

photo by Jacob Thompson



Measure 106, which seeks to prohibit public funds from being used for abortions unless medically necessary or required by federal law.

For more information on voting here in Oregon, including an online version of the Oregon Voters' Guide, which is also generally mailed to each household in the weeks before the election, voters can visit the website of the Oregon Secretary of State, Dennis Richardson: [sos.oregon.gov](http://sos.oregon.gov). The website also includes a ballot dropbox locator if you are unsure of where to drop off your ballot, along with information regarding the process to register to vote, though the deadline has passed for this current election.

On a national level, the fight between Democrats and Republicans for control of U.S. Congress has

become especially bitter. One of the most publicized races is for Texas U.S. Senate which sees Republican incumbent Ted Cruz pitted against Democrat Beto O'Rourke. Though not long ago polls seemed to show the two candidates in a dead heat, more recent polling has indicated a decent lead for Cruz, putting him up seven or eight points.

The race has fascinating consequences for the state as well as the national political stage at large, as a win from O'Rourke would be the first time a Democrat had served in a Texas U.S. Senate seat since 1993.

Currently, many are anticipating that Republicans will keep control of the Senate after the election but will lose control of the House of Representatives to the Democrats. Each race still features some seats that are still too close to call, enough to swing either the Senate or the House either way.

Several recent issues and events have become major talking points as election day grows closer. Dominating much of the press coverage last week was the story of Cesar Sayoc, charged with five federal crimes for sending pipe bombs to a variety

of prominent liberal figures such as Hillary Clinton and former President Barack Obama. Sayoc's actions were used as an excuse to discuss the political rhetoric that has dominated the country over the last few years, with some liberal figures claiming this incident, as well as other violent encounters such as the Tree of Life shooting that took place in Pittsburgh, were directly caused by the President's speech. This has been used as a rallying cry in support of candidates opposed to the president as election night draws near.

In a continuation to one of President Trump's election issues an event has once again brought immigration to the center of many election campaigns around the country. A migrant caravan, originally formed in Honduras, has grown to include over 7,000 people. After forcing their way into Mexico, they began the trek towards the southern border of the United States.

The issue of illegal immigration was one of President Trump's forefront campaign topics and has remained a point of contention between Republican and Democrat members of Congress since. Many Republicans have focused on the caravan as a means to once again highlight the need for more control on the southern border.

Defense Secretary James Mattis has already approved troops to be sent to the border. A similar decision was made earlier this year.

Along with these issue, a wide variety of other topics have revealed themselves to be important in the upcoming elections. Some of these include the continued discussion over health care, a major focus for many democratic candidates, as well as federal spending and national debt.

With Nov. 6 less than a week away, it's all the more important to get your ballot filled out and dropped off at your local drop box. Whatever issue is important to you, your vote is your best way to make your voice heard. So, get out there and vote!

**Ballots are due Tuesday, Nov. 6**

## OREGON STATE BALLOT MEASURES

### Measure 102

Seeks to allow local governments, including cities, counties and towns, to use local bonds for financing affordable housing without retaining ownership of the constructed buildings. Currently, the law states that bond revenue can only be used on projects fully owned by the government.

### Measure 103

Would prohibit taxes or fees from being placed on the sale of groceries, including any taxes or fees put in place from October 1, 2017 and on. As per the measure, groceries would be defined as "raw or processed food or beverages intended for human consumption." This would not include alcohol, tobacco, or marijuana, and would prevent local governments from taxing soda or other sugary drinks.

### Measure 104

Seeks to redefine the term "raising revenue" in Section 25 of Article IV of the Oregon Constitution. The section states that any vote for bills for raising revenue require a three-fifths legislative majority to pass. Currently, "raising revenue" only refers to taxes. The change would add tax exemptions, deductions and credits to this definition.

### Measure 105

Would repeal Oregon's Sanctuary Law, allowing local law enforcement resources to be used in the enforcement of federal immigration law. Currently, no local funds, equipment, or personnel can be used to assist federal officials in detecting and apprehending those whose only legal violation falls under federal immigration law.

### Measure 106

Seeks to prohibit state-funded health plans or health insurance procured through a public employer or public service from paying for abortions except when a woman will suffer from injury or death unless an abortion is performed, or if the procedure is required by federal law.

