



Honest advertising?

BACKERS OF MEASURE 4 claim this billboard on Gresham's Main Avenue, and others like it, say the measure on the November ballot merely

simplifies the process for forming a people's utility district. Opponents disagree, saying they think the signs are perfectly honest.

Two steps at once

Measure 4 seeks to ease PUD process

Some folks may be surprised to see more than just Measures 6 and 11 on the November general election ballot. Anyone who has driven down the road has probably seen a billboard urging a no vote on Measure 4 — whatever that is. The billboards don't say.

According to the ballot title, the measure shortens the formation process for people's utility districts.

Under the present system, two elections have to be held. The first is to authorize formation of a PUD and the second to decide on the amount of the revenue bonds that can be issued by the district to build or acquire the necessary equipment.

Also under the present system, a petition must be filed with the state Department of Energy which prepares a report analyzing what the present system consists of and what the acquisition of that system might cost. After public hearings, the final report is prepared and a second petition must be circulated to get the PUD on the ballot.

Under the proposed change, voters at one election would authorize formation of a PUD and authorize the district to issue revenue bonds in an unfixed amount. The feasibility of the district's ability to pay for those bonds must be determined by a nationally recognized engineering firm. The election can be held

anytime instead of only at the state general election, and no hearings are required if the PUD will encompass an entire county.

"The fundamental change is giving the voters an opportunity to vote on both issues at the same time," said Bill Sanderson, supervisor of administrative services for the state energy department.

He said the problem some people have with the present system is that it can take as long as two years between the time the PUD is formed and the opportunity to ask for money.

PUDs can provide either electricity or water. Sanderson said there are now only four PUDs in the state, but said three PUD formations and three elections for annexations to existing PUDs are on the November ballot.

If Measure 4 passes, the energy department will have no role at all in the formation process and PUD sponsors will have to look elsewhere for the service the department provides, particularly the analytical review and the boundary description check, Sanderson said.

Proponents of the measure claim that the opponents are misrepresenting the facts.

"When the opposition charges that Measure 4 would 'put you in debt without your consent,' they are resorting to falsehood," said W.C. Harris, Oregon

State Grange master and president of the Public Power Coalition, the group backing Measure 4.

He said the grange and other organizations in the coalition are considering possible legal or other action to inform voters that billboard advertising against the measure is not telling the truth.

Measure 4 is an initiative effort to shorten formation procedures for PUDs, Harris said. "That's all it does. It doesn't set up a single PUD or authorize one penny of expenditure," he said.

"We don't think they (the billboards) are inaccurate at all," said Bruce Landrey, spokesman for Portland General Electric Co. He said the company is contributing to the "No on Four" campaign.

He agreed that Measure 4 in itself doesn't authorize expenditures, but sets up the process for it.

"It's an oversimplification to say it just simplifies the process needed to form a PUD," Landrey said. "First of all, the question of forming a PUD could go to the voters and they would never have a chance to vote on how much debt would be incurred to from the PUD."

He said the engineering study required is just to make sure the community has enough money to pay back the bonds, but it doesn't require that the formation of the PUD would benefit consumers with lower rates.

The rates could even be higher than what private utilities charged, he said. Landrey explained that three of the five directors of a PUD could commit the community to a tremendous amount of indebtedness without the people ever having an opportunity to vote directly on it. He said the indebtedness could run as high as \$100 million.

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OBITUARY

Louise Ulmen

Private funeral services for Louise Ulmen were held Wednesday in the chapel of Sandy Funeral Home. Interment was at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Gresham.

Mrs. Ulmen was born Inez Louise Bostic in Illinois on April 28, 1909. When she was 5, her family moved to Oregon, living in Baker and then Astoria where she began school. She completed her education at Bend.

On Oct. 7, 1949, she was married to Ben Ulmen. They made their home in the Sandy area.

After Mr. Ulmen's death in 1959, Mrs. Ulmen remained at her Sandy residence where she later became a member of the Sandy Senior Citizen's organization.

Mrs. Ulmen passed away in a Portland hospital on Oct. 16, after a lengthy illness. She was 69.

Survivors include two brothers, Jim Bostic of Sandy and George Bostic, Nevada.

Correction

Due to an error in the layout of obituaries in last week's Post, an item on memorials for Mark Lewis Warren was misplaced.

The Warren family requests that memorials be sent to the Boys and Girls Aid Society, care of Jean West, 2301 NW Glisan, Portland.

We apologize for the error.



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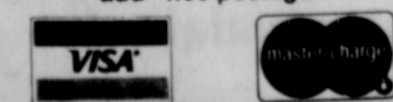
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