

# Voters could see up to four initiatives on ballot

By Paris Achen  
Capital Bureau

Of the 45 initiatives proposed for the Nov. 6 general election, only four remain in play.

Two of those are the subject of two separate signature-gathering fraud investigations by the Oregon Department of Justice.

The following proposals still have a chance of going before voters, after the Oregon Secretary of State's Office completes signature verifications. The deadline for verifications is Aug. 6.

- End publicly funded abortions: "Stop Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act" (Initiative Petition 1) prohibits the use of public funds to pay for most abortions, unless medically necessary or required by federal law.

As a constitutional change, the measure needs at least



Pamplin Media Group

**Multnomah County Clerk's Office employees process ballots. Grocery taxes, publicly funded abortion, tax enactment restrictions and ending the state's sanctuary law are all in the queue for the November ballot.**

117,578 valid signatures to secure a place on the ballot.

Petitioners turned in 139,286 signatures by the July 6 deadline, and the Secretary of State's Office was still in the process of verifying their validity as of Friday, July 13.

The state spent about \$1.9 million in 2017-18 for abortions paid for by the Oregon Health Plan, the state's version of Medicaid, according to the Oregon Health Authority.

Last year, the state passed House Bill 3391 to require

health insurers to provide abortions and other reproductive health services without charge. The law also allows the Oregon Health Plan, to provide free abortions for undocumented immigrants.

IP 1 allows public funds to be spent on abortions in circumstances when federal law requires it, such as in cases of rape or incest, or when a woman is diagnosed with an ectopic pregnancy. The proposal also would allow a woman with a health condition that would place her in danger of death to obtain an abortion.

Brooks resident Marilyn Shannon, one of the initiative's chief sponsors, said she expects the measure to make it on the ballot.

- End the sanctuary state: Stop Oregon Sanctuaries Initiative Petition 22 would repeal the state's 31-year-old sanctuary law.

The law prohibits the use of

state and local resources to enforce federal immigration law when a person's only crime is being in the country illegally.

Petitioners for the proposal have submitted 110,445 signatures. Only 88,184 of those need to be verified to the measure to be included on the ballot.

DOJ is investigating complaints that voters were misled into the signing the petition. About 39 people filed the complaints, said Debra Royal, chief of staff for Secretary of State Dennis Richardson.

- Three-fifths vote for raising revenue:

"A Tax is a Tax Amendment" Initiative 31 also is under investigation for allegations that signatures were obtained fraudulently.

Despite that, the Secretary of State's Office has qualified the measure for the ballot.

The measure would amend the Oregon Constitution to re-

quire a three-fifths vote of the House and Senate for raising revenue, including assessing fees and ending tax credits.

A woman named Connea Derber filed a complaint with the Secretary of State's Office and the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries alleging that a representative of Ballot Access LLC had fraudulently signed signature sheets and proposed improper per signature-compensation, Willamette Week first reported. Ballot Access denied wrongdoing.

- Tax-free food: "Yes! Keep Our Groceries Tax-Free!" Initiative Petition 37, has also qualified for the ballot.

The constitutional amendment would prohibit local and state taxes on all foods for consumption, except for alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. Personal hygiene products were excluded from the measure.

# Emergency medical flights save lives

By Richard Hanners  
Blue Mountain Eagle

When a medical emergency occurs to residents in Grant County — whether it's a heart attack or stroke, or the result of an accident at work, on the highway or at play in the woods — prompt critical care attention can mean the difference between life and death.

Area residents are accustomed to geographical isolation, surrounded by mountain passes that can be impacted by winter weather. But while braving a three-hour drive to Bend or La Grande might be acceptable for shopping, it's not practical for medical emergencies.

Air ambulances can not only transport patients quickly from the scene of an accident to a trauma center, they also come equipped with all the medical supplies and equipment needed to act as a mobile intensive care unit for infants and elderly.

Common equipment for air ambulances can include medications, ventilators, electrocardiogram and monitoring units, cardiopulmonary resuscitation equipment and special stretchers. While the noise and cramped space make treatment difficult, air ambulances are equipped for advanced life support.

Grant County is served by two air ambulance services: AirLink Critical Care Transport and Life Flight Network. Both utilize fixed-wing airplanes and helicopters to transport medical patients to hospitals outside Grant County.

## AirLink

AirLink began operations in 1985 as Air Life of Oregon with a Bell Long Ranger helicopter. In partnership with St. Charles Medical Center in Bend, the company grew over time into a regional air ambulance service, serving central, eastern and southern Oregon.

AirLink has flown more than 24,000 missions since its inception. The service was acquired by the Med-Trans Corp. about four years ago.

On board medical personnel include a nurse with at least five years of experience at a high-volume Level I trauma center along with a respiratory therapist.

"That way we provide a true ICU in the sky," AirLink manager Kristin Lingman told the Eagle.

Medical staff and pilots are staffed at AirLink's base 24/7 so flights can be made at a moment's notice. Lingman estimated AirLink flies to John Day about five or six times a week.

## Life Flight

Life Flight, the nation's largest not-for-profit air ambulance service, serves Oregon, Washington, Idaho and western Montana. Starting in 1978 as Emanuel Life Flight, one of the first hospital-based air ambulance services on the West Coast and the fourth in the U.S., the company transported 121 patients in its first year using an Allouette-3 helicopter.

The nonprofit is owned by a consortium of Oregon Health & Science University, Legacy Emanuel Medical Center,



Contributed photo/Jill Rosell

**AirLink personnel move equipment in front of a Eurocopter EC-135 air ambulance.**

Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center and Providence Health & Services.

"Air ambulances provide rural locations critical care they would not normally receive," Life Flight regional director Michael Weimer told the Eagle.

Weimer estimated Life Flight aircraft fly to Grant County about once a week, with fixed-wing aircraft landing at Grant County Regional Airport and helicopters landing at Blue Mountain Hospital or even on highways at the scene of an accident.

## Memberships

Typical health insurance plans may not cover all air ambulance service cost, which can be expensive, so air ambulance companies offer memberships to help residents in rural areas plan for those costs.

AirLink is part of the AirMedCare Network, and members transported by any of the network providers will not receive a bill for the flight and

flights often face serious financial problems in addition to medical issues.

AirLink membership is valid across 28 states and more than 300 base locations. There is no limit to the number of flights a member can have in a year, but flights must be considered medically necessary. If a patient is transported to Bend and later needs to continue on to Portland, AirLink membership will cover both flights.

AirLink also offers a ground-based ambulance membership called FireMed for \$50 per year that is honored by the Blue Mountain Hospital Ambulance service in John Day.

For more information about AirLink, visit online at [www.airlinkct.org](http://www.airlinkct.org) or call 541-241-4772.

Membership in the Life Flight Network costs \$65 per year, but through Sept. 3, Life Flight will offer \$40 annual

memberships for new members in recognition of its 40th anniversary.

Membership covers spouses or domestic partners, dependents claimed on an income tax return, including elderly or disabled family members living in the same household.

Members will not incur out-of-pocket expenses for medically necessary emergent flights with network providers or reciprocal partners. That includes flights that continue on to a higher level trauma center.

For more information about Life Flight, visit online at [www.lifeflight.org](http://www.lifeflight.org) or call 800-982-9299.

AirLink and Life Flight do not have reciprocity agreements. If a person had a membership in one service but it wasn't available during an emergency, the person would have to rely on the other service without the benefits of membership.

## HOME SCHOOL PARENTS

Home school students are required by law to be tested by a qualified neutral person following grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. [OAR581-021-0026 (5) (a) (A)] **However, students who participate in interscholastic activities are required by OSAA rules to be tested every year and must score in the 23<sup>rd</sup> percentile to be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities.**

Grant ESD will offer assessment testing for home school students finishing grades 3, 5, 8, and 10. Cost is \$20.00 per student. Payment is due at the time of testing. Register your student for assessment testing by calling Grant ESD, 541-575-1349, on or before July 24, 2018.

Testing Dates: July 25, 2018 – 8:30am to 2:00pm  
July 26, 2018 – 8:30am to 2:00pm

If you have any questions you may contact:

Robert Waltenburg or Jo Sproul  
Grant County ESD  
541-575-1349



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# NATIONAL DAY of the COWBOY

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## Prairie City Park • July 28, 2018

**Dog Costume & Talent Contest**  
Presented by Hope for Paws  
Info: 541-932-2737 or 541-575-0262  
followed by  
**Dog Agility Exhibition** by Flora Steffan  
Herd U Needed A Home

**Stickhorse & Dog Costume Parade - 10:30 a.m.**  
(sign-up at 9:30 at the post office parking lot)  
**Bring your decorated dog or stickhorse!**  
**Stickhorse Rodeo**  
Rodeo HQ: Bar WB 541-820-3675  
Featuring: Bull Riding • Bronc Riding • Barrel Racing • Dummy Roping & more!  
Fun for all ages: Stick Horse & Sack Races

**FFA Chapter Challenge: Ag Olympics**  
Info: Cinch Anderson 541-377-2955 & Kori Jo 541-216-0122  
**Stickhorse Auction - Auctioneer Cinch Anderson**  
Proceeds to benefit Grant Union FFA

Drinks by  
**SPINNING COCKTAILS**

**7:00 P.M. Concert** Featuring **Brenn Hill & Andy Nelson** with special guest **Kathy Moss**  
Sat. July 28, 7:00pm  
Prairie City Community Hall, Prairie City, OR  
Tickets \$20 in advance at Russell's Custom Meats and Bar W B Western Wear or \$25 at the door. Call 541-425-9726

**5pm BBQ** by the **Prairie City FFA**  
SUPPORTED BY THE GPCCA

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# BABY STEPS

## Birth & Beyond

We believe having a baby means so much more than just labor and delivery. Prenatal classes help parents feel calm and confident with the birthing process, while reducing the duration of labor. Parents also gain a profound awareness of the importance of their role. The first 1,000 days of a child's life provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

This prenatal class will cover:

- Touring the family birthing unit
- Prenatal and postpartum nutrition
- Relief of common discomforts during pregnancy
- Creating a birth plan
- Stages of Labor
- Comfort Measures & relaxation tools during labor

Please call  
**FAMILIES FIRST**  
to register, 541-575-1006

Blue Mountain Hospital  
[www.bluemountainhospital.org](http://www.bluemountainhospital.org)

For more information  
**CALL 541-575-1006**

Families First  
PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

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