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OUR VIEW

Measure 98 fills needed niche with dollars

In contrast to the controversial question above it on the November ballot, Measure 98 will take money already collected into the general fund and require that it be spent on education.

It is an attempt to solve a glaring problem in Oregon, comes with a reasonable price tag and should be supported.

Measure 98 would require the state legislature fund dropout prevention programs, in an attempt to improve the country's worst high school dropout rates. It would also support career and college readiness programs — specifically vocational and career technical education — which are proven to keep students in school, improve their standardized test scores and get them started on fulfilling careers.

It would increase the money spent on each Oregon high school student by \$800 a year, pushing the annual total to roughly \$11,800. Those dollars will come from additional revenue into the state general fund.

Measure 98 doesn't require districts offer CTE programs, but helps pay for those who do — which

means it isn't a mandate but instead a carrot to help Oregon districts appeal to a wider variety of students, including some who are in danger of dropping out.

In principle, we're against handcuffing the legislature with specific funding requirements like this. They don't allow legislators to be flexible in the case of emergency. And lawmakers lose the power to hold programs accountable with their Sword of Damocles — loss of funding — dangling overhead.

But, like the measures above and below it, the need to promise financial support of necessary educational upgrades at the ballot box marks a failure of the legislature. We elect our representatives to spend tax dollars as a majority of voters see fit, on programs that have been proven effective and an efficient use of resources.

CTE programs hit those marks, but legislators time and again have been unable to find the money. This time, voters should take the decision into their own hands and approve Measure 98.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the East Oregonian editorial board of Publisher Kathryn Brown, Managing Editor Daniel Wattenburger, and Opinion Page Editor Tim Trainor. Other columns, letters and cartoons on this page express the opinions of the authors and not necessarily that of the East Oregonian.

YOUR VIEWS

Main Street Cowboys deserve praise, not criticism

Recently there have been several negative articles in the *East Oregonian* regarding the Main Street Cowboys. This group, declining in numbers, has once again provided family entertainment on Main Street from Wednesday through Saturday during the Round-Up. It is a joy to see families sitting together watching and participating in the various entertainment.

Countless hours are spent preparing for this free show, and many more hours are spent cleaning up Main Street by the "old white men who have seen their numbers decline" — quoted from the Sept. 16 *East Oregonian* in the "Tip of the hat; kick in the pants" — after Round-Up is over.

I always walk Main Street during Round-Up and always enjoy all the unique entertainment, seeing friends, eating good food, and buying this or that. So please let's say "thank you" to the "old white men" as they continue to provide the Greatest Free Show in the West.

I'm sure this group appreciates positive suggestions that would make this show better and would probably welcome participation by new "young men." Good job, and thank you Main Street Cowboys.

Sandy Nicassio
Pendleton

Round-Up should offer a military discount

My husband and I decided to come into town for the Pendleton Round-Up this year. We are originally from here and thought we'd show our kids how fun it all is. We were very disappointed in the fact that general admission (standing) costs the same as seats do, and being a military family we were also very unhappy with the fact that they don't give a military discount.

We came on Wednesday and on Friday. Friday was the flyover and it was supposed to be a support your troops day, but paying full admission and being military, it sure didn't feel like the sacrifices my husband and his fellow soldiers have made were being recognized. You put on a great show, but you don't really show your appreciation. Your a town that has a military installment, you have soldiers coming and going from this town, but you don't give them any sort of privilege for doing something you aren't doing.

Many soldiers, Pendleton soldiers, have given the ultimate sacrifice, but your salute to the soldiers was a whole three minutes, if that. A standing ovation for all the families and soldiers would be a great idea, a discount for those who fight the fight for your country would also be good. It seems so anti-military for you to charge full price on support your

troops day. We paid full price to stand; I just can't get over how awful that is.

Now, we did also attend the Happy Canyon show. It was a great show. Kind of wish we knew we were going to attend someone's wedding while watching the show, but on the plus side, my husband and I got in free to the after party because we were military. So a big shout out to those who thought that up.

Now if we could the Round-Up folks to show some real appreciation. You all need to take a step back, stop thinking about making a buck — because we all know the Round-Up makes more than enough — and show your support to your troops. Saying you appreciate them is one thing, but actions are louder than words. Support the troops, and don't forget that we are the land of the free, because of our brave.

Jenifer Van Wechel
Roy, Wash.

Support Donald Trump for president

Donald Trump is not a Republican as we knew them in the past, that's true. But he is the only one that had the guts to stand up to the political hacks that have forgotten the middle class working people of this country. He might be brash, he might say things that are not PC, but he loves this country and he is bold to say things we all think but are afraid to say.

But remember that Hillary has lied to us for years. She does not take responsibility for any of her actions, like the killing of our ambassador, in Libya, the emails, stealing the furniture as the Clintons left the White House, making a mess of the Middle East, her failed reset with Putin, and of course the Clinton Foundation slush fund. She vows to continue the Obama policies, like Obamacare, that have ruined our country. She will destroy the Second Amendment. That's why she can't be elected. Hillary is the problem, not a solution.

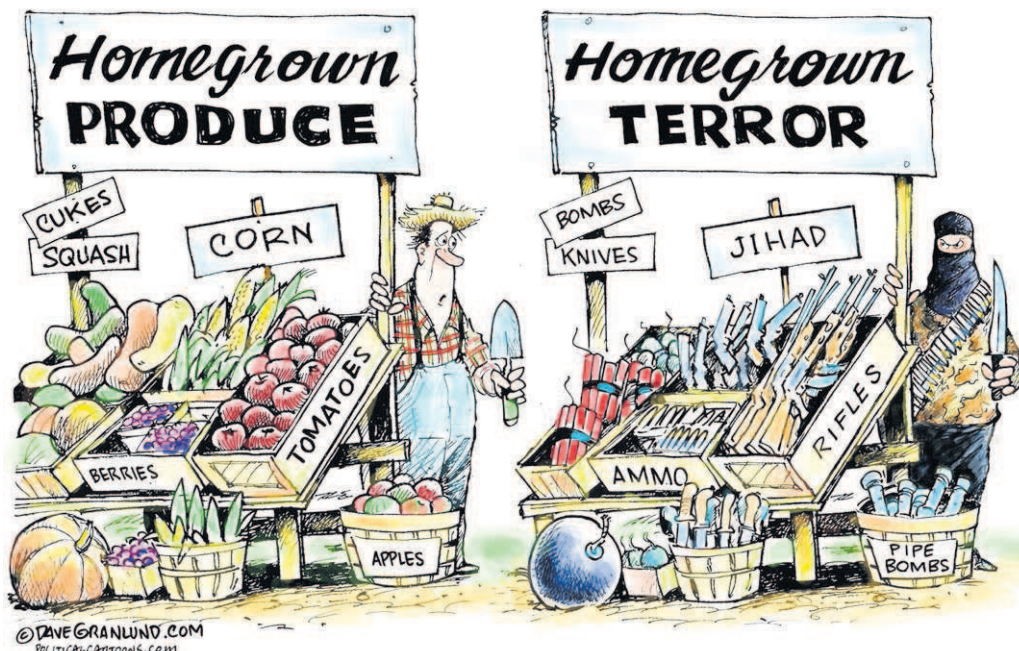
We have to look long term. The next president will name several new Supreme Court judges. Trump's list of the people he would choose are great conservatives. Trump's goals of rebuilding this country are sorely needed. If you love our country and agree that it is on the wrong course then you need to vote for Trump.

I appeal to you, the voter, who feels forgotten, who feels that their votes don't count, who feel they are no longer living the American Dream, who feel that they are worse off now than eight years ago. This is your time to stand up and vote. Too many people died to protect our freedoms, and the right of the people to vote. If you don't vote you have no right to complain.

Vote Trump and let's make America great again.

Mark F. Gomolksi
Hermiston city council candidate

OTHER VIEWS



Clinton plays it safe, Trump promises change

The terrorist bombings in New York and New Jersey, which injured 29, and the terrorist stabbings in Minnesota, which injured nine, were nowhere near as serious as the terrorist shootings in Orlando, which killed 49, and in San Bernardino, which killed 14. Nevertheless, the acts of accused bomber Ahmad Khan Rahami, and of Dahir Adan, the stabber whose rampage was ended by an off-duty police officer in Minnesota, brought the issue of terrorism back to the presidential campaign trail.

There was a time when terror attacks were thought to benefit Trump politically, because polls suggested he was seen by many voters as tougher on the issue. But Trump is widely believed to have fumbled things badly after Orlando last June, forfeiting some of his advantage. New York, New Jersey and Minnesota presented an unhappy opportunity to do better.

For Clinton, the attacks were a chance to lead, to show strength and steadiness after a tough few weeks.

Clinton played it safe. Speaking to reporters in White Plains, New York, before setting off to a speech at Temple University Monday, she thanked first responders and in essence promised to continue the Obama administration's anti-terror efforts, only a bit better.

She would start an "intelligence surge," she said, and an "accelerated" anti-Islamic State coalition air campaign — all a little more of what Obama is doing.

After two acts of jihad committed by immigrants apparently committed to Islamic radicalism, Clinton, as always, rejected Trump's immigration-oriented anti-terror proposals. "Let us remember, there are millions and millions of naturalized citizens in America from all over the world," she said in White Plains. "There are millions of law-abiding peaceful Muslim-Americans. This is the kind of challenge that law enforcement can be and is prepared to address, namely going after anyone who would threaten the United States."

The overarching theme of Clinton's message at the news conference was continuity with the Obama administration. "I was part of the national security team that worked with President Obama to develop strategies to fight the terrorists," she said. "So we're going to stay focused on what will work."

Clinton did not address the possibility that what is being done now is not working.

In any event, that was it for Clinton's public statements on the issue. When Clinton arrived at Temple, for a planned speech to millennials, she began with a few seconds of thanks to first responders, but then continued with the speech as planned. It covered climate change and LGBT rights, but said nothing about national security.

Trump, for his part, was as bold as Clinton was cautious. "These attacks and many others were made possible because of our extremely open immigration system, which fails to properly vet and screen the individuals and families coming into our country," he said. "Attack after attack, from 9/11 to San Bernardino, we have seen how failures to



BYRON YORK
Comment

screen who is entering the United States puts all of our citizens, everyone in this room, at danger. So let me state very, very clearly: Immigration security is national security."

Trump noted that in the past decade and a half, "hundreds of immigrants and their children from high-risk regions have been implicated in terrorism and terrorist-related activity in the United States." And Clinton, Trump continued, would substantially increase the number of refugees from high-risk areas being allowed into the U.S. Clinton also opposes ideologically vetting those entering the country, as Trump proposes to do.

"Hillary Clinton refuses to consider an applicant's world view, and thus, their likelihood of being recruited into the terror cause at some later date, which is going to happen in many, many cases," Trump said.

Trump covered other aspects of the fight against terrorism in conventional terms — "working in partnership with our allies on a military campaign to utterly destroy ISIS." But the heart of his speech was immigration and a bold intention, if not a detailed plan, to attack the problem of imported terrorism.

Trump is known for sharp attacks on his opponents, and in Florida he again accused former Secretary of State Clinton of creating

After two acts of jihad committed by immigrants, Clinton, as always rejected Trump's anti-immigrant proposals.

the conditions that led to the rise of the Islamic State. But when it came to attacks, Clinton might have outdone her opponent. "Donald Trump is being used as a recruiting sergeant for the terrorists," Clinton said in White Plains. "The kinds of rhetoric and language that Mr. Trump has used is giving aid and comfort to our adversaries."

Who won the safe vs. bold terror debate in the wake of New York, New Jersey and Minnesota? That's the kind of question that can't be answered on a day-to-day basis, and in any event could well change by next week's debate. But some Republicans felt Trump walked away with a real edge.

"This type of terror, which affects or could impact anyone in the country, makes the Clinton and the Obama administration response and their plans to deal with ISIS seem woefully weak, and makes real voters feel much less safe," the veteran Republican strategist Dave Carney, who is not working on the presidential campaign, wrote in an email exchange. "Trump will reap a huge advantage: Policy CYA speak v. Tough action & concrete steps to make us safer. Trump won this weekend hands down."

"Trump looked strong, while Clinton looked measured and weak," wrote Curt Anderson, another veteran GOP operative not working on the campaign. "Also — we overestimate the impact of what the candidates say in the wake of these things. The big issue is that any terror attack is terrible for Clinton. It highlights her biggest weakness. Anybody remember when Hillary Clinton's strongest asset was her command of foreign policy and experience with it? Seems like a long time ago."

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.



LETTERS POLICY

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