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**OUR VIEW**

# Vote yes on Measure 100

There are plenty of controversial decisions to be made in November, but Measure 100 is not one of them.

The Wildlife Trafficking Prevention Act would prohibit the sale of products and parts from 12 endangered animals in Oregon. Those animals are rhinos, cheetahs, tigers, sea turtles, lions, elephants, whales, sharks, pangolins, jaguars, rays and leopards.

A similar effort passed overwhelmingly in Washington in 2015, and California has a similar law on the books. That means Oregon could join its neighbors and present a united West Coast front against importers, making it more difficult for them to find buyers throughout the United States.

And, yes it's true that in most cases there are already federal bans on many of these items. But it's also true that in Oregon it's much more likely for law enforcement to

encounter endangered animal parts on sale within state lines, instead of on the docks. Under current law, once those products are through the port of entry, the state has no ability to ban their sale.

That will no longer be the case if Measure 100 is passed.

Additionally, the law was written so grandma's ivory-keyed piano is not made illegal, nor her antique ivory-handled gun or jewelry box. It may be illegal to sell those items from here on out, but they can legally be possessed and passed to a family member.

African elephants and rhinos may seem far away, but Measure 100 is a small way to protect them. International animal welfare groups have bigger fights underway in Thailand and China, for example, but Oregon can be part of the solution in November.

Measure 100 is a clear yes.

**Oregon could join its neighbors and present a united West Coast front against importers.**

**OTHER VIEWS**

## Looking for answers on PERS

*The Bend Bulletin*

Oregon's public employee pension fund is in such sorry straits it reduced a member of the Oregon Investment Council to tears recently. Literally.

The Oregon Investment Council oversees the state's Public Employees Retirement System investments, and the PERS account is some \$22 billion in the red, a number that grows with each passing day.

Those who are expected to pay that bill will find out at the end of the month just how much more they'll have to send to PERS next year, and the amount is expected to be substantial. Those who must pay up include nearly every city, county, school district and state agency, plus a host of small districts such as irrigation, housing, cemetery and fire districts.

Even at that, it won't right the system and, investment council members say, they've understated the problem in part by overstating what PERS investments are likely to earn over time.

Faced with that reality, Oregon needs leadership from the men and women it elects to run the state. It needs Gov. Kate Brown to be a leader. Brown has basically thrown up her hands where PERS is concerned and is apparently

unwilling to talk solutions with those who are working on the problem, including Sen. Tim Knopp, R-Bend, and Sen. Betsy Johnson, D-Scappoose.

So, too, have leaders of the Legislature refused to look for answers. House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, agrees with Brown. Both say there is no solution beyond Ballot Measure 97, which would tax some corporations in Oregon 2.5 percent on gross receipts above \$25 million, whether the companies make money or not.

Yet Knopp and Johnson keep trying. They have a list of reforms that the Legislative Counsel's office says would pass constitutional muster. Brown essentially dismisses their effort as a waste of time.

That's not leadership. Leadership is finding answers, even ones that don't solve the whole problem. Leadership is urging Oregonians, who ultimately will foot the bill when they shop, to reject Measure 97. Leadership is encouraging, urging, pushing the Legislature to do its job, to continue to look for PERS reforms and to revamp the state's tax code to raise more money if necessary. Leadership is then going out and selling both the reforms and the tax plans thus created so that voters can support them.

Unfortunately, we've seen none of that.

**YOUR VIEWS**

### Some reasons to vote for Donald Trump

If you plan to vote for Donald Trump because President Obama is a black man, there are better reasons.

Vote for Mr. Trump because he used to be a Democrat but isn't now. Vote for him because he used to be pro-choice but isn't now. Vote for him because he used to be goddess but has now found religion. Vote for him because he used to be a "birther" but isn't now. Vote for him because he likes women, lots of them. Vote for him because he believes in the sanctity of marriage, three times. Vote for him because he has used thousands of dollars of other people's money from a charity to pay his personal debts. Vote for him because he has swindled thousands more from folks who had signed up for his fake Trump University. Vote for him because he has bilked building contractors out of millions for his bankrupt Trump Casino.

Vote for him if you want a reactionary, vindictive, me-first, sociopath, with the personality of a

child, with his hand on the big red nuclear war button. Vote for him if you want to see NATO gutted and Russia invading Estonia and Latvia with impunity. Vote for him so he can become the world's second wealthiest man, after his buddy Vladimir Putin. Vote for him because Russia has endorsed him. Vote for him because he refuses to release his tax returns because they will show his cheating on charity contributions and his financial ties to Russia. Vote for this billionaire, born with a silver spoon in his mouth, who has never worked a day for wages in his life, because he is just one of the guys. Vote for him because he says he will cancel trade agreements and somehow, miraculously, bring back jobs that were actually mostly lost to technology advances rather than trade. Vote for him because, when asked why he had outsourced his trademark Trump apparel line to China, he said "You can't get anything made in this country."

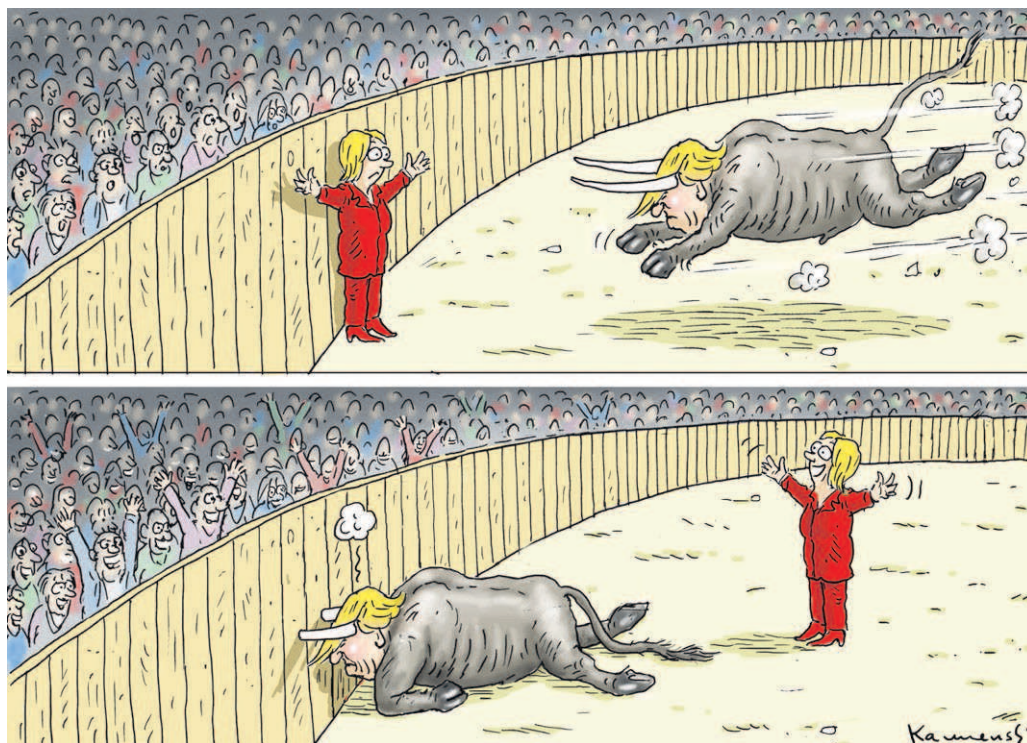
And, most of all, vote for him because he is not a woman.

**Rod Dawson**  
Seaside

**LETTERS POLICY**

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**OTHER VIEWS**



## Trump's missed opportunities

HEMPSTEAD, New York. — As he prepared for the crucial first presidential debate, Donald Trump knew moderator Lester Holt would bring up the birther issue. He knew Holt would raise Trump's tax returns. And his old position on the Iraq war. None are among the voters' top concerns, but it was eminently predictable that they would be part of the debate — not least because if Holt had not brought them up, Hillary Clinton would have.

But Trump might not have predicted that Holt would leave some equally, if not more, important topics untouched. There was Obamacare, currently veering towards crisis. Immigration, including a proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. The Clinton Foundation. Benghazi. Certainly a moderator can't cover everything, but those were some pretty big omissions.

Holt deserves blame for not bringing them up. But on the other hand, that is where a candidate's preparation comes in. If the moderator doesn't raise a key issue, the candidate does. And Trump didn't.

"The wall is a very important issue, and I am surprised that it wasn't brought up, frankly," one of Trump's key supporters and advisers, Sen. Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama), said after the debate. "Also, they didn't bring up the Clinton Foundation. I mean, goodness gracious. So I thought there were a number of issues that could have been brought up that would have been troubling for Secretary Clinton that were not brought up."

Later, I pressed Sessions a bit, asking why Trump didn't raise them himself.

"Look, whenever I've done a debate, I can't sleep at night thinking of things I shoulda, coulda said," Sessions said with a laugh. "So if you think you're so good at it, you try it. I mean, it's no fun."

Trump began the debate well. He approached Clinton aggressively and made his case on the issue of lost American jobs. Clinton countered with a tired-sounding critique of what she called "Trumped-up trickle-down" economics, and an equally tired spiel on policies like heavily-subsidized clean energy as a partial fix for an ailing economy.

Things were moving in Trump's direction. "Independents are closer to Trump than to Hillary," tweeted GOP strategist Frank Luntz, who was holding a focus group watching the debate in Philadelphia. "Trump is doing better with undecideds than even with Trump-leaners. He is actually winning."

But not for long. Early on, Clinton included her first personal jab at Trump, slipped into an answer on the economy. "Donald was very fortunate in his life, and that's all to his benefit," Clinton said. "He started his business with \$14 million borrowed from his father ..."

Now, Trump's team knew going in that Clinton would try to get under his skin. And the easiest way to get under Trump's skin is to cast some sort of aspersion on his business, his brand, or his career. The question was whether Trump would have the discipline to ignore or brush off such attacks and stay focused on his message. He didn't.

Trump took the bait, saying his father in fact gave him "a very small loan" in 1975. And after that Trump took virtually every other morsel of bait that Clinton, or Holt, offered him the rest of the night.

Trump went on and on about his taxes, revealing that "I'm extremely underleveraged," which surely cannot be an issue of great voter interest. Worse, Trump did not refute Clinton's



**BYRON YORK**  
Comment

charge — reminiscent of Harry Reid's no-evidence attack on Mitt Romney in 2012 — that Trump pays no federal income taxes.

"That makes me smart," Trump said, which sounded, if anything, like a confirmation of Clinton's accusation.

Then Trump took the bait on birtherism. And then Iraq. On the birther question, there wasn't a lot Trump could say, so a debater's instinct would be to cover as little as possible and move on. On Iraq, Trump actually

had a case against Holt's charge, but again went on and on, adding the relatively new wrinkle that he told Sean Hannity about his opposition to invading Iraq before the fact. Trump said Hannity's name seven times.

As the debate progressed, Trump got more and more bogged down, and less and less disciplined.

"Trump could be crushing Hillary right now if he wasn't so thin-skinned," Luntz tweeted from the focus group in Pennsylvania.

Just a few hours earlier, before the debate began, Trump's team exuded confidence. Well, confidence with one caveat. Trump knew what to do to win, they said, and he was prepared to do it, and doing it was well within his capabilities. The only question was whether Trump would actually do it.

"How confident are you?" I asked a member of the Trump circle about an hour and a half before the debate.

"On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being he crushes it, and 1 being the campaign ends tonight — a 7.5 or 8," the person said.

Others in TrumpWorld, at least the extended circle around the Trump campaign, expressed an even higher level of confidence. Some close to the campaign suggested that Trump had pulled off a successful rope-a-dope operation, hinting to the world that he hadn't done much preparing when in fact he had prepared intensely, if unconventionally.

And besides, they said, Trump didn't have to match Clinton fact-for-fact in an old-fashioned face-off. What he really had to do was appear serious, sober, and — yes — presidential. He was ready, they said.

But he wasn't, really. Yes, Trump had some good moments. He scored on the two highest voter-interest issues, jobs and national security, and that's no small accomplishment. He also hit Clinton hard when she pulled out her talking point that she had made "a mistake" by creating a secret, unsecure email system as Secretary of State. "That was more than a mistake," Trump said. "That was done purposefully, OK? That was not a mistake ... when you have your staff taking the Fifth Amendment, taking the Fifth so they're not prosecuted ..."

Trump's problem was that he didn't have a lot of really good moments like that because he spent so much time talking about taxes, birtherism and Iraq. The Clinton team wanted to distract him, to keep him on topics that hurt him, and away from topics that hurt her. They succeeded. "We were very happy with the debate," campaign manager Robby Mook said shortly afterward. "I think he was totally unprepared."

Meanwhile, those topics that could have done Trump a lot of good if handled well — Obamacare, immigration and the wall, the Clinton Foundation, Benghazi — were left untouched. Yes, blame Lester Holt for not bringing them up. But blame Donald Trump more for not taking matters into his own hands.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

