by the Oregon Legislature at any time that it is in effect. Only a vote of the people can raise it. Our state legislators are notorious for going behind the backs of the people to manipulate government in their own best interests. Many of the articles in this sales tax measure cannot be touched by the legislature, only by a vote of the people.

One of the keys in this measure is that it will immediately benefit homeowners in Oregon. Once the measure is passed, the

rate charged for property taxes on owner-occupied dedicated to schools is eliminated. The only property taxes to be paid by homeowners is to help run their own local governments.

Measure One will create a new spending limit on the state legislature. This will apply to all state spending. This will be locked into the Oregon Constitution and cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

Cities, counties and other local governmental bodies cannot impose their own sales taxes on top of the five percent rate. This also is locked into the constitution and cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

Working families with dependent children, earning less than \$24,000 a year, would be able to apply for an earned income tax

credit, similar to that of the federal earned income credit, to help give themselves some tax relief. Furthermore, low-income households would be able to receive a refund on some or all of the sales tax that they would have to pay.

The sales tax applies to goods only, not services. Ballot Measure One exempts the following items:

- Food for home consumption
- Housing
- Utilities
- Prescription medicines
- Motor vehicle fuel
- Farm feed, seed and fertilizer

One of the main reasons that Oregonians have been skeptical of passing a sales tax in the past is that they fear once a sales tax is placed, it falls into the hands of the

legislature, which can raise or lower rates and change provisions of the tax as they please. This cannot happen with Ballot Measure One. All of the major parts of Measure One are set into the Oregon Constitution and cannot be changed without a vote of the people.

The special election for the vote on Ballot Measure One is to take place on Nov. 9. This writer and the staff of **The Clackamas Print** encourages all of the registered voters in the area to get out and vote on this important measure.

This writer urges everyone voting, to vote yes and help give our schools a fighting chance into the next century.

VOTE YES

Schools need better system, not more money

No

by Paul Valencia
Staff Writer

We Americans can be pretty silly sometimes. Whenever there is a problem, we ask for more money. If we get it, we calm down for a year or two, and then, when the problem is still there, we ask for more money.

Some Oregonians are doing this again and on Tuesday, we can finally get smart and say no

to Ballot Measure One, the five percent sales tax. This is not a vote against schools. It is a vote to demand more from the money already given to the education system.

It is a vote to say we can't stand the fact that Oregon doesn't pay their teachers enough money. It is a vote to say we want the education system to weed out the teachers who are only there for a paycheck, and don't care. Believe me, there are plenty of them.

Let's keep the good teachers and get them to recruit more. To say we need to invest in our students is a little off base. Instead, we need to invest in good teachers and then the students will be better. Throwing money at a school district is not going to help students unless the money is properly used. That hasn't been hap-

pening over the past five years.

Not only is a no vote a demand for the education system to educate itself, but it is also a vote to save you money. That's right, save money.

Those for Measure One claim that your property taxes will be reduced by as much as a third. But you will more than make up for that savings by paying \$500 on a \$10,000 car, or \$100 on a new computer system, or even \$5 on buying \$100 worth of clothing.

Think about every time you go out to buy things that may not be necessary, but makes our world a little better for each of us. Compact discs, sports tickets, eating out, film for your camera, Christmas gifts, household appliances, computer software, books, televisions, furniture, and the list keeps going and going. The money

adds up. As a former Californian, I know.

The proponents to Measure One say do it for the students. I say don't do it for the owners of the shops which are in Oregon's bordering cities and towns. Would the Jantzen Beach Mall go out of business without the support of all of those Washington citizens who cross the river to shop? What about Clackamas Town Center? All of those hotels lined up near Sunnyside Road are not there because it is close to the airport. It is for all of those Canadians who bypass Washington and come to Oregon to shop, tax-free.

That's just Portland. What about the towns that border Idaho and California? Merchants would be the big losers if Measure One passed. And while the schools would earn a lot more money, it

still remains to be seen if the students would be the big winners.

If Measure One passes, my guess is that the students will stay about the same. Some administrators may get raises, though, and the proponents of Measure One will stop begging for more money for at least a couple of years. But then the studies will come out and our students will still be suffering and our good teachers will still be underpaid.

I can see the new measure now. Let's raise the sales tax to eight percent because the schools need more money (again.) Don't let this happen. Tell the schools to do more with the money they have. Invest in teachers. Vote no on Measure One.

VOTE NO

Editors race to cover late-breaking story

by Cori Kargel
Staff Writer

Three Clackamas Print editors rushed to cover, complete and submit a late-breaking story before the Oct. 26 midnight deadline.

Co-Editor-in-Chief Jeff Kemp, Copy Editor Paul Valencia, and Sports Editor Justin Fields were the only members of the Print staff still on hand when Oregon City resident Leon Vernon Hansen crashed his private plane just off of Beaver Creek Road. Kemp was headed off campus on his way home when he became caught up in a traffic jam. He was curious about the cause, and decided to take a look. "At first, all I thought it was gonna be was a car accident," said Kemp. When he discovered otherwise, he headed back to the Print office.

Kemp and Valencia, along with Fields, decided to check out the situation.

The three reporters eventually reached the downed plane at about 7 p.m.. Fields took close-up pictures of the wreck until an officer informed him that he was stand-



Last week's plane wreckage has been removed from Beaver Creek Road.

photo by Anjanette Booth

ing about two feet from a downed power line.

"One interesting thing to note is the team work that took place in this process," Kemp said.

After they finished at the site, the editors returned to the Print office. Once there, they split up and proceeded to contact sev-

eral places, including Emanuel Hospital and the college's plant services.

"We worked really well writing the story together," Valencia said. "There was always somebody in control. I've worked on an award-winning newspaper, but I've never worked so well with a

team on one story."

As a result of a series of misfortunes, including a missed deadline with the Canby Herald, it was necessary for the newly-constructed paper to be taken directly to the printer in Salem.

Valencia and Fields headed to Salem, where the print shop is

located. They turned in the paper five minutes before the midnight deadline. "We had to make some modifications at the last minute," Fields said.

Said Print Adviser Linda Vogt, "I knew nothing about them doing this until this morning. I'm really proud of them."