

OPINION

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Nothing to Lose and Everything to Gain

Temporary income tax hike would not raise taxes for typical seniors

A new analysis of the temporary income tax increase on the Jan. 28 ballot shows that the typical Oregonian over age 65 will not have increased taxes as a result of the measure. The study by the Oregon Center for Public Policy shows that, while the average elderly taxpayer will pay \$83 or less than \$7 a month, over the three years the measure is in effect, at least half of the elderly taxpayers will see no increase in taxes as a result of the measure.

"The typical elderly Oregonian has nothing to lose and everything to gain by voting for Measure 28," said Charles Sheketoff, executive director of the public policy research institute.

Sheketoff noted that in the fifth special session the Legislature adopted \$310 million in budget cuts that will go into effect if Measure 28 does not pass. The cuts were included in House Bill 5100. The Legislature tied across-the-board cuts in services, including cuts to senior services, to the success of the measure.

"At least half of elderly taxpayers can vote for the measure, preserving vital services, and not pay any additional taxes," said Sheketoff. "In other words, at least half of elderly

taxpayers get something for nothing out of Measure 28."

The average tax is higher than the tax that will be paid by the typical elderly Oregonian because the average is skewed by the high incomes of relatively few elderly Oregonians. "The typical elderly Oregonian earns significantly less than the wealthiest elderly Oregonians and pays less in taxes each year," said Sheketoff. Some of the tax increase will be offset by

reduced federal taxes. Taxpayers that itemize will be able to deduct their increased tax liability when calculating their federal income taxes. This deduction will offset about 25 percent of the additional state tax.

A copy of the OCPP analysis, "Something for Nothing: Seniors and Measure 28, the Temporary Income Tax Proposal on the Jan. 28 Special Election Ballot" is available at www.ocpp.org.

The Oregon Center for Public Policy is a non-profit, non-partisan research institute that addresses budget, tax and other issues important to low and moderate income Oregonians, the majority of Oregonians.

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Slow Down March to War

Bush should use all options with Iraq, including inspections

The NAACP Board of Directors has unanimously passed a resolution that expresses opposition to war against Iraq before all options are exercised, including but not limited to United Nations arms inspection.

"This resolution reflects serious discontent among African Americans and all Americans about this risky and perilous adventure," said Julian Bond, chairman of the NAACP board of directors.

The resolution takes President Bush to task for not making a conclusive case for the use of deadly force in the case of Iraq and calls on the United States government to address and allocate resources to the issues of injustice and terrorism domestically as well as internationally.

Moreover, the resolution said that African American and other minority youth and young adults are "enrolled into service at disproportion-



Julian Bond

ate rates to defend this nation and her honor."

Demetrius Prather, youth board member who represents the NAACP Youth and College Division, made up of members 25 and younger from across the United States, Japan, Korea and Europe, introduced the resolution. Youth board member Denisha Delane authored the measure. The resolution also calls on NAACP college chapters to host town hall meetings on campuses across the country to gauge student sentiment about the possible war.

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its half-million adult and youth members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors.

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