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OPINION

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We Can't Afford Measure 37

Vote 'no' to protect vital tax resources

BY SEN. MARGARET CARTER

I recommend a "no" vote on Ballot Measure 37. Current estimates show that this measure will cost taxpayers up to \$688 million in administrative costs alone to state and local governments each biennium or over a two-year period. There is no revenue to pay for it.

Our schools, the Oregon Health Plan, emergency services

for the needy, services for the mentally ill are severely stretched. Oregon's population has grown 20.4 percent since the 1990 census. Oregon's rate of growth between the last two censuses was the 11th highest in nation.

At the same time, current per school revenues per student is \$611 less than 1992-93 when you adjust for inflation and growth; mental health services are fragmented; and overcrowding,



Sen. Margaret Carter

understaffing and poor facilities trouble the State Hospital. In addition, human services and healthcare for the most vulnerable citizens are facing severe challenges.

We need sound planning. We need to protect revenues for vital services for our most needy. Too many cuts have already been made to human services.

All of this is happening as Oregon's unemployment rate is again rising. At 7.3 percent,

September's increased unemployment rate was the most significant since 1983. Manufacturing jobs, a key source of family wage earnings, are below 2000 levels.

Our community, as you well know, is always hit the hardest in an economic downturn.

Uncertainty also surrounds the Federal budget with the war in Iraq. Millions of federal dollars are unaccounted for in Iraq. The drop in business activity could be deeper if the uncertainty continues. Oregon's manufacturing

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The Portland Observer Endorsements

Measure 26-64: NO

Repeals 2004, 2005 Multnomah County income tax for schools, public services. *Don't cut needed revenue for our schools, senior and health services.*

Measure 33: YES

Amends Medical Marijuana Act. *Ease access to marijuana for medically-approved pain relief.*

Measure 35: NO

Limits damage for patients in lawsuits. *Don't put limits on patient rights.*

Measure 36: NO

Amends Constitution to make marriage only between one man and one woman. *Don't put discrimination into the Constitution.*

Measure 37: NO

Requires governments to pay owners when certain land use restrictions reduce owners' property value. *Costly measure would put government services at risk.*

Measure 38: NO

Abolishes State Accident Insurance Fund (SAIF). *Don't throw away a state asset.*

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE:

President: John F. Kerry

U.S. Senator: Ron Wyden

Mayor of Portland: Tom Potter

State Sen. Dist. 22: Margaret Carter

State Sen. Dist. 23: Avel Louise Gordly

State Rep. District 43: Chip Shields

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