

# Measure 110 not the way to deal with drug problems

**D**rug abuse and addiction are huge problems in Oregon. Methamphetamine, opiates (heroin, fentanyl and oxycodone and others) and cocaine damage and kill thousands of people every year. Few of us reach adulthood without knowing someone whose life was destroyed by drug or alcohol addiction. Some of us have been victims of crime in which the perpetrator was seeking a way to fund their addiction.

There is considerable tension between those who believe that dangerous drugs should be illegal, with criminal penalties for their possession versus those who believe use of these drugs is primarily an addiction and thus a mental health and behavioral health issue. Ideally, we should have a behavioral health system that can intervene before the criminal justice system needs to.

Measure 110 on the November ballot would redistribute marijuana tax revenue above \$11.25 million per quarter — reducing revenue to schools, state police, mental health programs and local governments. This revenue would be redirected to a new “Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund” that would grant money to fund “Addiction Recovery Centers” in each existing coordinated care organization (CCO) service area in the state, as well as “organizations providing substance use disorder treatment, peer support and recovery services, permanent supportive housing, and harm reduction interventions” at no cost to the recipients.

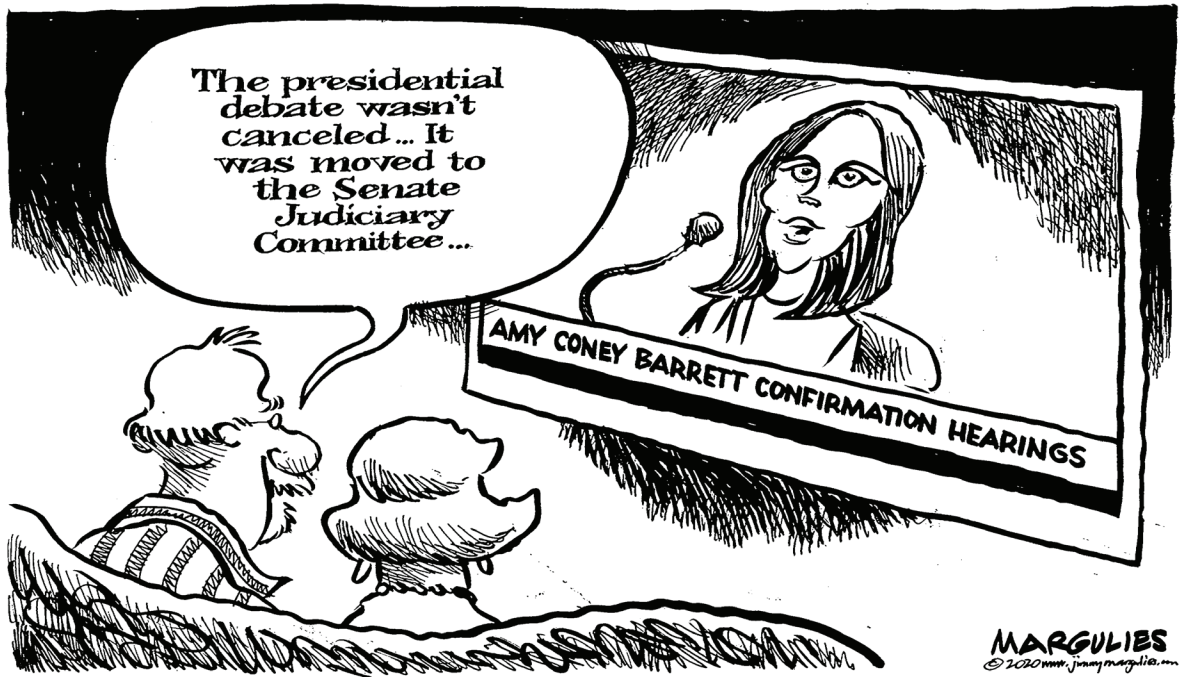
It also decriminalizes certain drug offenses for both juveniles and adults, such as possession of: heroin (1 gram or less), cocaine (2 grams or less), methamphetamine (2 grams or less), MDMA (less than 1 gram or 5 pills), LSD (less than 40 user units), psilocybin (less than 12 grams), methadone (less than 40 user units) and oxycodone (less than 40 pills, tablets, or capsules). In doing so, it removes the judicial system’s authority to mandate participation in Drug Courts or other addiction treatment for those found in possession.

Measure 110 is opposed by the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police and 26 out of 36 District Attorneys in the state. They believe that law enforcement plays an important role in getting people the help they need — and we agree.

The Oregon Council for Behavioral Health is opposed to Measure 110 because it does not address fundamental problems in Oregon’s addiction treatment and recovery system.

Oregon desperately needs more detox centers, residential and outpatient treatment options, and supports for ongoing recovery. While we appreciate all efforts to provide treatment for those whose lives are controlled by their addiction and to keep them out of the criminal justice system, we don’t think this ballot measure — which seems to be a test case for the New York-based Drug Policy Alliance — is the way to do it.

We recommend a “No” vote on Measure 110.



## ‘Praise for a couple of our elected officials’

**To the Editor:**  
I would like to take this opportunity to sing praise for a couple of our elected officials.

I ran into Grant County Commissioner Sam Palmer in the lumber yard a few weeks back. When he asked me how I was doing, he got an earful. I told him how my partner and I had bought a local tree service/construction company several months prior and how after passing the residential general contractor test we had yet to hear a single word from this entity. I explained that a bank loan had been taken out to buy this equipment, and on the very day we spoke, the third payment was due without being able to legally use the equipment. Apparently one is not even allowed to advertise or pass out business cards without the CCB’s blessing (number).

Sam patiently listened to my tirade, then reached for his cellphone to give me a number to call. He said this was the personal cell number for state Rep. Mark Owens. (Yeah, folks, I’m talking about little Sammy Palmer from up the street!) I thanked him and headed for the door. Sam hollered after me, “If Mark can’t get it done, let me know, and I’ll call the senator.” Yep, he said that! Wow! What a huge favor! Nothing but love and respect, Sam! We need more like you and your family in this county!

We called Mark (who answered on the second ring) and explained our dilemma. Exactly 24 hours later, we had our CCB number! God bless you, Mark and Sam.

In closing, I would urge you all to vote Mark Owens in the upcoming election. I would also ask you to give some thought to your public comments about your political views. No matter how passionately you feel, hatred is ugly, and your venom usually only reflects poorly on yourself.

Sam, it is an honor to call you my friend!

Tony Steele  
John Day

## ‘I’ll be voting for Rob Raschio’

**To the Editor:**  
I have had the pleasure of knowing Rob Raschio for quite a while now, and he is the kind of man I want elected to serve as circuit court judge for my community. I know Rob to be a pretty great person. Although he is sensitive, he can also be a bulldog. Rob isn’t afraid to stand up for what he believes in, which is something I admire and appreciate.

Rob cares deeply about his community and those who live in it. As a judge, I am confident that Rob Raschio will work tirelessly to create a positive relationship for the community and the courts. Rob has common sense, a strong head on his shoulders and I know when it comes time to make decisions, he will consider all the relevant information to make the best decision possible.

I am fortunate to call Rob my friend, and I hope I get to call him judge in November. Our community needs a man like Rob Raschio serving them. I know I’ll be voting for Rob Raschio this November for circuit court judge, and I hope you will join me.

Lisa Weigum  
Canyon City

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### ‘Write in John Lamborn for circuit court judge’

**To the Editor:**  
Grant and Harney counties have been well served by both justice courts and circuit courts for decades. Judge William D. Cramer Jr. served honorably as our circuit court judge for the past 24 years. Judge Cramer was not only bright and well educated, but he possessed the disposition and temperament required to be a judge. Despite his very busy schedule, Judge Cramer was always very helpful and supportive to our justice courts. It is not time for Grant and Harney county citizens to choose the candidate who will best serve the people of the 24th Judicial District. The decision we make has far-reaching consequences, but is not an easy task. Most of us will never experience the inside of a courtroom, and restrictions placed on judges by the Oregon Judicial Code of Conduct limit a judge’s participation in the public arena. The public often does not have an opportunity to really get to know a judge’s personality, motivations and temperament on a day-to-day basis.

So, how are we to really decide for whom we should vote? Both of the current candidates are smart and well educated. One of the candidates has been campaigning for well over a year. The other has just recently been thrust back into the race. One has shown support for our justice courts and has served as a justice of the peace pro-tem. One, if elected, will strive to maintain the current positive working relationships between the courts in both counties. One has the temperament to work with prosecutors, defense attorneys, court staff and other judges. Please join us in voting for the candidate who best serves all of the people of Grant and Harney counties.

Write in John Lamborn for circuit court judge.

Kathy Stinnett  
Grant County justice of the peace  
Vicky Clemens  
Harney County justice of the peace

### ‘A republic, if you can keep it’

**To the Editor:**  
Just a couple of quotes that still apply to our time from wise men. The first is from Abraham Lincoln: “From whence shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia ... could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men, we will live forever or die by suicide.” The next quote is attributed to Ben Franklin when asked “Well, doctor, what have we got—a republic or a monarchy?” to that he replied, “A republic, if you can keep it.” My question is: Can we keep it? I believe it is worth keeping, and our voices and votes count so let’s try.

Cal Christensen  
John Day

### ‘Join us in voting for Beth Spell’

**To the Editor:**  
It’s plain and simple. Our elected

representative for House District 60 should be willing to listen to both sides of any issue that affects Grant County and our region. Beth Spell knows us and cares about the people in HD 60 on both sides of the issues. Please join us in voting for Beth Spell for HD 60 representative!

Adele and Mark Cerny  
Bear Valley

## City ‘set barn on fire then put it out with gasoline’

**To the Editor:**  
I attended the “work session” that the city of John Day (CJD) hosted with our Grant County Court (GCC) on Oct. 14. The CJD has chosen to set the barn on fire then put it out with gasoline. Let us put this into perspective. The CJD controls 23% of the population. The total numbers of taxpayers are less than that. Their boundaries are only 5% of the area in this mass county. They have chosen to overlook safety issues (airport road). Offering internet that Ortelco already has across the street and cheaper as I see it. The CJD is blaming the people of this vast county, mostly agriculture, for their unaccepting of an alternative of keeping the current pool open. This mind-boggling decision moves lies directly on the CJD as well as the John Day-Canyon City Parks and Recreation District. I will also throw the John Day Swim Team organization into this fray, who has based their selfish emotional narrative by using children as props and now lost it for all.

The county court has chosen to keep this charade up and investigate these things “again.” I hope that the court will not put their emotions into this as they have in the past, and I heard some yesterday.

They talked about intergovernmental cooperation, about spending without including outlying areas both north and south. Keep in mind there are a whole lot of intragovernmental issues that they need to fix as they still have not solved starting with the Canyon Creek fire. The next election cycle begins March 2021, or before.

Bob Pereira  
John Day

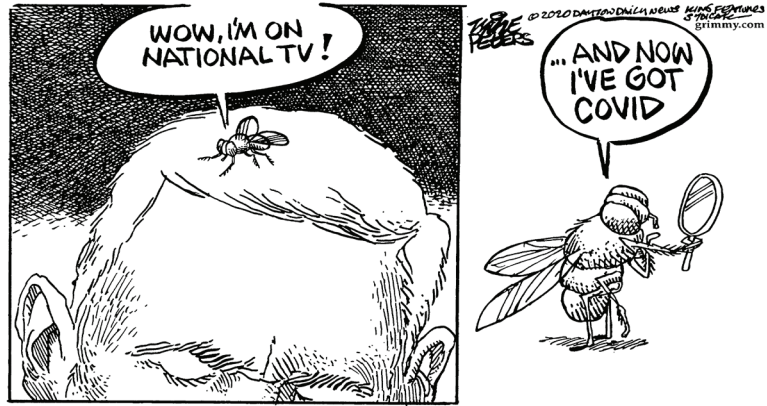
## Ellison always ‘accurate and honest’

**To the Editor:**  
It is election season, and Grant County voters must again decide who will be the first among them to handle their tax money. Julie Ellison is running to retain her position as Grant County treasurer and well deserves that position.

I have known and worked with Julie for many years in her position as the head accounts manager for Greg Jackson at Jackson Oil. In performing my legal duties for Greg, it was often Julie with whom I dealt when it came to money or administrative matters. She was always prompt, efficient, friendly and, most importantly, accurate and honest. If she told me something, there was never a question about its accuracy. I know from my many friends in Grant County that she brought the same skills to the Treasurer’s Office.

Be sure to fill in the box next to her name when you vote. In this

See Letters, Page A5



## WHERE TO WRITE

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- **Grant County Courthouse** — 201 S. Humbolt St., Suite 280, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0059. Fax: 541-575-2248.
- **Canyon City** — P.O. Box 276, Canyon City 97820. Phone: 541-575-0509. Fax: 541-575-0515. Email: tocc1862@centurylink.net.
- **Dayville** — P.O. Box 321, Dayville 97825. Phone: 541-987-2188. Fax: 541-987-2187. Email: dville@ortelco.net
- **John Day** — 450 E. Main St, John Day, 97845. Phone: 541-575-0028. Fax: 541-575-1721. Email: cityjd@centurytel.net.
- **Long Creek** — P.O. Box 489, Long Creek 97856. Phone: 541-421-3601. Fax: 541-421-3075. Email: info@cityoflongcreek.com.
- **Monument** — P.O. Box 426, Monument 97864. Phone and fax: 541-934-2025. Email: cityofmonument@centurytel.net.
- **Mt. Vernon** — P.O. Box 647, Mt. Vernon 97865. Phone: 541-932-4688. Fax: 541-932-4222. Email: cmvtv@ortelco.net.
- **Prairie City** — P.O. Box 370, Prairie City 97869. Phone: 541-820-3605. Fax: 820-3566. Email: pchall@ortelco.net.
- **Seneca** — P.O. Box 208, Seneca

- 97873. Phone and fax: 541-542-2161. Email: senecaoregon@gmail.com.
- SALEM**
- **Gov. Kate Brown, D** — 254 State Capitol, Salem 97310. Phone: 503-378-3111. Fax: 503-378-6827. Website: governor.state.or.us/governor.html.
- **Oregon Legislature** — State Capitol, Salem, 97310. Phone: (503) 986-1180. Website: leg.state.or.us (includes Oregon Constitution and Oregon Revised Statutes).
- **Oregon Legislative Information** — (For updates on bills, services, capitol or messages for legislators) — 800-332-2313.
- **Sen. Cliff Bentz, R-Ontario** — 900 Court St. NE, S-301, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1730. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/Bentz. Email: Sen.CliffBentz@oregonlegislature.gov.
- **Rep. Lynn Findley, R-Vale** — 900 Court St. NE, H-475, Salem 97301. Phone: 503-986-1460. Website: oregonlegislature.gov/findley. Email: Rep.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov.
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- **The White House**, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20500; Phone-comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414.



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