

The biggest lie of all is that the left champions progressive taxation. Measure 97 will hit the poor and elderly disproportionately.

Bruce Mackey
Eugene

RANKED CHOICE CLARIFICATION

It has been brought to my attention that in my guest viewpoint in the Oct. 20 issue of *Eugene Weekly*, I chose a poor example to illustrate one of the potential pitfalls of ranked-choice voting (RCV), because the scenario I suggested would not likely happen. I was attempting to convey that the redistribution of ballots in the RCV counting process can have unintended results, which Anthony Gottlieb expressed well in *The New Yorker* (July 26, 2010):

“[Ranked-choice voting] elections can behave in topsy-turvy ways: they are what mathematicians call ‘non-monotonic,’ which means that something can go up when it should go down, or vice versa. Whether a candidate who gets through the first round of counting will ultimately be elected may depend on which of his rivals he has to face in subsequent rounds, and some votes for a weaker challenger may do a candidate more good than a vote for that candidate himself. In short, a candidate may lose if certain voters back him, and would have won if they hadn’t.”

Proponents of RCV say such scenarios are too rare to worry about, while critics of RCV say we cannot ignore the fact that these scenarios can happen, and may hap-

pen more than we know in RCV elections.

Robin Quirke
Eugene

CORPS PAY UP

According to Donald Trump, not paying taxes is a good business practice. It seems like the large corporations doing business in Oregon agree. In Oregon, they are paying the lowest taxes in the country, and are doing all they can to continue and protect their shareholders.

Wells Fargo, Comcast, Monsanto, etc. are pouring millions (close to \$20 million at the last count) to defeat Measure 97. Comcast owes the state of Oregon \$120 million in back taxes but found close to half a million to donate to the effort to defeat 97. Wells Fargo has been fined \$180 million by the feds for cheating its customers but is contributing hundreds of thousands to defeat 97.

The people of Oregon have been paying their fair share in taxes for years. Now is the time to have the shareholders of these corporations pay. We are not chumps, but hard-working Oregonians. Their workers are using education and other services in the state, yet they are not paying to support the services being used. Let’s make them pay their fair share. Vote yes on 97.

Linda Smart
Eugene

ODD ARGUMENT

The “Voting Problems” viewpoint by Robin Quirke was an oddly timed argument. Ranked-choice voting is on the ballot

in Benton County. Arguing that the Benton RCV initiative is an opportunity to explore different voting systems is like arguing that a race between a challenger and an entrenched incumbent is an opportunity to explore the various potential challengers who are not running but could hypothetically be better than the challenger who actually is. It distracts people from the choice at hand.

There is a reason RCV has political traction and other voting systems do not, and that is that people who have looked into the different systems and are willing to invest time in getting a new system adopted have decided that RCV is the best alternative.

Let’s not make an imagined “best” the enemy of the clearly better.

Alane F. Zundel
Pacific Green Party candidate
Eugene

WEAVER FOR EPUD

I’m voting for Jim Weaver for Emerald People’s Utility District (EPUD).

Weaver is experienced, involved and informed. As a former congressman, Weaver helped write the original public power act and supported the formation of EPUD as a public utility.

His opponent still lives at home with his parents and has probably never paid an electric bill.

Weaver will work to keep electric rates stable and our utility strong.

Vote to elect Jim Weaver for EPUD.
Laurie Smart
Marcola

COACHING FOR COUNCIL

We’re fortunate to have two progressive candidates running for Eugene City Council, Ward 1: Joshua Skov and Emily Semple.

Because Semple doesn’t have government experience, Councilor George Brown and former Councilor Bonny Bettman are coaching her. Brown and Bettman McCornack do their homework addressing important issues with intelligence and passion. Along with neighborhood activist Paul Conte and other Semple supporters, however, they have a long history of confrontational politics. They write divisive opinion pieces that polarize neighbors and treat city staff with contempt. Such cynicism is both disrespectful and ineffective in creating the change they seek. While they’ve raised some valid concerns, they’ve lost my support because I expect civic leaders to treat people with respect.

Semple might have a different disposition than her allies, but hasn’t yet proven herself through public service.

As a local leader of the Oregon League of Conservation Voters and a member of Eugene’s Active Transportation Committee, I’ve witnessed how Skov responds to complex community issues. He’s detailed, analytical and asks tough questions with civility. Skov works well with others and has demonstrated his commitment to neighborhood livability, reducing our city’s carbon footprint and fiscal accountability. As a result Joshua Skov has earned my support.

Allen Hancock
Eugene

EMILY ✓

The choice is

SEMPLÉ

Democrat • City Council



EMILY is ENDORSED BY:

- ✓ EUGENE WEEKLY
- ✓ LANE COUNTY FOR BERNIE SANDERS
(Now Our Revolution Lane County)
- ✓ LANE COUNTY PACIFIC GREEN PARTY
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www.EmilySemple.org

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Paid for by Emily Semple for City Council, P.O. Box 584, Eugene, OR, 97401.