

which eliminated a run-off in November. She's the only name on the ballot, but we need to mark our ballots for her anyway. She deserves our continued support, particularly since an underground write-in campaign to retain Torrey might still be brewing. A low vote for Piercy could also be used as an argument in a future recall campaign. Likewise, let's mark our ballots for unopposed council candidates Andrea Ortiz and Chris Pryor. We haven't seen how Pryor will vote, and he ran unopposed and undebated, but we'll give him the benefit of the doubt, for now.

State Ballot Measures

Measure 31. Postponing elections. YES

This common sense, non-controversial constitutional amendment would allow a major election to be postponed if a major party candidate dies within 30 days of a vote. Under current law, a dead candidate means either the incumbent wins or the office is filled by appointment. Measure 31 would help assure untimely deaths don't spoil democratic elections.

Measure 32. Double-wides aren't cars. YES

A double-wide manufactured home isn't going anywhere fast. But that doesn't keep the state from requiring such fixed homes to have license plates from the DMV. To solve that absurdity, the Legislature wants to transfer mobile home licensing from the DMV to the building codes department. But that requires a constitutional amendment to get around the ban on using fees for non-car related spending.

Measure 33. Medical marijuana. YES

In 1998, Oregon voters approved a ballot measure to allow qualified patients to possess, grow and use medicinal marijuana. Now, Measure 33 asks voters to make the medicine more accessible to patients. The measure would: create state-regulated, nonprofit dispensaries where patients could buy medicinal marijuana; increase the amounts of marijuana that patients may possess or cultivate from three ounces of usable marijuana and seven plants to one pound and 10 plants; add naturopathic doctors and nurses to the list of physicians who can prescribe medicinal marijuana; decrease the annual application fee from \$150 to \$20, and fund medicinal marijuana research.

More than 1,300 Lane County residents hold medical marijuana cards — many with serious conditions such as cancer, glaucoma, and HIV — and this measure would mean easier access to their medicine. The state would benefit, too, since dispensaries would pay 10 to 20 percent of their gross revenues to the state medicinal marijuana program. Let's make medicinal marijuana more accessible.

Measure 34. Management of state forests. YES

The state Board of Forestry has proven that it cannot be trusted to conserve our state forests for the "greatest permanent value," as state law now prescribes. Instead of protecting recreational values, wildlife habitats and vital waterways, the forestry board made side

deals with the timber industry, resulting in a forest management plan that allows logging on more than 85 percent of the Tillamook and Clatsop state forestlands. The consequences: ugly clearcuts, weakened ecosystems, and the degradation of streams that provide drinking water for one in 10 Oregonians.

Measure 34 calls for balanced management of the Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests to give conservation and sustainable timber harvesting equal priority. The measure specifies that only 50 percent of the forests can be logged; the other 50 percent must be managed for conservation. An independent science team would make management recommendations to the forestry board. It allows for timber revenue to be shared by all Oregon public schools while ensuring continued funding for local schools. Finally, the measure guarantees family wages for employees harvesting timber and doing restoration work. It makes sense.

Measure 35. Caps medical liability. NO

This is an outrageous measure which should be opposed by every responsible Oregon doctor concerned about the quality of care in his/her community. Much of the media casts the debate between doctors and lawyers. Not true. It's a fight between the insurance and drug industries and the consumer. Note that drug giant Pfizer tossed in \$180,000 late in September to help pass the measure. Read the measure carefully. It's a constitutional amendment, a mistake regardless of the merits of the measure. It protects health care providers' "negligence or recklessness" in treating patients. Is that what our Constitution should be doing? Hardly. The voters and the medical profession should be doing everything

possible to remove "negligence or recklessness" from the system. We should bury this measure and then urge our legislators, governor, doctors and lawyers to curb the insurance and drug industries. That would be real progress.

Measure 36. Ban same-sex marriage. NO

Put simply: Discrimination has no place in the Oregon Constitution. Measure 36 seeks to amend the constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman, forever banning same-sex couples from legally marrying in the state. If passed, the measure would deny committed same-sex couples more than 1,000 rights and responsibilities that married heterosexual couples automatically receive — things like family health care coverage, inheritance rights and the ability to make emergency medical decisions. Measure 36 also infringes on freedom of religion by prohibiting the legal recognition of same-sex marriage ceremonies performed in progressive congregations. Oregonians deserve a continued civic discourse about marriage. Reject legalized discrimination.

Measure 37. Bankrupt or destroy Oregon. NO

This radical measure is the scariest thing on the ballot. It would require state and local governments to waive regulations or pay developers and land speculators for any reduction in property values from those regulations. If Measure 37 passes, the timber barons and land speculators bankrolling the measure will cash in, but the state could be left bankrupt or its livability, beauty and nature destroyed.

Measure 38. Abolish SAIF. NO

Oregon's State Accident Insurance Fund, established in 1914 to provide workers' compensation insurance, has been under attack for years for questionable management practices, including the 1989 fiasco of canceling policies on 10,000 small businesses, and more recent scandals involving high consulting fees and destroyed public records. But these problems can be fixed. Gov. Kulongoski has replaced several top executives, including SAIF's CEO. Meanwhile, SAIF is continuing to help Oregon maintain its relatively low workers' comp costs. Who's behind Measure 38? SAIF's primary competitor, Liberty Northwest. All things considered, let's keep SAIF intact.

Local Measures

Measure 20-88. Eugene Police Station. NO

This measure would raise taxes to help build a \$36 million police station that has already lost twice at the polls. To help sell the lavish new digs for Eugene's scandal-ridden police department, the city shrouded the measure in confusing language that seeks to hide what the vote is really about — taxpayer money for an unpopular new police station. The city has a lot better things to do with its money such as supporting schools, buying parkland, fixing potholes, paying off police lawsuits, running the library, refunding taxpayers and giving grants to hire more domestic violence counselors.

Measure 20-90. Eugene school levy renewal. YES

A yes vote renews 4J's local option property tax levy for another five years. Without the levy, local schools will have to cut \$6 million a year and about 70 teachers. To preserve local quality of life, reduce crime, retain and attract new businesses and give our kids a future, our schools need more funding, not less.

Measure 20-91. Springfield jail. NO

This measure would increase taxes to pay for a new \$29 million jail/police station in Springfield. Money for the police station would be better spent on hiring more officers to patrol the city and fight crime directly. Money for jail beds is better spent on crime



EW ENDORSEMENTS AT-A-GLANCE

CANDIDATES

U.S. PRESIDENT

John Kerry

U.S. SENATOR

Ron Wyden

U.S. HOUSE DISTRICT 4

Peter DeFazio

SECRETARY OF STATE

Bill Bradbury

STATE TREASURER

Randall Edwards

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Hardy Myers

OREGON SENATE, DISTRICT 4

Floyd Prozanski

OREGON HOUSE, DISTRICT 8

Paul R. Holvey

OREGON HOUSE, DISTRICT 11

Phil Barnhart

OREGON HOUSE, DISTRICT 13

Robert Ackerman

OREGON HOUSE, DISTRICT 14

Bev Ficek

COUNTY COMMISSION POSITION 5

Don Hampton

EUGENE MAYOR

Kitty Piercy

STATEWIDE MEASURES

MEASURE 31

Delays election. YES

MEASURE 33

Medical marijuana. YES

MEASURE 34

Tillamook forests. YES

MEASURE 35

Limits medical liability. NO

MEASURE 36

Bans gay wedding. NO

MEASURE 37

Abolishes land use planning. NO

MEASURE 38

Abolishes SAIF. NO

LOCAL MEASURES

MEASURE 20-88

Eugene police center. NO

MEASURE 20-90

School local option. YES

MEASURE 20-91

Springfield jail. NO

MEASURE 20-92

Glenwood plan. NO

MEASURE 20-100

Willamalane District. YES

This list does not include all the candidate races, nor all the rural and small town measures that might be on your ballot. More information on the election can be found in Voters' Pamphlets and various websites such as www.lwv.org and www.emoregon.org and www.olev.org