

Dangerous & Deceptive

MEASURE 90 SILENCES
INDEPENDENT VOTERS

As one who has worked for 25 years in Oregon to increase voter choice and participation, I can say this about Measure 90: It is one of the most dangerous and deceptive election “reform” proposals I have even seen.

Whether or not the Big Money proponents of this ill-conceived measure intend to sabotage the democratic process and silence the voices of independent voters, that will be its effect. Considering that this measure is supported by some of the biggest lobbying groups in the state (who, in turn, receive support from the Koch Brothers), that could well be the intent. Why else would Associated Oregon Industries pour \$50,000 into this proposal? This is the group that has fought every minimum wage hike tooth and nail. AOI and the Koch Brothers interest in democratic reforms begins and ends with how “democratic reforms” can benefit AOI and the Koch Brothers.

Still, politics does make for strange bedfellows and some good citizens have been caught up in the ridiculous rhetoric and nonsensical claims of the measure’s proponents. Although Measure 90 will allow all voters to vote in the primary, that election is usually a waste of time that few people bother participating in. Measure 90 won’t change that. The real change will come in November — when *all voters* will be restricted to having the “choice” of just two candidates in each race.

Here’s what will happen if Measure 90 passes: If you’re an independent voter, you’ll get to vote in the primary. However, only two candidates for each office will be on the ballot for the election that really counts — the main election in November. In November, when you vote for governor or Congress or the U.S. Senate, there will be only Republicans and Democrats on the ballot. There will be no independent candidates; no Greens, no Libertarians, no other “third

party” candidates. In some races, only Republicans will be on the ballot; in others, only Democrats.

The proposal that is supposedly all about empowering independent voters will give independent voters the “choice” of voting only for Republicans and Democrats in November at the one election that really matters. When Washington and California have used this same system, no third party or independent candidate for statewide office has ever been on the November ballot.



The sad truth is that our elections are broken and in desperate need of reform. Measure 90’s backers are exploiting this desperation. What is unfortunate is that there are any number of reforms that would increase diversity and participation in elections and would do it without the many ill effects of Measure 90.

If “closed” primaries prevent participation, we could open them up. Or, better yet, do away with primaries altogether. The voter turnout rate is laughable, few races are actually contested and taxpayers subsidize what should really be an internal function of the Democrats and Republicans. So let’s just kill the primary altogether. No one will be excluded, we’ll save a ton of money, campaigns will be shorter and we won’t have to worry about this Measure 90 nonsense.

Elections are about a lot more than winning and losing. Elections are — or should be — about public policy, big ideas and a healthy debate about the future of our country. Although “third parties” may not often win, they have been responsible for introducing “radical” ideas — such as marriage equality, cannabis legalization, and the abolition of slavery — into mainstream politics.

If Measure 90 passes, Oregon’s elections will be over in May — before most voters are even paying attention. Come November, there will be only Republicans and Democrats on the ballot. There will be no independent voices heard from May to November; no debate over issues like undeclared wars, NSA spying and the corporate control of our government.

Democracy is about choices. Measure 90 limits our choices when choices matter most. Protect democracy’s most precious right: Vote “no” on 90.

Corvallis attorney and activist Blair Bobier has written about election reform for The Oregonian, Common Dreams, USA Today, Los Angeles Times and many other publications.

JAZZ STATION

THUR. OCT 2 • 7:30-10:30PM
THE ZAC WOLFE BAND

An old school guitarist and composer, playing classic melodies of the ‘60s and ‘70s.

FRI. OCT 3 • 5:30-7:30PM

1ST FRIDAY ART WALK

Visit our gallery: Photography By Frank Rossini
TRIO SUBTOMIC

BACK BY REQUEST • 8-11PM

Exciting original music, including funky, groove oriented sounds, acoustic ballads and dazzling arrangements.

SAT. OCT 4 • 8-11PM

TRIBUTE TO HORACE SILVER

The Carl Woideck Quartet provides a listen back of Silvers’ great array of well known jazz classics covering Hard Bop to Soul Jazz during his career.

THUR. OCT 9 • 7:30-10:30 PM

JAZZ ALIVE SERIES

“Back To Bass-ics”

Bassist Chris Higgins and dynamic pianist George Colligan front this Portland based trio for an evening of great music.

FRI. OCT 10

TBD

Visit our website for more info

SAT. OCT 11 • 7:30 AND 9:30PM

MEMPHIS TO MONK

THE DAVID VEST TRIO

From early blues to stride, to boogie woogie with a little modern thrown in, should provide a night to remember for piano lovers.

EVERY SUNDAY

All comers Jazz Jam 4-7PM

All Levels, All Ages Welcome,

hosted by Kenny Reed

Visit our website for more information about special shows on Oct 13 and 14

Visit our website for more info

TheJazzStation.org

124 West BROADWAY

The Home for Jazz in Eugene

WANT TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS?

ADVERTISE WITH THE
EUGENE WEEKLY

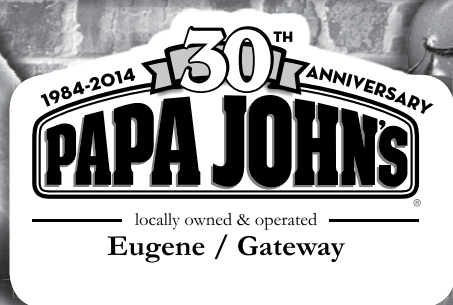
CALL US TODAY
541-484-0519



www.papajohnseugene.com

your order is just
one click away

**WELCOME
BACK!
STUDENTS**



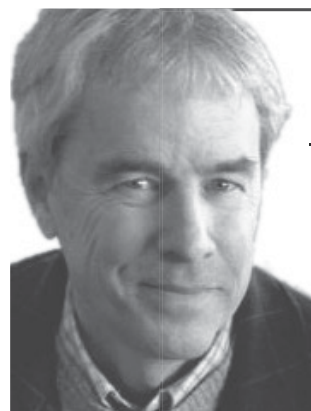
Limited Time Only

Get ANY Large
Specialty Pizza
for just \$13.00!

Get a Large
2-Topping Pizza
for just \$10.00!

**S.Eugene
and Campus
541-484-7272**

**N. Eugene
and Gateway
541-461-7272**



Tim Verkler

Full Service Real Estate Broker Since 1997

Experience Matters

From Vintage Homes to New Construction

From Condos to Country Estates

Former Home Builder | UO Alumnus

Cell - 541-554-0910
timverkler@gmail.com
eugeneproperties.net

Hybrid
Real Estate



traveling soon?

medical advice for global travelers

THE TRAVEL CLINIC

John D. Wilson, M.D.

1200 Hilyard St., Suite S-560

541/343-6028

Questions? www.TravelClinicOregon.com