

the corporations that run our country into convincing you it's not important to know what you're eating. Please vote "yes" on 92!

Doug Hornaday
Eugene

HOW TO BUY ELECTIONS

Ballot Measure 90 is a serious threat to democratic participation in Oregon. Unfortunately, voters may perceive it as an expansion of electoral participation when it is really the exact opposite. Only candidates who have significant resources prior to the May primary election will have a chance to make it to the November election. It makes it easier to buy elections because primary election participation is consistently low and the opportunities to learn about candidates would be restricted to a short time. Many electoral districts would nominate two Democrats or two Republicans, or possibly one of each, but Greens, Libertarians, Constitution Party or Working Family Party candidates would never make it to the November election.

The M90 campaign is funded by a few big corporations, lobbyists and multi-millionaire CEOs because its passage would make it easier to buy elections with big early campaign contributions.

Organizations opposing M90 are all the people I trust. They include the Rural Organizing Project, Basic Rights Oregon, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon League of Conservation Voters, NARAL, Planned Parenthood PAC, Causa immigrant rights organization, the Pacific Green Party, AFT-Oregon, OEA-NEA, Oregon AFL-CIO, Oregon Nurses Association and PCUN farm workers union.

Join me in stopping this attempt of corporations to tighten their stranglehold on political power in Oregon. Vote "no" on Measure 90. And vote "yes" on all the rest!

Mike Beilstein
Candidate for Congress, 4th District
Pacific Green Party

ROUNDUP AND CANCER

There is considerable evidence of possible harm from GMOs. Regarding Measure 92, I haven't seen mention of the many animal studies summarized in a 330-page report, "GMO Myths and Truths," by two genetic engineers and a researcher, released in its second edition last May. You can get a link to download the report by checking in at wkly.ws/1ty.

Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, remains in the plant eaten

by people and animals. Jeff Ritterman, M.D., retired chief of cardiology at Kaiser Richmond and an official of the San Francisco Bay Chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, recently reported linkages between Roundup and cancer. The full article, posted October 4, 2014 on Truthout, is at wkly.ws/1tr.

Ritterman stops short of concluding that Roundup causes cancer. But he cites a highly regarded statistics textbook for the proposition that if an illness is four times as likely among people exposed to a possible cause as it is for those who are not exposed, the association is considered "strong." And he notes that most of the glyphosate exposure experiments and epidemiological observations show a doubling of cancer risk.

Ritterman admits that this leaves some room for doubt. But, as he asks, who, given the science, would want to expose their loved ones to Roundup?

Robert Roth
Eugene

A BETTER OREGON

A vote for Andy Petersen is a vote for a better Oregon. Join me in supporting Andy for state representative in District 11.

Andy is a man of integrity. One of the

most honest, trustworthy and loving people I know. I know this because our families have been friends over four generations.

Andy will bring new life and experience to Salem. He served our country in the Air Force and as a veteran understands, first hand, the issues our vets are dealing with. Andy's two children have just completed their college educations. So he and his wife, Gretchen, understand first hand the issues that college students are dealing with such as college loans and finding living wage jobs.

Living in rural America on a small ranch but close to a larger urban area, Andy knows the issues of small farmers, ranchers and urban areas. Operating the farm and his time in the military has given him valuable experience in personal finances and governmental finances. He is the best choice for state representative in District 11.

His opponent, Phil Barnhart, has served seven terms in the House of Representatives. He has done an OK job — but nothing outstanding. It is time to put some fresh blood, new ideas and energy into this office.

Andy will do just that. Vote Andy Petersen for state representative. Andy understands the times we live in.

Dan Larsen
Springfield

MIC CHECK! BY ALLEY VALKYRIE

Renting Sidewalks?

EUGENE PERMIT PROGRAM ABUSES HOMELESS

The city of Eugene has been encouraging local businesses recently to participate in a "sidewalk commerce" permit program, which consists of the city "renting" the public sidewalks in front of a business to the business itself as a "vending location." This permit is different from the "outdoor cafe" permit program, which is what allows businesses to have cafe tables outside their establishments. The sidewalk commerce permit gives the business control of the adjacent sidewalk, so that they can theoretically conduct commerce on the sidewalk.

I say "theoretically" because members of EPD's downtown police force made it very clear from the beginning that the motivation behind the recent encouragement for local businesses to participate was to give those businesses the legal authority to trespass "undesirable" people from in front of their businesses. The intent is not about sidewalk commerce; it's about displacement.

Last month, I filed a public records request with the city of Eugene about the sidewalk commerce permit program, and they provided me with a copy of the contract and administrative rules that govern the permit program as well as a list of businesses that currently hold it. With the exception of The Kiva, which uses the sidewalk commerce permit to sell flowers and has done so for years, none of the downtown businesses

that currently hold this permit are actually using the sidewalk as a "vending location," which is how the space is described in Administrative Order 53-98-05-F that governs the permit. The businesses that currently hold a sidewalk commerce permit include Sizzle Pie, The Barn Light, Voodoo Donuts, Urban Lumber, Buy 2, Thunderbird Market and The Horsehead.

These businesses all have sandwich boards outside so that they can claim that they are using the space, but they are not using the space for its intended purpose of vending, and the employees of these businesses often tell people who are not customers to move off the sidewalk and then call the police if they do not comply with the order. Last month, a man who was conducting a poetry reading on the public sidewalk outside Sizzle Pie was arrested and charged with criminal trespass when he did not comply with orders to move from the spot. Businesses like Sizzle Pie, encouraged by the city and in conjunction with police, are misusing the law in order to displace the poor and homeless from downtown Eugene.

The permit is meant to allow businesses to vend on the sidewalk, not to trespass people who are exercising their First Amendment rights. Buskers are told they cannot be there regularly, as are panhandlers, and if they don't move, they are arrested. Both the state and federal courts have made it clear that buskers and panhandlers have a right to express themselves on a public sidewalk. Not only is the permit program being used to displace the homeless, it's also infringing on their constitutional rights.

There are a few steps that can be taken to fight this. First and most obviously, let these businesses know that you don't approve of their actions. Public sidewalks are for everyone, and businesses should not have the authority or discretion to restrict the right of the public to use a public sidewalk. These businesses need to know that the folks who keep them in business are not happy with the fact that they are intentionally misusing a permit in order to clear their sidewalks of those they consider to be undesirable and bad for business.

Second, it's important to stay focused on the fact that these businesses are not actually conducting any commerce or vending on the sidewalk, and therefore are not within the terms and definitions of the administrative rules that govern the city's authority to issue such permits. Putting up a sandwich board does not constitute "vending," and neither local government nor local businesses have the right to abuse the intent of a permit in order to further their goals of social cleansing.

Let the mayor, City Council and city manager know that the city's misuse of this permit is a black mark against the strength of their leadership and their commitment to governing a "Human Rights City." Such abuses are neither within the letter or the spirit of the law, and public space belongs to the entirety of the public.

Alley Valkyrie of Eugene is a longtime social activist and a tireless advocate for the unhoused.

