



“Challenging People to Shape a Better Future Now”

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The Skanner News Ballot Endorsements

These are our endorsements for the ballot initiatives on the Nov. 6 ballot. Whether you agree or disagree, you should be sure to get out and vote.

STATE

YES ON MEASURE 77. Measure 77 amends constitution to allow the governor to declare an emergency (a “catastrophic disaster”) and begin recovery efforts more quickly. Considering we’re expecting a major earthquake some time in the next 30 years, it’s not a bad idea.

YES ON MEASURE 78. Measure 78 is a “housekeeping” measure designed to clean up language, misspellings and clarify Oregon’s three branches of government.

NO ON MEASURE 79. Measure 79 amends constitution: Prohibits real estate transfer taxes, fees, and other assessments. Critics charge that the law takes control away from local governments and should not be put into the state constitution.

YES ON MEASURE 80. Measure 80 allows personal marijuana, hemp cultivation/use without license; commission to regulate commercial marijuana cultivation/sale. While we have reservations about some aspects of the law, we support a common sense effort to start regulating the pot industry and bring its profits into the tax coffers. This is the only measure that, if passed, could potentially CREATE revenue for the state.

YES ON MEASURE 81. Measure 81 Prohibits commercial non-tribal fishing with gillnets in Oregon “inland waters,” allows use of seine nets. This measure is aimed at protecting the last wild salmon runs in the Columbia River by banned the use of gillnets—which capture everything that runs into them, whether it’s endangered fish or not.

YES ON MEASURES 82-83. Measures 82 and 83 amend the state constitution to authorize establishment of privately-owned casinos and mandates percentage of revenues payable to dedicated state fund. It’s a shame the campaign has been suspended but we are supporting it any-

Ballot Measures

STATE OF OREGON

- ✓ Yes on Measure 77
- ✓ Yes on Measure 78
- ✗ No on Measure 79
- ✓ Yes on Measure 80
- ✓ Yes on Measure 81
- ✓ Yes on Measure 82
- ✓ Yes on Measure 83
- ✗ No on Measure 84
- ✗ No on Measure 85

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

- ✗ No on Measure 26-143

CITY OF PORTLAND

- ✓ Yes on Measure 26-144
- ✓ Yes on Measure 26-145
- ✗ No on Measure 26-146

way. Why should one group have a monopoly on casinos? We’d like to see competition in the industry and if there’s a shake-up in tribal casino management – so be it.

NO ON MEASURE 84. Measure 84 Phases out existing inheritance taxes on large estates, and all taxes on intra-family property transfers. Few Oregonians will be impacted by the cost of an inheritance tax, but everyone would be impacted by the loss to the state economy of an estimated \$50 million to \$175 million a year, depending on how it would reduce capital gains taxes, according to the state Legislative Revenue Office.

NO ON MEASURE 85. Measure 85 amends constitution: allocates corporate income/excise tax “kicker” refund to additionally fund K-12 public education. One of the biggest problems the Oregon legislature has is that its tangle of anti-tax laws

makes it hard to budget -- for anything. The kicker is a major culprit because it literally makes it impossible for the state to save money – kicking it back to corporations that are not even based here. Make sense? We don’t think so either.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY

NO ON THE LIBRARY LEVY. 26-143 Form Library District with permanent rate to fund library services. We are worried about piling more taxes onto households in tough times. It’s not that we don’t support the libraries, but as Multnomah County Chair Jeff Cogen says without this measure, things will stay the same. So we are making the tough call of passing on this one, this time.

CITY OF PORTLAND

YES ON THE SCHOOLS BOND. 26-144 Portland Public School District Bonds to Improve Schools. We didn’t support the last schools bond because it was too costly and poorly written. This measure has built-in citizen accountability, which is important because we do not have faith that school district bureaucrats will spend our resources wisely. If the measure passes, we will be holding the district’s feet to the fire on how these dollars are used.

YES ON FIRE AND POLICE DISABILITY RETIREMENT REFORM. 26-145 Amends Charter: Changes Provisions of Fire Police Disability Retirement System.

We all support our Fire and Police Departments, but dedicating 26 cents on every tax dollar the city takes in for their disability plan is a burden that we can’t continue to bear.

NO ON THE ARTS TAX. 26-146 Restore School Arts, Music Education; Fund Arts through Limited Tax. We love arts in the schools – they actually help kids learn many other subjects. But this measure taxes every working adult “over the poverty line” \$35 a year, with part of the money going to the ballet, the symphony and the opera. Many people are still the working poor even if they are above the official “poverty line” – and these people should not be tapped to subsidize the ballet, the symphony and the opera. As much as we love those things too.

Coming Next Week



Lew Frederick



Earl Blumenhauer



Chip Shields

Who will be the best candidates to support the issues that matter most to us? Check in and see.



Vedell Nelson registered voters this month outside the Voter Depot on Northeast Killingsworth Street. Get out and use your vote!

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