



Measure 92

LABEL GMO FOODS — YES

It's Monsanto versus Dr. Bronner's Magic Soap on Measure 92, which seeks to label genetically modified foods. More precisely when you look at who's pouring money into supporting or defeating the measure, it's the organic and natural foods (Stoneyfield, Tofurky, Earth Mama) up against the big names in processed food (Coca Cola, Kellogg, Hershey, General Mills). Opponents have tried to play Measure 92 as anti-farmer, but it was conservative, rural counties here in Oregon that passed local measures against GMO crops before the Legislature took away the rights of local governments to do that. If you are anti-GMO you are going to want to know if your raw or processed food has genetically modified ingredients or is GM. If you are pro-GMO, then it's hard to see why you would mind if your food is labeled GM, loud and proud. Vote yes and don't let out-of-state chemical companies determine what you eat.

politics; in fact, it is quite likely the manipulating power of money will have an even bigger role in determining who ends up on the November ballot. We can improve our elections process, but this is not a step in the right direction. Instead, let's push for election finance reform, including overthrowing *Citizens United* and banning secret contributions. That would go a long way to reducing the cynicism that discourages voting today.

LOCAL CANDIDATES & ISSUES:

West Lane Commissioner **NO ENDORSEMENT**

Jay Bozievich's challenger Dawn Lesley lost to the conservative incumbent by a thin margin. Lesley has chosen not to mount a write-in campaign and we respect that, but we also think you should let Bozievich know of your displeasure with his ham-fisted political moves. Don't vote for him just because his name is on the ballot. Let the under votes speak for you. Or heck, write in the "LTD, Lick my Sweaty Nutsack" Man.

Springfield City Council **DENISE BEAN**

Springfield has an open council seat representing the Thurston area and our nod goes to Denise Bean. She has been a solid community leader for years and has the support of progressives. Bean owns a tax service, founded the Springfield City Club and serves on the board of the Willamalane Park and Recreation District. Pishioneri is a sheriff's deputy and former council member. We remember his poor attendance at council meetings, his ill-advised and awkward campaign against John Lively for the Legislature, and conservative views that are becoming more and more out-of-date as Springfield evolves.

EPUD board Subdistrict 2

LEE R. KELLEY

Incumbent Patti Chappel has been at the center of numerous clashes on the EPUD Board for years and the drama has been a big distraction for the utility. We welcome Lee Kelley stepping forward as a solid candidate to take her place. Kelley, whose family has owned and operated the local hardware store since 1976, is calling for "harmony, cooperation and stability" on the board and those qualities are certainly overdue. EPUD now has a better general manager, more openness and transparency and having Kelley on board should help restore public confidence in the utility.



Springfield Measure 20-223

PAY FOR COUNCIL & MAYOR — YES

Springfield's elected officials only get expense reimbursements for their many hours of work on behalf of the citizens, and it's time to pay them something, particularly since council and mayoral duties often require being present during work hours, evenings and weekends. Paying councilors and the mayor will also encourage more people to run for office, knowing they will get some compensation to make up for lost work time. Under this charter amendment, the mayor would get about \$500 a month and councilors would get about \$300.

Springfield School District Measure 20-226

BONDS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICT — YES

While 4J is seeking a renewed local option levy, the Springfield School District is proposing a bond measure to fund facilities improvements, including remodels, upgrades and technology investments. Springfield voters rejected the bond last year, but the district has "re-engineered" it to lower the tax. One of the district's most pressing concerns is replacing the aged Hamlin Middle School, a 57-year-old building that has "outdated electrical equipment, deteriorating drinking water and sewage piping, lack of a fire sprinkler system, leaking roof and old portable classrooms." They had us at deteriorating sewage piping. On top of that, Springfield needs to expand its instructional space to accommodate the onset of full-day kindergarten in 2015. This bond money will help Springfield repair schools with floundering infrastructure, making it safer for kiddos to go to school.

Santa Clara RFPD Measure 20-228

FIVE-YEAR LOCAL OPTION LEVY — YES

This measure would impose a levy of 45 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value on property in the fire district beginning in 2015. The measure would support general operations. The district's last local option levy of 60 cents per \$1,000 expired in June so this is a lower levy.

Eugene District 4J Measure 20-222

LOCAL OPTION LEVY — YES

Eugene schools are tentatively on the upswing — the 4J district has added teachers and eliminated furlough days for the 2014-15 school year. To cut about \$8 million a year to the district now would be a low blow, considering the recent lean years 4J has faced. Sure, 4J has gotten its share of criticism recently for purchasing an unpiloted math curriculum and not selling Civic Stadium to the highest bidder. But those who disagree with 4J's decisions should vote for a different school board, not punish students and teachers by cutting their funding. Oregon schools have so few options when it comes to funding, and the last thing the district needs is to cut the teachers it just hired. Class sizes in the 40s are simply unmanageable for teachers, and voting no would only make the problem worse.