



“Challenging People to Shape
a Better Future Now”

BERNIE FOSTER
Founder/Publisher

BOBBIE DORE FOSTER
Executive Editor

JERRY FOSTER
Advertising Manager

LISA LOVING
News Editor

HELEN SILVIS
Multimedia Editor

PATRICIA IRVIN
DAVID KIDD
Graphic Designer

MONICA J. FOSTER
Seattle Office Coordinator

JULIE KEEFE
SUSAN FRIED
Photographers



The Skanner Newspaper, established
in October 1975, is a weekly publica-
tion, published each Wednesday by
IMM Publications Inc.,

415 N. Killingsworth St.,
P.O. Box 5455, Portland, OR 97228.
Telephone (503) 285-5555.
E-mail: info@theskanner.com
World Wide Web site:
<http://www.theskanner.com>
Fax: (503) 285-2900

The Skanner is a member of the
National Newspaper Publishers Associ-
ation and West Coast Black Publishers
Association.

All photos submitted become the
property of *The Skanner*. We are not re-
sponsible for lost or damaged photos
either solicited or unsolicited.

© 2014 *The Skanner*. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR IN PART
WITHOUT PERMISSION PROHIBITED.

To see *The Skanner*
News on your smart
phone go to
theskannermobile.com
or scan this QR code
with your app.



- Local news
- Opinions
- Jobs, Bids
- Sports
- Entertainment
- Music reviews
- Bulletin board
- RSS feeds

General Election 2014

The Skanner News Endorsements

BALLOT MEASURES

Systematic attacks on voting rights around the country, alongside exploding issues of street violence and civil rights, are bringing the public focus firmly to the ballot as a tool for making our communities better places to live and work. We at The Skanner News believes strongly in voter participation. The Skanner News encourages our readers to support these ballot measures and vote on Nov. 4.

OREGON STATE

Measure 86 amends the Oregon Constitution to create a fund for Oregonians pursuing post-secondary education; authorizes debt to finance.

If passed this law would allow the legislature to sell bonds for a higher education loan fund benefitting college students as well as career training programs; it would not raise taxes, but it would give state lawmakers more tools to help college and trade school students get the best education they can. **We vote YES.**

Measure 87 allows judges to be hired by the National Guard and public universities; allows school employees to serve in the legislature.

This is little more than a housekeeping measure, brushing cobwebs out of our state Constitution. It would have no financial impact; why shouldn't state court judges join the National Guard or take a teaching job at a college if they choose? **We vote YES.**

Measure 88 upholds four-year driver licenses for those who cannot prove legal presence in the United States.

Our communities are far from reaching a consensus on improving our immigration laws and processes; but whatever you may think about the reform debate, this measure would make our roads safer and encourage a more humane attitude towards working families across the state. **We vote YES.**

Measure 89 guarantees equal rights regardless of sex.

Some people say Oregon doesn't need an Equal Rights Amendment for women; at the same time, women are at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder, with lower pay, less political representation and few corner offices in the corporate sector. Four retired state Supreme Court justices have made an open appeal for passage of this measure. **We vote YES.**

Measure 90 creates an open, top-two primary election system.

We are leery of changing the state elections system, especially after a sketchy campaign in which the 'Yes on 90' camp filed fake Voters Guide statements and even created a fake website to lampoon its opponents. Top Two

has not resulted in nicer elections or more ethnic representation in the two states in which it has passed – despite claims to the contrary. **We vote NO.**

Measure 91 legalizes recreational marijuana; tasks Oregon Liquor Control Commission with regulation of its sale.

Of all ballot measures facing voters in Oregon, this might be the most far-reaching. As the so-called War on Drugs has failed to stem their use and has filled our jails and prisons with low-level offenders – all at taxpayer expense – this measure might be the best chance we have to restore some sanity to the system. Legalize it, regulate it like alcohol, and create a new revenue stream for the state. **We vote YES.**

Measure 92 mandates labeling of certain foodstuffs that contain genetically modified organisms.

We want to know what's in the food we're eating – what's wrong with that? **We vote YES.**

CITY OF PORTLAND

Measure No: 26-159 continues bonds to fix playgrounds, trails; improve park facilities, safety, and accessibility.

This measure continues the already-existing parks bond, which is modest and has so far been very well spent by Portland Parks & Recreation. Funding parks is one of the best investments we can make in community health, violence prevention and quality of life. **We vote YES.**

METRO DISTRICT

Measure No: 26-160 would retain the prohibition on Metro-required single-family neighborhood density increases.

If passed, this measure would continue a voter-imposed limitation on Metro's planning power – specifically it keeps Metro from requiring more infill homes in neighborhoods for the next 16 years. We are all for affordable housing, but our concern is that so many beautiful houses are being torn down to make room for multiple, cheaply made but overpriced homes. **We vote YES.**

PORTLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT #1JT

Measure No: 26-161 continues Portland Public Schools levy renewal for schools and educational programs.

We don't support every single thing the Portland Public Schools does, nor do we support an avalanche of bond measures pouring additional costs on every single household in the district. But this is, at its heart, a tool for creating and maintaining jobs – one of the best ways taxpayers can invest directly in our local communities. **We vote YES.**

WASHINGTON STATE

— **Initiative 1351** would lower class sizes in public schools.

Why vote for a measure without any funding included? Unlike Portland Public Schools' bond measure, this isn't going anywhere. **We vote NO.**

— **Initiative 591** would prohibit government agencies from requiring background checks on firearm recipients unless a uniform national standard is required.

We believe in gun control, even the most modest measures can save lives. Because this measure was crafted to prevent realistic gun control measures, **we vote NO.**

— **Initiative 594** would require universal background checks on gun purchases.

This is a baby step for an issue that has torn communities apart for years. **We vote YES.**

CITY OF SEATTLE

Early Learning programs, **Proposition Numbers 1A and 1B**

This is going to be a wildcard for voters. Struggling to fire up an early learning system from a dead stop, a lot of well-meaning people have compiled their ideas into what looks like two competing measures; now voters must sort that out. First, voters tick the box for whether either of the plans should be implemented – THEN voters tick the box that says WHICH MEASURE SHOULD BE ENACTED. The clunky instructions don't help. "Simple Majority as to the first question; if first question is approved, then the option with the most votes as to second question," the ballot says.

Faced with **Proposition 1A** (submitted by Initiative Petition No. 107), which has many great ideas to recommend it including limiting the cost of childcare and requiring an effective wage floor, we instead support Proposition 1B because it has built-in yet limited funding – a new tax for the next four years. **We vote YES on WHETHER EITHER OF THESE MEASURES SHOULD BE PASSED, and then, YES on Proposition 1B.**

Seattle Transportation Benefit District Proposition No. 1 — Transportation Funding

Seattle is one of the most transportation-plagued big cities in the country. But do voters support public transit? This measure would increase the tax on vehicle tags by \$60 per year with a 0.1 percent sales and use tax – including a \$20 rebate for low-income riders – to shore up crucial bus routes set to be cut in 2015, with modest support for low-income riders. The fee and the tax would sunset Dec. 31, 2020. It's a real financial bite – but is it worth it to avoid ever-growing traffic snarls in the Emerald City? **We vote YES.**