

Publicly-funded abortion ban heads to ballot

Practice banned in 32 states

By PARIS ACHEN
Capital Bureau

A constitutional amendment to ban publicly-funded abortion in Oregon has qualified for the November election. The Stop Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act — which will likely be called Measure 106 — had just enough valid signatures to secure a place on the ballot.

“We are really excited because we have been working at this since 2012,” said Marilyn Shannon, of Brooks, one of the initiative’s three chief sponsors. “We had a lot of roadblocks.”

The measure would prohibit the use of public funds to pay for abortions, unless medically necessary or required by federal law.

“This does not outlaw abortions,” Shannon said. “It just does not allow public money to pay for it.”

The state spent about \$1.9 million in 2017-18 for abortions paid for by the Oregon Health Plan, the state’s version of Medicaid, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Abortion rights activists and others have formed a coalition — the No Cuts to Care campaign — to oppose the measure.

“This measure targets vulnerable Oregonians and individuals who are already stretched in terms of their means,” said Emily McLain, executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon. “This really could harm their access to health care.”

Oregonians have consistently supported increasing access to reproductive health care, she said.

“I am confident they will vote no on Measure 106,” she said.

Oregon is one of 17 states that use public funds for medically-necessary abortions; 32 states and the District of Columbia prohibit spending public funds on abortion, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Guttmacher Institute, a research and policy organization that advocates for sexual and reproductive health rights.

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Marilyn Shannon
one of the initiative’s chief sponsors

As a constitutional change, the measure needed at least 117,578 valid signatures to appear on the ballot.

The Oregon Secretary of State’s Office determined that 117,799 were valid.

The office has dismissed an elections complaint by Planned Parenthood alleging that the petitioners failed to disclose that they were using paid signature gatherers. An investigation into another complaint accusing petitioners of improper campaign finance reporting is still ongoing, McLain said.

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Big squid washes ashore near Cannon Beach

The Daily Astorian

CANNON BEACH — A 10-foot robust clubhook squid washed ashore near Silver Point south of Cannon Beach.

The Seaside Aquarium examined and dissected the 90-pound squid, which had a mantle length of 4 feet. Found in the eastern Pacific, the species ranges from Alaska to California. They are also found off the coast of Japan.

Aquarium staff reported on Saturday that the squid had been dead for “a little while” and some scavenging had occurred. “But all in all, it was in pretty good shape,” Tiffany Boothe, the aquarium’s head curator, said. “Most likely this animal died after spawning and ocean currents brought it



Photos by Allysa Casteel/Seaside Aquarium
A robust clubhook squid washed ashore south of Cannon Beach.



Head curator Tiffany Boothe examines and dissects the squid with aquarium staff.

ashore.” The robust clubhook squid, *Onykia robusta*, is the third

largest squid species in the world, and can reach a length of 12 feet. Two larger spe-

cies are the colossal squid and the giant squid, both of which exceed lengths of 30 feet.

New report projects for rising seas in Washington state

Rise tied to global warming

By PHUONG LE
Associated Press

SEATTLE — A new report provides the most detailed projections for how fast sea levels are expected to rise along Washington state shorelines over the next decades.

The projections released today show what to expect at 171 sites in Puget Sound and along the state’s outer coast as sea levels rise due to global warming. The information is more local and specific than previous assessments.

Scientists with Washington Sea Grant and the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group calculated the likelihood that sea levels will reach or exceed a certain level for each location and under different greenhouse gas scenarios.

Harriet Morgan, a research consultant at UW Climate Impacts Group and report co-author, said previous projections for the state have been “too zoomed out to be use-

ful.” Now, local planners and others can click on a map and download estimates for their locations.

“Because we zoomed in, we captured local variations and land movement along the coast,” she said. “This is something that we heard from local decision makers. We need numbers that are specific for our communities and local areas.”

Sea level rise is caused by warming of the ocean and melting from glaciers and ice sheets.

Washington state has more than 3,000 miles of coastline. Rising sea level is a concern because it can increase the risk of flooding, storm surges, coastal bluff and shoreline erosion and loss of wetlands or other habitat. It can also damage roads and buildings and impact fisheries.

The estimates give a full range of possible future sea level changes, allowing planners to weigh the risks of different scenarios as they locate hospitals, roads or septic tanks.

The report incorporates the latest science and takes into account variations in the esti-

‘This finer level of detail allows us to do better planning.’

Jim Parvey
chief sustainability officer

mated land movement, whether land is sinking or uplifting, in each location.

“There are places in Washington state and elsewhere the land is uplifting and that will counteract absolute sea level change. And there are places that are subsiding,” said Ian Miller, a coastal hazards specialist at Washington Sea Grant who co-authored the report.

Areas such as Neah Bay on the northwest Washington coast are estimated to be uplifting, or rising, and have lower projected changes in sea level compared to areas of central Puget Sound, including Seattle, that are sinking.

In general, most communities are expected to see

between 2 feet and 3 feet by 2100 under a scenario where greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise, Miller said.

By 2100 in Seattle, sea level is projected to rise between 1.7 feet and 3.1 feet under a scenario where greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise over time. Meanwhile, by 2100, sea level is estimated to rise between 1 foot and 2.6 feet in Taholah and 1.3 feet to 2.7 feet in Bellingham.

“This finer level of detail allows us to do better planning,” said Jim Parvey, the chief sustainability officer in Tacoma, who is working with the authors to incorporate the projections into city planning.

“We’re trying to get our minds around the problem and figure out how to build infrastructure that’s going to last. We need to do our best to guess what the conditions are going to be like in the future that we have to cope with,” he said.

The report is part of the three-year Washington Coastal Resilience Project to help communities prepare for natural events that threaten the coast due to rising sea levels.

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