

BALLOT: Taxes are focus of Measures 66 and 67

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At this time, Oregonians with annual taxable income over \$15,200 (\$7,600 for individuals) pay a state income tax rate of 9 percent after deducting Federal income taxes, and unemployment benefits are taxable.

Measure 66 would:

- Eliminate income taxes on the first \$2,400 of unemployment taxes received in 2009.
- Raise the tax rate by 1.8 percent on household taxable income between \$250,000 and \$500,000, and by 2 percent on income above \$500,000. (\$125,000 and \$250,000 for individuals).
- In 2012 the tax rate for high income (same as figures above) taxpayers would drop to 9.9%.
- The tax rate on income below \$250,000 (\$125,000) would not change.

• The Federal income tax deduction would be reduced for households with adjusted gross income at or above \$250,000 (\$125,000).

If Measure 66 passes, it is estimated that approximately three percent of state taxpayers will see higher income tax rates. It will have no effect on most taxpayers.

Changing now from personal taxes to business taxes, some corporations in Oregon still pay a \$10 minimum tax, which has not changed since 1931, and some pay a 6.6% profits tax; none of them pay both, and many profitable corporations pay only the \$10 minimum.

Measure 67 would:

- Increase the minimum corporate tax to \$150.
- Require some corporations with over \$500,000 in Oregon revenues to pay a minimum tax

of approximately 0.1 percent of revenues earned in Oregon.

- Limit the tax on S Corporations and partnerships to \$150.00.
- Have no impact on sole proprietors.
- Raise the tax rate some corporations pay on profits by 1.3 percent until 2011; then drop to 1% and, in 2013 apply only to profits over \$10 million.
- Limit corporations to either the minimum tax or the profits tax, not both.

Because of the multitude of corporate structures, explaining this measure is difficult. Those who are interested in more specifics can find a good flow chart showing how Measure 67 affects any type of corporation, at the Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCPP). Their web site is <http://www.ocpp.org>

OSAF leadership changes hands

The Oregon Society of American Foresters has elected Mike Cloughesy as chair-elect for 2010. Cloughesy, director of forestry for the Oregon Forest Resources Institute, will serve as chair-elect for one year before assuming the chair position in 2011.

Tim Keith, current chair-elect and a forester with the Oregon Department of Forestry, will move to the chair position for 2010. Shaun Harkins, a forester with Plum Creek in Coos Bay, was elected delegate at-large.

Cloughesy has been the di-

rector of forestry for OFRI since 2003. Previously he was a professor of forestry extension at the College of Forestry, Oregon State University.

With 964 members in 12 chapters throughout the state, the Oregon SAF is the largest of the 33 affiliates of the national society. SAF is the scientific and educational organization that represents the forestry profession in the United States. Founded in 1900 by Gifford Pinchot, the first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, SAF is the largest professional society for foresters in the world.

Little change in County employment numbers

Columbia County's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 12.7 percent in November, essentially unchanged from the previous month (13.1%) and higher than the year before (8.5%). The rate was above the statewide rate (11.1%) and the national rate

(10.0%). Total employment climbed by 64 to 21,575, but the number of unemployed people rose by 112 to 3,129. Total employment this November was 1,089 fewer than one year before and there were 1,032 more people unemployed this year.

Community Calendar

VERNONIA

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Mondays | 6:30 p.m., 410 North Street |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Thursdays (Big Book Study) | 7:00 p.m., 410 North Street |
| American Legion Post #119 | 2nd Thursday | 7:00 p.m., 627 Adams Avenue |
| Booster Club | 2nd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., VHS Library |
| Boy Scout Troop 201 | Tuesdays | 7:00 p.m., Scout Cabin |
| Boy Scout Troop 860 | Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m., LDS Church |
| Cemetery Beautification Comm. | 2nd Thursday | 6:30 p.m., City Hall |
| CERT | 4th Wednesday | For Info Call 503-429-3018 |
| Chamber of Commerce | 2nd Wednesday | For Info Call 503-429-6081 |
| Community Coalition | 2nd Monday | 12:30 p.m. School District Ofc. |
| Cub Scout Pack 201 | Scout Cabin | For Info Call 503-429-4250 |
| Friends of the Library | 1st Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Vernonia Library |
| Girl Scouts, Neighborhood 4-2 | | For Info Call 503-819-0143 |
| Hands On Art Committee | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 4:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Izaak Walton League | 3rd Thursday | For location call 503-429-7193 |
| Lions Club | 1st & 3rd Tuesdays | 6:30 p.m., Buckhorn Restaurant |
| Municipal Airport Committee | 4th Thursday | 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Pioneer Museum | | For Info Call 503-429-3713 |
| Public Works Committee | 4th Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Vernonia Cares Directors | | For Info call 503-429-1414 |
| Vernonia City Council | 1st & 3rd Mondays | 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Vernonia Community PTA | 2nd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., WGS Library |
| Vernonia Grange | 3rd Monday | 7:00 p.m., Grange Hall |
| Vernonia Health Center | 2nd Monday | 6:00 p.m., 510 Bridge St. |
| Vernonia Learning Center | 1st Wednesday | 6:00 p.m., VLC |
| Vernonia Parks Committee | 3rd Wednesday | 6:30 p.m., City Hall |
| Vernonia Planning Comm. | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Vernonia Pride | 2nd Thursday | 1:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Vernonia Ridge Riders | Last Thursday | 7:00 p.m., Senior Center |
| Vernonia RFPD Board | 2nd Tuesday | 6:00 p.m., Fire Station |
| Vernonia School Board | 2nd Thursday | 6:00 p.m., District Office |
| Vernonia Sr. Center Board | 2nd Friday | 1:00 p.m., Senior Center |
| Vernonia Transfer Station | 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. | Behind VHS |
| Vern. Volunteer Ambulance Assoc. | 1st, 3rd & 4th Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Fire Station |
| Vernonia Volunteer Firefighters | 2nd Monday | 7:00 p.m., Fire Station |
| WOEC Directors | 3rd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., WOEC |

MIST-BIRKENFELD

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| M-BRFPD Board Business Mtg. | 2nd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| M-BRFPD Board Workshop | 4th Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| M-B Ambulance Drill | 1st & 2nd Thursdays | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| M-B Fire Drill | 1st & 2nd Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| M-B Helping Circle | 2nd Monday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| M-B SAR Drill | 3rd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| M-B Volunteer Assoc. | 1st Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |
| Natal Grange | 2nd Wednesday | 7:30 p.m., Natal Grange Hall |
| T.O.P.S. | Mondays | 9:00 a.m., Main Fire Station |
| Upr Nehalem Watershed Council | For date call 429-0869 | 7:00 p.m., Main Fire Station |

BANKS

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|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Fridays | 7:30 p.m., Methodist Church |
| Alcoholics Anonymous | Wednesdays | 7:30 p.m., Methodist Church |
| American Legion Post #90 | 2nd Tuesdays | 7:30 p.m., Main Street Post |
| Banks City Council | 2nd Tuesday | 7:30 p.m., City Hall |
| Banks Fire District #13 | 2nd Wednesday | 7:00 p.m., Station 13 |
| Banks Library Commission | 3rd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Library |
| Banks Planning Commission | Last Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Hall |
| Banks School Board | 2nd Monday | 7:30 p.m., Jr. High Library |
| Banks Youth Group | Sundays, Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m., UMC Youth Bldg. |
| Chamber of Commerce | 1st Thursday | 12:30 p.m., Fire District Office |
| CPO 14 | 3rd Monday | 7:00 p.m., City Library |
| Friends of the Library | 2nd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., City Library |
| Lions Club | 1st & 3rd Mondays | 7:00 p.m., Brown Derby |
| Sunset Park Assoc. | 3rd Wednesday | 8:00 p.m., Gun Club |
| T.O.P.S. | Wednesdays | 7:00 p.m., Administration Bldg. |

COLUMBIA COUNTY (All meet in St. Helens unless otherwise noted.)

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| Board of Commissioners | Wednesdays | 1:00 p.m., Courthouse |
| Citizens for Senior Justice | 2nd Tuesday | 7:00 p.m., Sunset Park Church |
| NAMI | 1st Tuesday | 5:30 p.m., 58646 McNulty Way |
| Columbia Soil & Water District | 3rd Wednesday | 7:30 p.m., NRCS, 2514 Sykes |
| County Fair Board | 2nd Monday | 6:00 p.m., Fairgrounds 4-H Bldg. |
| County Parks Commission | 3rd Tuesday | Times vary, 1054 Oregon St. |
| Mental Health Advisory Comm. | Quarterly | For Info call 503-397-7211 |
| Comm. on Children & Families | 3rd Thursday | 5:30 p.m. OSU Ext., 505 N. Hwy. 30 |
| Local Alcohol & Drug Plann. Comm. | Quarterly | For Info call 503-397-7211 |