

the fee have manufactured misdirection, preventing reasonable democratic dialogue about how to solve our \$6 million budget problem. Their efforts ought rather be directed toward providing more honest and substantive alternatives.

I'll be casting my vote for the only prudent option we have: "yes" on the city services fee. Eugene cares.

Joe Jacklin
Eugene

MANIPULATIVE MEASURE

For the past 30 years I have voted for nearly every local tax to support Eugene schools, parks and libraries. But I am voting no on 20-211. Unfortunately, this measure is unfair, poorly crafted and dishonest.

This tax hurts our lower income neighbors, struggling students, local businesses and nonprofits. For example, many UO and LCC students will pay the same "fee" as the president of the UO. St. Vincent de Paul will pay \$2,880 for its eight retail stores. Additionally, St. Vincent or its low-income tenants will pay \$120 each for hundreds of low-income apartments. By contrast, Walmart will pay \$360 for each of its two megastores. Low income relief is still hypothetical and such programs are notoriously difficult to formulate.

The measure is so poorly thought out that as a university professor, I would give it an F. For example, although the money can only be used for the purposes listed, the measure does not require that the fee

support all of the services listed. Thus a future council could spend 100 percent of the fee on the police. And almost anything fits under the undefined category "quality of life services."

The city hired a consultant to identify the service cuts that would most effectively convince the public to pass this measure. In addition to being manipulative, this completely bypasses the proper budgeting process. This kind of decision should be made by our City Council acting on the recommendation of Eugene's Budget Committee. We should expect better from our city government.

Virginia Lo
Retired UO professor
of computer science

EVADING RESPONSIBILITY

FDR warned us "against the smooth evasion" of those who say they support social programs, yet provide no real way to pay for them.

Bonny Bettman McCornack & Co. remind me of the FDR warning I watched online. Like FDR's opponents, they say, "Of course we believe these things. We believe in Social Security. We believe in work for the unemployed. We believe in saving homes — but we don't like the way the present administration is doing them." That's fair, but their only proposed alternatives are selling our public parks to private developers, or burning through savings, which would lead to sky-rocketing interest rates on city bonds and bleed our reserves.

A max fee of \$10 a month, with a low-income exemption that will eliminate the fee for anyone up to 185 percent of poverty line, and reduce it for up to 400 percent of poverty line. It can only pay for vital services. That's what we're looking at — if we heed FDR's warning against "cool evasion."

The strongest parallel between the FDR speech and fee-haters is when he pokes fun at those who say of social services: "We will do all of them. We will do more of them. We will do them better. And — most important of all — the doing of them will not cost anybody, anything." I wouldn't bank on it. That's why I'm voting "yes" on Measure 20-211.

Kellis Alexander
Eugene

VAGUE & MURKY

In her EW letter May 9, Ruby Golden states falsely that your "no" vote on Ballot Measure 20-211 will be responsible for stopping city funding for CAHOOTS, Buckley House, Looking Glass, etc. It is the mayor, City Council and city manager who are responsible for putting those programs on the butcher block. They are currently funded and there is no reason, beyond scare-tactic politics, they should not continue to be funded.

There are many other places where cuts could be made if they are (and that is arguable) necessary. There are many other ways to raise money.

How much is it going to cost to set up a new bureaucracy of social services

to identify low-income people who can't afford this fee? Will this social service also have to raise the money to pay this fee? If they did not intend to hurt poor people with this fee, why didn't they just income cap it? For example: Households with less than \$30,000 a year income are automatically exempt. No bureaucracy, just send in a copy of your tax return. This ballot measure and this city's leadership decision to cut these programs is politics at its worst.

This local government ballot measure is clear and concise in what they will cut if you vote "no." They are murky and vague in what they will implement if you vote "yes." In the very long list of things that are wrong with this ballot measure, extremely poorly written, broad, blank check, forever and inequitable scream for a "no."

Come back at us with a good measure and we can talk. Don't be pushed into panic and fear for all the programs they threaten to take away. Volunteer to be on the city Budget Committee. Demand a low-income representative for all city committees. Please vote "no" on 20-211!

Patricia Hadley
Eugene

LETTERS POLICY: We welcome letters on all topics and will print as many as space allows, with priority given to timely local issues. Please limit length to 200 words, keep submissions to once a month, and include your address and phone number for our files. Email to letters@eugeneweekly.com fax to 484-4044, or mail to 1251 Lincoln, Eugene 97401.



**JOIN US IN
SUPPORTING
OUR SCHOOLS!**

Vote YES! on Measure 20-210

**4J BOND
YES!**

At the Y we care deeply about our youth's well-being and happiness both in and out of the classroom. We believe supporting our schools gives the children of our community the tools to successfully grow and mature as creative and healthy individuals!

www.yesfor4jschools.com www.eugeneymca.org

**The best way to preserve
food under the Sun!**



Available at [greenstore](http://greenstore.com) (5th & Olive) & SolarFoodDryer.com

**10th Hoedown for Cascadia's
Ancient Forests**

with the **Conjugal Visitors**

Saturday, May 18, 6-10 pm

Avalon Stables, Cottage Grove

\$20 adv, \$25 door

Kids 12 and under free

Bluegrass, square dances w/ caller, water balloon toss, veggie chili dinner, libations and much more. Eugene shuttle bus RSVP, advanced tickets and more event info at www.CascWild.org.



Weekly

