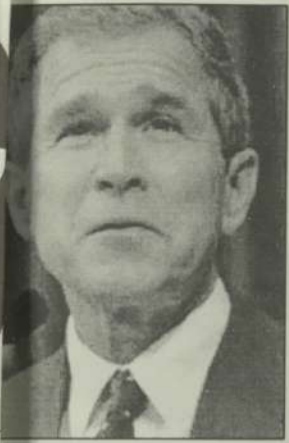


The presidential candidates, a closer look at the issues



BUSH

Voters will color the future with their number two pencils Nov. 7. The presidential campaign is raging and many voters are frustrated by pertinent information presented in an unaccommodating manner. To assist the voter, we present a synopsis of the candidates' political stands on the following topics: Social Security, Healthcare, Gun Control, Abortion and Education.

The information provided is merely a compilation of candidate's proposed platforms and stands on issues. This article is for general information only and is not the opinion of, or a reflection upon, the views of The Clackamas Print or the staff writer. Information was gathered from a plethora of sources, including: SpeakOut.com, Politics.com, issues2000.org, Vote-Smart.com, Voter.com, Dnet.com, algore2000.com, georgewbush.com. I encourage you to visit these web sites to educate yourself further and to vote Nov. 7.

Information compiled by Dana Palmer

How they Stand

GORE



Social Security: Bush supports privatization of Social Security and wants to allow young people to place a share of their payroll taxes into the stock market. He is against allowing government investment in the stock market. He will preserve the present disability and survivor's benefit, and supports maintaining the existing system for those at or near retirement.

Health Care: Bush wants to help the uninsured obtain private insurance, rather than expanding the current government programs with tax credits of up to \$2,000 to the low income families and tax deductions for eldercare. Although as governor of Texas Bush was opposed to an HMO Patient's Bill of Rights, he now says that he is in favor of the idea. Bush wants to commit \$3.6 billion over 5 years to build new Community Health Centers.

Gun Control: Bush is largely seen as the gun-friendly candidate and supports the right to own guns. He favors stronger enforcement of existing gun laws and child-safety locks. Bush supports the current ban on automatic weapons and would raise legal gun possession age from 18 to 21. Bush is against registration of all guns, and favors instant background checks at gun-shows, versus a more in-depth three-day check.

Abortion: Bush is anti-abortion except in cases involving rape, incest and to protect the life of the mother. He wants to reduce the number of abortions by increasing abstinence education and through adoption. He wants to ban abortions funded by taxpayer funding unless to save the woman's life. He supports both parental notification and consent for minors seeking abortions. Bush has said that he will not use abortion as a litmus test for appointing Supreme Court judges but that he will nominate strict constructionists.

Education: Bush strongly favors school vouchers. Bush supports a Charter School Homestead Fund. Bush would take away federal funding from schools that are unable to show increases in student performance; in addition he would require states to publish annual school-by-school report cards showing test results. He has called for the reform of the Head Start program and would inter-vene Head Start with the Department of Education. He also supports increasing Education savings accounts, from \$500 to \$5,000 per student, and allowing parents to withdraw funds tax free to help pay for education expenses from kindergarten through college. Bush wants to shift education from a federal to a state level responsibility; and would create a \$2.4 billion fund for states to set up teacher accountability systems.

Social Security: Gore wants to protect the Social Security trust fund and Medicare. He wants to maintain the existing Social Security system, and raise benefits. Gore wants to take the current Social Security surplus and use it to pay down the national debt, and transfer the equivalent of the interest saved to the Social Security trust fund. Gore supports providing increased benefits to widows and women who take time off work to raise children and then are left with lower earnings at retirement. He opposes raising the retirement age to 70.

Healthcare: Gore stresses his record of fighting for women's health in the Senate and the White House. Gore wants to expand the Clinton administration's State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP). Gore calls for a strong HMO Patient's Bill of Rights. For the elderly Gore will provide home caregivers with a \$3000 dollar tax credit, and he wants to give Americans between 55 and 65 the option of buying into Medicare.

Gun Control: While in Congress Gore worked to enact the Brady Bill. He supports a ban on assault weapons and would ban "junk guns". He advocates requiring child safety locks and raising the age of handgun ownership from 18 to 21. He supports three-day background checks and safety tests at gun shows. He would limit handgun purchases to one-a-month. He opposes granting special legal protection to gun manufacturers and is against weakening restrictions on concealed weapons.

Abortion: Gore supports women's right to choose; he says that abortions should be safe, legal and rare. Gore is against partial birth abortions. He has said that he has always been pro-choice but as a Senator in the 1970s and 80s he opposed federal funding for abortion. Gore opposes parental notification and consent laws before a minor can have an abortion. He wants to provide \$4.5 million for increased security at abortion clinics deemed at risk of violence. In addition he has proposed \$240 million be applied to a family planning fund; this would be used to prevent unwanted pregnancies and increase overall health, contraceptive counseling and services.

Education: Gore is strongly opposed to school vouchers, arguing that they would take money from public schools and would undermine reforms that would aid all students. Gore has proposed the hiring of more teachers as well as a pay increase. Schools that meet the new accountability standards, which include student test scores, will be rewarded. Schools that do not meet requirements would be closed and re-opened under new leadership. Gore wants to spend \$170 billion on education over the next 10 years. He proposes \$36 billion applicable toward college tuition after saving on Medicare and Social Security.

Measure 95 unwise, risky

Ballot Measure 95, an initiative petition on the Nov. 7 ballot, would amend the Oregon Constitution and would change the pay and job security of Oregon teachers to depend on the performance of their students.

It would seem to me that there are too

Stand and be counted.

learning is a process that involves two people. If the teacher has emotionally disturbed children, abused children, slow-learning children or virtually any child that doesn't have good test-taking skills, he could lose his job. In order to keep their jobs and earn enough money to keep up with inflation, teachers would have to focus their efforts on the yearly test. This would be true no matter how large the size of classes or how



Tam Oliver Feature Co-Editor

poor or limited the teaching materials. This would be true no matter how unsuitable the material might be for standardized testing.

This testing method of evaluating teachers wouldn't stop after high school. Universities and community college instructors would be subject to the same criteria.

Finally, Measure 95 would create another bureaucracy that would eradicate the power of local school boards. This bureaucracy would determine what is important for children to learn.

If you'd like your children to have a good education, vote no on Measure 95.

any variables involved in a student's performance on a standardized test to hold another person, the teacher, 100 percent accountable for it, but evidently, the proponents of 95 don't feel that way. They are so sure they are right, they are prepared to use \$47 million dollars of the school budget to implement the program. After implementation, it's estimated that testing will cost another \$22 million a year. The measure doesn't spell out how to implement this plan. It doesn't deal with the child who doesn't take tests well. It doesn't provide for children who speak English as a second language and would, consequently, be handicapped on a standardized test for English-speaking children. It completely ignores the fact that

94 will restore sentencing discretion to the judges

Measure 94 is a repeal of Measure 11, which was written by State Representative Kevin Mannix (now running for election as Oregon Attorney General) and passed in 1994. That measure removed prison sentencing discretion from judges with mandatory minimum sentences for certain crimes, whether or not the crime was a first-time offense, or self-defense, or was committed by a teenager aged 15-17.

The goal of Measure 94 is to put the power of the judges back into

courtrooms and give first-time offenders a second chance. Some people may be misled into thinking Measure 94 will be soft on crime, but that is the last thing that Measure 94 is aimed at.

Over 56 percent of convictions since the mandatory sentencing began have been of first-time offenders, according to Vern Beardslee, writing in favor of Measure 94 in the 2000 Voters' Pamphlet.

"We are spending \$90 million a year to imprison 3400 Measure 11 inmates," wrote Beardslee. "A \$1 billion prison-building project is currently underway. Money that used to fund successful re-

habilitation programs has been cut. For the first time in Oregon's history, more is spent on prisons than schools."

These measures were financed by corporate money and all promote prison labor.

"Inside Oregon Enterprises," according to Frank Hayes, arguing in favor of Measure 94 in the Voters' Pamphlet, "is a state-owned \$19 million business using prisoners—jobs that law-abiding Oregonians need!"



Shannon Recabaren Staff Writer

Proponents of Measure 11 have misled citizens into believing that Oregon's crime rate

has decreased since its passage. In reality, FBI data has shown that in the years before Measure 11, violent crime in Oregon had not been increasing. Therefore, mandatory minimum sentences have had little or no impact on the rate of crime.

Measure 94 will let the judges have the sentencing discretion they deserve. Since Measure 11 passed, judges have been unable to hand out harsh sentences for some crimes, nor use their own consciences and experience to decide which convictions merit leniency.

With Measure 94, inmates will be re-sentenced to appropriate punishments. It puts my mind at ease. Vote YES on Measure 94.