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YES

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Why offer a voter's guide?

This guide to ballot measures and candidates for the Nov. 7, 2006, statewide general election in Oregon is provided by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Board of Directors and Public Policy Committee as an educational resource. It is designed to serve congregations, faith communities, civic groups and individuals seeking to examine the social, economic and political relationship of each measure to the quest for just social structures that support a life of possibility for all Oregonians.

The production of this guide follows a tradition established by one of EMO's predecessor bodies—the Oregon Council of Churches—over 30 years ago, and continued by EMO today. EMO is a statewide association of 16 Christian denominations working together to respond to the needs of Oregonians. This response is based on EMO's commitment, reflected in its programs, to four streams of ministry: theological education and dialogue, community ministry, public policy advocacy environmental ministry.

The primary responsibility for research and preparation of this guide rests with EMO's staff. EMO's position statements reflect a vote of EMO's board of directors based on the recommendations of its committees.

EMO membership consensus

As with most issues in society, we do not have consensus on every item, but we come together to weigh important issues. We also do not forget the points of view represented throughout the spectrum of faith communities that make up our membership. We ask that you prayerfully consider the wisdom of your own tradition

and your own process of discernment in exercising your civic duty.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland and the Greek Orthodox Church abstained from EMO's deliberations regarding the November ballot measures. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese releases all public policy statements through the Oregon Catholic Conference.

Candidate questionnaire methodology

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon conducts and provides the candidate questionnaire (on page 3) for educational/informational purposes only. EMO is officially a nonpartisan, independent organization and not allowed to support, endorse or oppose political candidates or parties. Nothing contained in the questions or responses herein should be construed as an endorsement or expression of support for an individual candidate or party.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates running for the Oregon Legislature and for Governor in the November general election. Questions were selected by a committee of staff and volunteers. Candidates had three-and-a-half weeks to fill out the questionnaire and return it. Printed are the exact words from the candidates with no edits, including grammatical or spelling errors.

Responses printed are those that returned the questionnaire before the publication deadline. Not included are those candidates who did not return the questionnaire or declined to respond.

For resources on political activities for religious groups, visit www.emoregon.org/publicpolicyadvocacy.htm.

Vote by mail and voter registration procedures

The Nov. 7, 2006, election is a statewide general election and will be vote by mail. The Voters' Pamphlet will be mailed to each household by Oct. 18. The ballots must be returned in person or by mail to a county election office by 8 p.m. on the official election day, Tuesday, Nov. 7.

Any Oregon resident who is at least 18 years old on election day is eligible to vote, but voter registration is required. For new registrants, the voter registration cards must be turned in to any county election office within five calendar days after signing the card. The last day to turn in cards is Oct. 17. A registered voter who has moved, changed address or changed name must re-register. This information may be updated through election day at a county election office.

A message from the EMO president

It is with great pleasure that Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon presents the 2006 voter's *Guide*. We are excited about this edition because we have added something new: a questionnaire of state legislative and gubernatorial candidates. We hope this addition along with our ballot measure analysis will provide invaluable insight to Oregon voters, especially for people whose faith is their guide. EMO has been producing ballot measure guides for Oregon's faith community since 1978. It is a service that many of our members and others look forward to every election.

This election, like all others, is important to the faith community. Oregon voters face some tough decisions that will speak volumes on our trust of government and of each other. Measures 41 and 48—two anti-tax and anti-government measures—threaten to undermine the notion of the social contract and safety net. However, Measure 44 attempts to reconnect society with the shared goal of affordable prescription drugs. How are people of faith to respond?

EMO is committed to providing this service to our members and for all people of faith for many years to come. We hope to continue this service but the expense of producing the guide is very costly and staff intensive. Hundreds of hours of volunteer and staff time and dollars went into producing the ballot measure and candidate guide.

If you appreciate EMO's ballot measure guide, advocacy at the Capitol, public policy presentations or the "Christians for Peace and Justice Advocacy Network," we hope that you will support them with a generous donation. Without financial support, EMO would be unable to produce the quality resources and tools that help put faith into action. To make a donation, please call (503) 221-1054 or go to www.emoregon.org. Thank you.

May God continue to bless you,



The Rev. Alcena Boozer
President, EMO Board of Directors

Measure 39

Statutory Amendment—Prohibits public body from condemning private real property if intends to convey to private property.

Additional Information

PRO: Oregonians in Action, (503) 620-0258; www.oia.org
CON: Unavailable at time of publication; for information, call (503) 221-1054 or visit www.emoregon.org.

Analysis — Measure 39 is in response to the 2005 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Kelo v. City of New London, Conn.*, on the use of eminent domain for public purposes. The case involved seven property owners who refused to sell their property to the city's non-profit development corporation, which was set up to implement an economic revitalization plan. New London, Conn., had been a distressed city for many years, with high vacancies in commercial buildings and run-down housing stock. The economic plan revolved around Pfizer Inc. building a large research facility accompanied by surrounding new office buildings, hotels and other kinds of businesses. The Court ruled five to four in favor of the City of New London, citing that the economic plan constituted a public purpose with public benefits. The city did not use eminent domain with the sole purpose of transferring property from one private party to another, which the Court prohibits. Thirty-seven states have responded with legislation to mitigate unintended consequences of the ruling. Proponents argue that private parties should not be able to utilize government to condemn property on their behalf. They argue that government should

not condemn private property to primarily generate more tax revenue, to transfer private property to another private entity or strictly for economic development.

Opponents argue that government needs to retain the right to enlist private parties when necessary for the public interest. They cite economic development efforts such as urban renewal projects that depend on private investment in publicly acquired lands to revitalize a community. They also cite the measure would prevent government from returning unused condemned lands to the private sector.

EMO Recommendation — Vote "NO." The EMO Board believes that government should retain the ability to involve private parties to promote legitimate public interests. Inappropriate use or abuse of eminent domain should not preclude private parties entirely as a tool used in advancing the public interest. Private parties often are contracted to provide services to the public that include a profit component. Abuse by private parties in those arrangements has not led to an elimination of the practice. The Board acknowledges that there must be safeguards against private interests usurping government for private gain at the expense of the common good. Eminent domain procedures must be transparent and involve the community. This is especially important to prevent gentrification and displacement of low-income communities.

Measure 41

Statutory Amendment—Allows income tax deduction equal to federal exemptions deduction to substitute for state exemption credit.

Additional Information

PRO: Freedomworks Oregon, (503) 709-8864, www.freedomworks.com/oregon/index.php.
CON: Defend Oregon Coalition, (503) 231-3672, www.defendoregon.org.

Analysis — This measure would permit state income tax filers the option to substitute the state tax credit for the federal deduction on exemptions in order to reduce state income tax liability. State tax credits reduce the amount of taxes owed by the filer dollar for dollar. The state tax credit was \$154 for each personal exemption in 2005. Substituting for the federal deduction would reduce the amount of income used to calculate state taxes owed. In 2005, the federal tax deduction was \$3,200. For most tax filers, the net effect would reduce state taxes owed but would increase federal taxes because of a smaller deduction for state taxes under the federal income tax filing. Income tax filers with an adjusted gross income of \$15,000 to \$20,000 would pay an average of \$181 less in state income tax. Income tax filers with an adjusted gross income of \$90,000 to \$100,000 would pay an average of \$439 less in state income tax.

The measure would reduce tax revenue available to the state to pay for public education, public safety and social services. In the first year of implementation, there would be a 6 percent, \$355 million decrease of tax revenue. The decrease would steadily reach about 6.5 percent each year. The measure would automatically decrease the size of the tax kicker.

Proponents argue that Measure 41 would result in tax cuts that benefit families. They argue that they would be the biggest beneficiaries. Proponents also argue that tax cuts and smaller government results in greater freedoms for individuals and families.

Opponents argue that the value of the estimated tax cut per tax payer is less than the value of public education, public safety and human services that would be lost as a result of the measure. They argue that the most tax relief any taxpayer would receive is \$11.17 per month.

EMO Recommendation — Vote "NO." The EMO Board believes the net effect of the measure would shrink the safety net for the most vulnerable while providing very little social benefit in return. Measure 41 is very libertarian in philosophy, i.e. the less taxes paid, the greater the common good. This is counter to the Judeo/Christian understanding of the common good as distinct from individual good. Paying less tax does not necessarily translate into better services, social benefits or a just society.

Taxes are a financial investment for personal and social benefits not always easily quantifiable in dollar amounts. Taxes should be used to provide services that promote the common good. These services include public education, public safety and health care. Taxes are to fund essential services for civil society that individuals or families are unable to afford on their own.

Measure 40

Constitutional Amendment—Requires Oregon Supreme Court judges and Court of Appeals judges to be elected by district.

Additional Information

PRO: Judicial Accountability Act, (503) 463-9457
CON: No on Constitutional Amendment 40 Committee, NoOnCA40@aol.com, (503) 849-9281

Analysis — In 2002, voters rejected an identical measure. Presently, the Oregon Supreme Court and Court of Appeals judges are elected statewide or appointed by the governor when there are mid-term vacancies. This measure would seek geographic representation by empowering the Oregon Legislature to periodically reapportion judicial districts based on population and mandating residency requirements for judicial candidates.

Proponents argue that the residency of judges unduly influences their legal opinions. They argue that because the majority of judges are from the Willamette Valley, their rulings reflect the views of that geographic region at the expense of rural areas. They argue that adding non-Willamette Valley perspectives would result in fair rulings, especially as it pertains to land rights and criminal cases.

Opponents argue that judges should be selected exclusively based on their qualifications and not their residency. They argue that geographic districting would politicize a non-partisan branch of government. Partisan groups would have a more direct way of influencing the election of judges by being able to concentrate campaign spending geographically or to recall judges.

EMO Recommendation — Vote "NO." The EMO Board upholds EMO's past opposition. Specific geographic residency other than being an Oregon resident should not be factored as a qualification or requirement for judicial fitness. Judicial candidates running in a specific district could potentially compromise their impartiality by pandering to parochial interests like candidates for the legislative branch of government. Further, judicial districting would open itself to partisan manipulation when reapportioned. Judges must hold their allegiances to the Oregon Constitution and hold equally the interests of all citizens statewide. The public interest is best served when judges are elected statewide.

Join the interfaith campaign to overcome poverty

This fall, congregations and religious groups across Oregon will join *Faith to Overcome: the Oregon Interfaith Campaign to Overcome Poverty*.

This important initiative engages congregations and supports them in confronting poverty in their communities and in the state. The campaign encourages a comprehensive approach to understanding and ending poverty in Oregon with guidance and assistance from EMO.

When congregations sign-up, they will receive an anti-poverty action kit that will include many useful resources.

If your congregation would like more information, or is interested in joining, please call (503) 221-1054 or go to www.emoregon.org.

2006 State Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate	What are your three priorities if elected?	If elected, name three actions you would encourage state government take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage state government take to decrease dependence on fossil fuels.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to protect Oregon's environment.
Governor					
Ted Kulongoski <i>Democrat</i>	"Create good paying jobs for working Oregonians to support themselves and their families; Provide an excellent education for every child in Oregon; Ensure every Oregonian has access to affordable health care"	"Offer first-rate educational and job-skills training so that all Oregonians can improve their lives; Lower the cost of health care to help reduce Oregonian's medical bills; Preserve our minimum and prevailing wage laws so that people receive a fair wage for their labor"	"Provide pre-school to every three and four year old in Oregon through an increase in the minimum tax paid by corporations; End the practice of charging outrageous interest rates on things like car titles and check cashing; Expand Oregon Harvest Week, a yearly event I created to raise awareness about hunger in Oregon through a coalition of public and private groups"	"Use renewable energy to power all state agencies by 2010; Require 25 percent of all state electricity to be generated by 2025; Implement my 'Clean Car' program to increase vehicle efficiency and fight global warming"	"Offer incentives to develop alternative energies like biofuels, wind, wave, water that will end our dependence on foreign oil; Expand my 'clean diesel' program to reduce emissions from diesel trucks; Require industries that pollute the Willamette River to pay their fair share in cleaning it up"
Ron Saxton <i>Republican</i>	"Improve K-12 education; Improve how state government works; Strengthen Oregon's economy"	"Increase accessibility and school choice in public education; Reduce bureaucracy to better serve those in need; Make state social service agencies do a better job of providing services to low income citizens"	"Allow the private sector to provide more services to our low income citizens in place of inefficient government programs; Encourage the private sector to be more involved in public education; Increase its partnerships with and support of non-profit organizations that serve the poor"	"Expand tax incentives to farmers who grow crops used to make biodiesel and ethanol; Reduce or eliminate regulations that make it difficult for retail gas stations to sell biodiesel or ethanol; Encourage the development of wave energy generation off of the Oregon coast"	"I would encourage the private sector to work with me to do the three things [from the previous question]"
Mary Starrett <i>Constitution</i>	"Keep Oregon National Guard in Oregon. Refuse deployments to foreign countries to fight in undeclared wars that are in direct violation of the US and Oregon Constitutions. Defund the Oregon Health Plan of the \$2.5 million in tax payer funds now budgeted for abortions. Allow the money to be spent for more life affirming health needs. Stop the illegal invasion that threatens our state. No one here unlawfully should be issued a driver [sic] license, be allowed to vote or be permitted to access any tax funded services. It costs taxpayers \$35 million per year to incarcerate illegal criminals. \$32 Million for Bilingual education."	"By encouraging self-reliance we encourage people not to be [sic] dependent on the state. That will reduce poverty by not promoting a welfare mentality. Small businesses must be allowed to expand, and thereby hire more employees. That will go a long way in reducing poverty. We need to make it easier for companies to do what they do best...produce capital. Lowering tax burdens will help Oregonians keep more of the fruits of their labors thereby further reducing poverty. If they can keep more of what they make the economy will reflect [sic] that. Decentralize education. The district is a de facto monopoly. Let the \$ follow the kids to the schools of their choice. Remove the monopoly of the district to allow multiple providers."	"Government doesn't produce anything, it simply re distributes [sic] the wealth of others. If we recognize that the private sector is what creates wealth then we need to do all we can to make sure the private sector is free to expand."	"I believe the technology exists to reduce this dependence, however I would not be in favor of mandates requiring a reduction in fossil fuels. (Tax credits, yes, government mandates...no.)"	"Heavy handed government regulations are not the answer. Put people first and encourage good resource stewardship through education. I am a free market environmentalist. Unchecked environmental overlays will [sic] ultimately be counter-productive."
State Senator					
Floyd Prozanski <i>District 4-Eugene</i>	"Adequate and stable funding for education and job training; Increasing access to health care; Increasing family-waged jobs through [sic] Oregon"	"Increase access to education and job training; Increase access to health care and housing; Supporting non-governmental efforts to reduce poverty"	"Supporting community efforts to reduce poverty; Offer job placements and on-the-job training programs; Supporting community service projects (e.g. Habitat for Humanity)"	"Promote and use alternative fuels; Provide incentives for public and private sectors to build green; Encourage greater use of mass transit and rail service"	"Use non-toxic substances and alternative fuels; Reduce toxic emissions and properly dispose of toxic materials; Support local and statewide environmental projects"
Vicki Walker <i>District 7-Eugene</i>	"Improving quality, access and affordability of education, grades Pre-K through 16; Improve Oregon's health care system; Create more living wage jobs for Oregonians"	"Increase the availability of affordable housing; Capitalizing on regional assets to create more living wage jobs; Identify one agency in state government to develop and track coordinated efforts to reduce poverty"	"Provide living wage jobs and health care benefits to employees; Provide child care opportunities for employees; Collaboration with governments and education resources to identify and train for workforce needs"	"Encourage and develop biofuels production; Encourage and develop renewable energy; Create statewide standards on fuel and energy use"	"Prioritize clean air, land and water when making business decisions; Decrease reliance on fossil fuels; Use sustainable business practices"
Mario E. Magaña <i>District 8-Corvallis</i>	"Reform the K-12 education system and provide stable funding for it; Reform health care system so every Oregonian has access to affordable health care; Establish a lasting fair tax system"	"Help small businesses get established in order to create new jobs; Provide access to job training in emerging areas at community colleges; Work closely with local governments to make affordable housing available"	"Force them to pay their fair tax share; Encourage them to provide health care coverage for their employees; Bring into the state socially responsible companies that do not outsource jobs"	"Increase development of wind power; Fund research for non-fossil fuel powered vehicles; Revolutionize public transportation system"	"Enforce scientifically based emission limits; Fine and force companies to clean up their pollution; Provide tax incentives to companies involved in recycling toxic materials"
Paul Evans <i>District 10-Salem</i>	"Guarantee opportunity and justice for all; Provide a safe, sustainable environment; Protect our basic rights: to think, to act and live without fear"	"Invest in lifelong learning initiatives; Expand the Oregon Health Plan as well as insurance pools; Facilitate regional job creation magnet grants"	"Develop regional public/private collaborations for anti-poverty programming; Cooperate with faith organizations for targeted neighborhood solutions; Rekindle the flame of corporate responsibility/citizenship"	"Invest in regional energy independence plans and facilities; Collaborate with private partners to build alternative transportation; Expand community 'live-play-work' planning tools"	"Establish a 'preservation bank,' purchase natural spaces for preservation; Commit to alternatives to waterway discharge; Embrace enlira and sustainability standards as business practices"
Brad Avakian <i>District 17-Portland</i>	"Support Public Education; Restore faith and credibility in the legislative process; Broader access to health care"	"Provide an excellent K-12 Public Ed [sic] system; Support local companies that provide jobs; Fund assistance programs for those in need"	"Make day care available; Support an increase in minimum wage"	"Pass a Biofuels package; Support alternate transportation; Set goal to reduce dependence: 25% less by 2025"	"Agree to elimination of pollution control tax credits and voluntarily comply to emission limits; Engage in thoughtful urban planning that places hi [sic] density construction near urban centers and away from prime farm and forest land"
Kurt Schrader <i>District 20-Canby</i>	"Require performance/outcome based budgeting; Develop a seamless accountable stable K-16 education system; Work on a basic health care plan for all Oregonians"	"Give all Oregonians the opportunity for higher education; Develop a basic health care plan for all Oregonians; Emphasize ERDC, job training and support programs in the budget"	"Become part of the funding solution; Work with non-profits, state and religious groups to provide health care and education opportunities"	"Pass the 2005 original/bipartisan biofuels package; Encourage multi-modal and transit transportation; Work with the agriculture community on biofuel production"	"Continue non-regulatory incentives programs for Ag [sic] and Forestry; Encourage Hi-Tech to agree on an electronic recycling package; Ameliorate the bad effects of Measure 37"

Candidate	What are your three priorities if elected?	If elected, name three actions you would encourage state government take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage state government take to decrease dependence on fossil fuels.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to protect Oregon's environment.
Rod Monroe <i>District 24-Portland</i>	"Help stabilize our tax structure by creating a substantial 'rainy day' reserve using the 'kicker' money; Expand the Oregon Health Plan to cover all uninsured Oregonians using a substantial increase in tobacco taxes; Restore State Police to at least 1980 levels using an increase in Beer and Wine taxes or other appropriate revenues"	"Encourage the development of more family wage jobs; Protect Oregon's minimum wage law and provide child care for low income families; Promote universal health care"	"Provide health insurance for all employees and their families; Oppose initiatives that would limit the governments [sic] ability to provide basic services; Support increased funding for Community Colleges so that people can train for family wage jobs"	"Purchase only hybrid or alternative fuel vehicles for the government fleet; Encourage the production of biofuels; Invest in rail transit, both intercity and intracity, and in bicycle trails"	"Stop polluting streams and air; Increase recycling; Improve energy efficiency"
T.J. Reilly <i>District 24-Portland</i>	"Fix school funding problems; Fix health care problems; Create healthy job environment"	"Reward people who hire and train people who are on welfare; Improve drug abuse programs; Help community colleges to train people for new jobs"	"Encourage employers to develop [sic] more training programs; Encourage more employers to provide health insurance; Encourage more employers to provide child care"	"Develop new energy technology; Support wind farms; Support renewable energy"	"Encourage more recycling; Protect ground water run-off; Identify worse [sic] polluters"
State Representative					
Peter Buckley <i>District 5-Ashland</i>	"Ensure health care coverage; Significantly increase funding for workforce housing projects; Increase our investment in education"	"Commit to ending homelessness in our state within ten years; Support proactive, comprehensive sex education; Expand subsidized child care programs"	"Revise the corporate kicker so that revenue goes to education; Establish workplace child care programs; Make a decision on health care: employer-based or not?"	"Pass the original biodiesel package from 2005; Increase support for public transit; Increase incentives for solar, wind, wave, and biomass energy"	"Invest in alternative energy; Adhere to environmental regulations; Proactively address and acknowledge global warming"
Jean Cowan <i>District 10-Newport</i>	"I'm committed to: Making independent decisions —beyond the limits of strict partisanship; Promoting stable, well-funded schools; Expanding access to affordable healthcare"	"Give more Oregonians access to affordable medical care; Give more Oregonians access to affordable prescription drugs; Promote the creation of family wage jobs"	"Stop all predatory lending immediately; Help small business 'pool' health insurance costs; Sacrifice the corporate kicker to provide stable schools and services"	"Make Oregon a leader on biofuels; Make Oregon a leader on sustainable energy like wind; Mandate higher energy-efficient standards for cars, homes and businesses"	"Assist small businesses in taking steps to increase energy savings; Develop and grow green industries here in Oregon; Engage in forward-looking public/private partnerships"
Elizabeth Terry Beyer <i>District 12-Springfield</i>	"Adequately fund education; Create affordable health care for all; Caring for our most vulnerable [sic] citizens"	"Encourage creation of family-wage jobs; Expand reimbursable child-care credit; Expand the Oregon Health Plan"	"Provide Employee Family Health Insurance; Give up the corporate-kicker for Education; Where markets allow, increase wages toward a family-support level"	"Enact a renewable portfolio standard; Promote use of biofuels; Set an example by converting state fleet to alternative fuels/hybrid [sic]"	"Adopt sustainable development standards; Strive to reduce pollution below current standards; Reduce energy demands/ use"
Nancy Nathanson <i>District 13-N. Eugene</i>	"Health care: improve access, reduce cost; Safer communities: invest in treatment, prevention, enforcement; Education and job training: stabilize funding, increase if possible"	"Expand prescription drug purchasing pools, enable affordable health insurance for small business; Reinvest in vocational education, job training; Protect Oregon's minimum wage"	"Provide benefits to employees; Pay employees a living wage; Continue supporting local schools and community programs"	"Group purchasing programs helping local governments purchase alternative fuel vehicles; Utility investment in alternative energy sources; Promote public transportation (light/heavy rail, etc.)"	"Use 'green' building principles; Use land wisely, grow up, not out; Encourage alternate transportation: bus passes, flexible scheduling, carpooling credits, etc."
Chris Edwards <i>District 14-Eugene</i>	"Increasing access to affordable Health Care; Ensuring stable funding for our schools so our kids get the education they deserve; Cutting government waste"	"Reduce health care costs; Conduct audits of state programs to make sure they're doing a good job delivering the services families need; Support Head Start"	"Support stable education funding; Encourage employee involvement in mentoring and other school programs; Work in partnership with government to reduce barriers to job creation"	"Give tax incentives to Oregon farmers for growing crops used to produce alternative fuels; Set energy standards so that more power comes from renewable sources; Support the development of a sustainable energy program"	"Use 'green' technology where appropriate; Increase recycling; Use more renewable energy sources where appropriate"
Sara Gelser <i>District 16-Corvallis</i>	"Redesign services to children with severe disabilities so they may be supported at home rather than in nursing facilities or foster care; Expansion of health coverage to all Oregon children; Adequate funding of K-12 schools"	"Implementation of a Medicaid waiver that would allow families of medically needy children to support them at home without having to choose to live in poverty; Increase funding to higher education, particularly community colleges, to give people the tools they need to move out of poverty; Support child care subsidies for low income workers"	"Encourage dependent health insurance coverage for employees; Encourage investment in workforce development and continuing education programs for workers; Encourage non-profits and private organizations to work collaboratively to provide supportive services to individuals seeking work (clothes closets, interview training, skills training, etc.)"	"Invest in research for the development of alternative energy resources, including wave energy and biofuels; Support implementation of the Clean Cars initiative; Support smart land use planning that discourages urban sprawl to prevent unnecessary car trips"	"Enforce emissions standards for Oregon industries, including in the Columbia River Gorge; Urge cooperation with local groups like watershed councils to do private property owner restoration and preservation; Urge new construction to comply with LEED standards"
Jim Gilbert <i>District 18-Molalla</i>	"Reduce the crippling cost of health care for Oregon's businesses and citizens; Restore trust in government and elected officials; Provide good educational opportunities for all our children"	"Increase funding for the Oregon Health Plan to make sure that all Oregon children are covered; Reduce prescription drug costs for Oregonians by allowing the state to bargain for lower prices; Fund education to reduce the dropout rate and extend the school year to 175 days, improving employment opportunities for our citizens"	"Provide health insurance to employees; Raise wages where possible; Donate surplus food and other supplies to charitable organizations"	"Establish renewable fuel standards to spur growth of the biodiesel industry; Reduce or eliminate road taxes on biodiesel; Establish stricter emissions and mileage standards for vehicles"	"Provide better treatment for industrial waste discharges; Reduce water and energy use by using drip irrigation; Increase recycling of plastics, glass, and other materials"
Brian Grisham <i>District 19-Salem</i>	"Incentive-based government; Cheaper, more accessible health care; Fully funded, K-12 education"	"Incentives for preventative health care; Increased accessibility to needed services; 10-year plan to end homelessness"	"Partner with government to do items [in previous column]; Expand insurance coverage; Support raising the corporate minimum tax"	"Research into alternative fuels/energy; Incentives for conservation efforts; Stricter enforcement of environmental laws"	"Increased use of alternative energy; Upgraded energy conservation programs; Greater use of cleaner transportation"
Connie Garcia <i>District 20-Independence</i>	"Fight for predictable and adequate funding for public education; Work on affordable health care for all Oregonians; Promote legislation for a safe and healthy environment"	"Encourage stable, living wage jobs in the state; Encourage childcare for low-income working families; Expand career education for low-income families"	"Encourage business, through incentives, to commit to 40 hour a week employment; Expand on-site daycare; Find support to stabilize small business and their employees"	"Save energy rather than buying it—provide incentives for employees; Focus new purchase on fuel efficient building and machinery; Consolidate and better organize individual travel"	"Limit agriculture and other open burning; Provide incentives to recycle and use business waste products; Encourage conservation of transportation use"

Candidate	What are your three priorities if elected?	If elected, name three actions you would encourage state government take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage state government take to decrease dependence on fossil fuels.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to protect Oregon's environment.
Brian Clem <i>District 21-Salem</i>	"Ensure adequate funding for education; Improve the economy and make health care more affordable; Restore faith in the citizen legislature"	"Support small businesses in Oregon; Close tax loopholes, increase corporate minimum tax to help fund programs; Support programs that help individuals obtain employment/education"	"Encourage local businesses to help in the fight against hunger"	"Support legislation increasing the use of biofuels; Advocate for alternative forms of transportation; Create incentives for alternative forms of energy in businesses"	"Promote efforts such as the farmers conservation alliance; Support programs like the food alliance"
Billy Datto <i>District 21-Salem</i>	"Protecting Oregon's economy, ensuring that people have jobs; Strengthen our safety net, including health insurance for uninsured children; Restoring education cuts by investing more resources"	"Better job training and support; Stronger educational programs; Improved investment in child care for working families"	"Contribute more money to local charities; Create incentives for employees to volunteer; Employ more people with barriers such as physical, mental, or developmental disability"	"Utilize existing alternative energy sources in publicly owned fleets; Educate the public about choices to reduce personal fuel consumption; Increase support for alternative energy research"	"Keep the environment in mind when making business decisions; Listen to the community about environmental issues; Invest more in technologies to protect the environment"
Charles Lee <i>District 25-Keizer</i>	"Provide leadership that will bring together leaders from both sides of the aisle to work toward common goal solutions for Oregonians, not special interests or partisan politics; Ensure that our schools have stable funding that makes it into the classroom, where it does the most good; Lower the cost of health care by allowing small businesses and school districts to pool health insurance"	"Make sure that our high school graduates are prepared not only college [sic], but are properly educated and ready to enter the workforce; Provide incentives to families who are willing to adopt children displaced by meth homes; Lead the way to enforce and strengthen reform on predatory lenders that have taken advantage of working families in financial emergencies"	"Encourage businesses to provide incentives to employees who volunteer for community service activities; Provide tax credits to small businesses who offer health insurance for their employees; Encourage businesses to sponsor local charities that assist those in need"	"Provide incentives for Oregon farmers for growing crops that are used to produce alternative fuels; Set energy standards so at least 10% of the power provided to Oregon consumers comes from renewable sources like wind, solar, and geothermal sources; Require stricter emission standards and higher fuel efficiency in newly manufactured vehicles"	"Provide tax credits for using fuel efficient and hybrid vehicles in their commercial fleet; Encourage businesses to cut waste, increase recycling efforts, and implement paperless office policies; Provide tax credits to businesses that utilize renewable energy"
Chuck Riley <i>District 29-Hillsboro</i>	"Improve education; Sunset and review tax expenditures; Improve access to health care"	"Create jobs (family wage jobs); Control usury lending; End abusive tax shelters"	"Commit to: Paying family wages; Funding job training; Providing health care"	"Encourage use of hybrid and electric vehicles; Help develop wind power; Help develop solar power"	"Same as [previous question]"
Brad Witt <i>District 31-Clatskanie</i>	"Promote affordable health care as a basic need; Pass adequate school funding legislation; Advance economic, environmental and social sustainability"	"Undertake sustainable economic development; Target hiring in economically depressed areas; Adopt standards for a true family 'living wage'"	"Pay family levels of wages and benefits; Require managers to spend a weekend living on minimum wages; Target hiring in economically depressed areas"	"Adopt the Apollo Project as a state policy; Incent [sic] wind energy development; Incent [sic] biofuels development"	"Adopt sustainability as a policy; Commit 1/10% of all development costs to environmental rehabilitation; Encourage each company to adopt its own environmental project"
Suzanne Bonamici <i>District 34-Beaverton</i>	"Obtain stable and adequate funding for public schools and strengthen our state universities; Improve [sic] access to and reduce the costs of healthcare by offering more bulk purchasing for prescription drugs, creating pooling for business, and covering more uninsured; Create safer communities by fighting identity theft and the methamphetamine epidemic"	"Maintain the minimum wage and the refundable earned income tax credit; Protect consumers from predatory lending practices; Expand the Oregon Health Plan to cover children under the age of 18"	"Form partnerships to work on projects like affordable housing; Support funding for programs like the Oregon Food Bank that address poverty issues; Provide comprehensive health insurance benefits to employees and their dependents whenever possible"	"Create incentives to encourage the use of renewable energy sources; Encourage and promote the development of bio fuels in Oregon; Promote conservation as a cost-effective way of reducing reliance on fossil fuels"	"Purchase renewable energy for business use and encourage reduction of energy use; Implement sustainable business practices, including green building whenever feasible; Support the process of adopting the Low Emissions vehicle standards"
Larry Galizio <i>District 35-Tigard</i>	"Improving public education; Increasing access and affordability of healthcare; Reducing the partisanship in Salem"	"Tax reform; Improve education funding; Increase affordable housing stock"	"Lobby to end corporate kicker; Increase corporate minimum; Increase public/private partnerships"	"Pass a comprehensive Biofuels package; Provide incentives for corporate and individual decreased use of fossil fuels; Set targets for gov. [sic] vehicle use of Biodiesel"	"Stop asking for a pollution control tax credit from Salem; Enhance R & D in these areas; Help set public agenda by calling for action"
Mary Nolan <i>District 36-Portland</i>	"Supporting an excellent public school system, from pre-school through K-12 and higher education; Protecting the civil liberties of all who call Oregon home; Moving toward an equitable, progressive and sufficient tax structure to support services that strengthen Oregonians"	"Expand health care access so every Oregonian can get and afford medical care; Preserve Oregon's minimum wage law, including annual indexing for cost-of-living; Support an excellent public school system"	"Participate as responsible partners in funding basic public services, especially schools and health care; Provide good affordable health insurance for your employees and their families; Work collaboratively with schools to design curricula that help businesses and employees thrive"	"Help Tri-Met and other transit agencies operate efficiently and well; Require more efficient standards for new cars and trucks sold in Oregon; Simplify the permit process for new wind and solar energy facilities"	"Provide easy recycling for products sold in Oregon, especially electronic products like computers; Comply with clean air and water standards, and pay for it without subsidy; Cooperate with community groups and neighborhoods to reduce hazardous pollution"
Bev Backa <i>District 37-West Linn</i>	"Quality and Affordable Healthcare; Fully funded education; Enforcement of DEQ standards for the Willamette River and other waterways"	"Maintain and even expand the OHP standard coverage; Fully funded Head Start programs; Medical coverage for every child under 18"	"Honor the prevailing wage laws as they currently exist; Provide quality healthcare coverage that has low deductibles with fully covered premiums; Support the development of affordable housing"	"Expansion of biofuels capacities; Mandate utilities to expand renewable energy options; Continue tax credits for hybrid vehicles"	"Obey Willamette River dumping regulations; Refrain from exploiting land use loopholes created by Measure 37; Use low water and sustainable landscaping"
Greg Macpherson <i>District 38-Lake Oswego</i>	"Improve opportunity for all Oregonians; Allocate scarce state resources most effectively; Improve Oregon's system of criminal justice"	"Enhance investment in early childhood education; Expand health coverage so fewer Oregonians are impoverished by major illness; Resist attempts to weaken or repeal restrictions on payday lending"	"Encourage personal savings; Provide automatic enrollment in 401(k) plans; Educate employees about financial matters"	"Support disincentives for driving larger, heavier vehicles; Fix flaws in Measure 37 to avoid sprawl development; Require minimum level of alternative fuel use in motor vehicles"	"Comply with requirement for driving larger, heavier vehicles; Construct sidewalks as part of all new residential construction; Place employment locations on public transportation lines"
Mike Caudle <i>District 39-Oregon City</i>	"Putting kids first; Protecting and supporting working families; Making Salem smarter and more accountable"	"Rein in all predatory lenders; Ensure all children have access to quality healthcare; Create a commission to oversee all insurance rate hikes"	"Help credit unions reach out to those who use payday lenders; Push insurance companies to provide affordable healthcare; Help small businesses offer their workers healthcare"	"Examine the feasibility [sic] of moving the state fleet to biodiesel or ethanol; Invest in alternative energies, like wind and ethanol; Offer incentives for agencies that decrease their energy use"	"Conduct oversight to ensure laws are being enforced; Invest in alternative energy; Offer incentives for individuals and businesses to decrease their energy use"
Carolyn Tomei <i>District 41-Milwaukie</i>	"Lower drug costs and increase access to health care; Fund schools to assure full school year and smaller classes; Encourage energy conservation and production of 'clean' fuels"	"Increase availability of affordable housing; Promote job creation and training; Assure access to health care"	"Increase availability of low-cost housing; Provide affordable health insurance for all employees; Support education and training of lower-skilled workforce"	"Provide incentives for production/use of biofuels; Emphasize green building and fuel efficiency to conserve energy; Promote wind, wave and alternative methods of energy production"	"Utilize all current technologies for energy conservation; Upgrade pollution control systems to protect air and water quality; Encourage fuel efficient autos"

Candidate	What are your three priorities if elected?	If elected, name three actions you would encourage state government take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to reduce poverty in Oregon.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage government take to decrease dependence on fossil fuels.	If elected, name three actions you would encourage the private sector take to protect Oregon's environment.
Diane Rosenbaum <i>District 42-Portland</i>	"Provide a world-class education for every Oregon child, with a full school year, smaller class sizes, and affordable college tuition; Create quality, affordable healthcare coverage for every Oregonian; health should not depend on wealth; Reform Oregon's unstable and unfair system of taxation: reduce taxes on low-income families and workers, and close corporate loopholes to fund education and human services"	"Protect Oregon's minimum wage and preserve cost-of-living annual increase; Promote affordable housing and provide low-income renter credit; Expand basic healthcare coverage for uninsured low-income Oregonians"	"Provide healthcare coverage for all employees; Provide sick leave and childcare so workers don't have to choose between their job and their family; Create school to work programs that match young people with job and learning opportunities"	"Adopt renewable energy standard: 25% of all energy by 2025; Pass strong biofuels package: Oregon can be a leader in biodiesel, supporting local business and creating jobs; Support Governor's 'clean cars' program to reduce air pollution and global warming"	"Encourage telecommuting and use of mass transit by employees; Practice energy conservation in buildings and manufacturing; Create computer recycling program and expand Oregon's bottle bill"
Tina Kotek <i>District 44-Portland</i>	"Increase access to affordable, quality health care; Lower the cost of child care for working families; Bring fairness and stability to Oregon's tax system"	"Control the cost of health care; Fund programs that prevent (not just treat) financial problems facing Oregonians; Recruit employers that offer family-wage jobs"	"Offer on-site child care; Start home ownership assistance programs for employees; Provide free tax preparation help at work"	"Increase energy efficiency and conservation at state facilities; Improve the fuel efficiency of state cars; Increase Oregon's utility supply coming from renewable resources"	"Increase energy efficiency and conservation at work; Buy local; Support employees' use of mass transit if available"
Jackie Dingfelder <i>District 45-Portland</i>	"Secure stable funding for our schools; Expand and restore Oregon Health Plan; Tax Reform"	"Expand EITC Program; Expand Child Care Subsidies; Pass a Renter's Tax Credit bill"	"Offer health insurance to all employees; Provide funding for child care; Assist with tuition payments for worker's children"	"Pass biofuels package; Promote more renewable energy usage statewide through standards; Expand energy efficiency bill I passed last session"	"Adequately fund natural resource agencies; Phase out use of toxic PBDEs (flame retardants); Promote carpooling, use of public transit, flextime and working from home to reduce air pollution from cars"
Ben Cannon <i>District 46-Portland</i>	"To secure stable and adequate funding for schools; To expand coverage and contain health care costs; To promote environmental sustainability"	"Increase funding for DHS programs that help protect people from poverty and illness; Expand health care coverage; Strengthen consumer protection"	"Provide a livable wage; Increase workplace flexibility for parents and other caregivers; Approach collective bargaining/unionization in good faith"	"Accelerate government's transition to alternative fuels, fuel-efficient vehicles, and renewable power sources by adopting stricter standards"	"Support efforts to adopt renewable portfolio energy standards for Oregon; Purchase alternative energy; Maximize energy efficiency within the workplace"
Jeff Merkley <i>District 47-Portland</i>	"Guarantee a full school year and strong programs in all of Oregon's schools; Lower the cost of health care; Generate jobs families can live on"	"Cap the devastating 500% interest rates on payday loans; Provide consumer finance classes in high schools; Improve job opportunities"	"Strengthen employer health-care insurance programs; Expand Oregon's bulk purchasing program to reduce the cost of drugs; Protect the minimum wage"	"Support tax credits for bio-diesel and other bio-fuels; Provide lower license fees on fuel-efficient cars; Expand electricity generated from wind and solar power"	"Defend the new car 'tailpipe' standards; Improve standards on mercury emissions from smoke stacks; Strengthen recycling of batteries and toxic electronic products"
Mike Schauler <i>District 48-Happy Valley</i>	"Attract/retain investment in Oregon; Create jobs/employment opportunity; Generate revenue without raising taxes"	"Provide/fund educational opportunities; Provide health care to all Oregonians; Support/fund mental health"	"Work with gov't. [sic], not against gov't. [sic]; Recognize the benefit of a healthy middle class; Help educate/train work force"	"Bio-fuels incentives; Promote wind, solar, wave energy; Recognize that 45% of Oregon's energy comes from hydro power and encourage more hydro"	"Be proactive in being environmentally aware; Take steps voluntarily to reduce pollution; Invest in environmentally friendly industry"
Rob Brading <i>District 49-Fairview</i>	"Improving educational opportunities for everyone, regardless of age; Broadening access to affordable health care through pooling purchasing power and requiring transparency in insurance and hospital costs; Creating avenues for the people of Oregon to actively and effectively participate in legislative decision-making"	"Improving educational opportunities for all, including access to affordable college and vocational and professional training programs; Rewarding work by cutting taxes for low-income workers; Cracking down on predatory lenders like car title and payday lenders by capping interest rates for ALL loans"	"Providing affordable health care to employees and their families; Giving workers adequate leave to deal with family emergencies so they aren't forced to choose between their job and taking care of their families; Refraining from union-busting and anti-union actions and allowing workers to freely organize"	"Developing markets for alternative fuels such as bio-diesel and ethanol; Encouraging conservation and the use of alternative energy such as wind power; Supporting alternatives to commuting by automobile such as mass transit and telecommuting"	"Fight global warming by voluntarily reducing CO ² emissions by using alternative sources of energy; Adopting the use of sustainable business practices, including aggressive recycling of office and yard debris; Implementing product stewardship so that manufacturers of problem waste (e.g., computers, paints, pesticides) take responsibility for recycling and for proper disposal of their products"
John Lim <i>District 50-Gresham</i>	"Increase family wage jobs with environmentally sensitive companies; Provide adequate and stable school funding; Defend safer communities by continuing fight on meth"	"Strong economic development with increase in international trade; Continued support for Oregon Health Plan; Revamp JOBS Plus"	"Encourage strong involvement in programs such as the Food Bank; Incorporate faith-based organizations into stakeholding"	"I supported the biodiesels package and will continue to support next session; Continue to utilize solar, geothermal, and wind energy sources"	"Give incentives to using alternative fuels such as biodiesel; Car pooling; Encourage hybrid and bicycle use; Each individual should practice conservation"
Suzanne Van Orman <i>District 52-Hood River</i>	"Education; Health Care; Government Accountability"	"Improve funding for Education—all ages; Improve and expand the Oregon Health Plan; Improve availability of affordable housing"	"Give money to agencies serving the poor; Develop partnerships with those agencies; Support education by paying their fair share of taxes"	"Use biofuels; Purchase hybrid [sic] autos when possible; Develop more public transportation"	"Use biofuels; Purchase hybrids; Support environmental efforts"
Bill A. Smith <i>District 53-Bend</i>	"Stop partisan politics; Stable funding for all state agencies (Rainy Day Fund); Bringing young folks back into the political process"	"Improve education-by-adequate funding; Build partnerships (business and gov't. [sic] education); Health care coverage for all children"	"Build partnerships with education—all levels; Work with state to provide affordable health care"	"Develop public-private (working together) transportation system; Energy efficient buildings (all new buildings); Develop alternative energy sources"	"Develop alternative energy sources; Work for strong land use planning; Work to straighten out the Prop #37 mess"
Phil Philiben <i>District 54-Bend</i>	"Full and stable funding for education; Access to affordable health care; Comprehensive energy policy"	"Promote and attract living wage jobs; Affordable health care program; Increase funding for education"	"Pay a living wage; Hire Oregonians first/before out of state; Public/private training-use community college system"	"Adopt Apollo Alliance Program; Require green building (LEED) for public projects; Expand BETC (Business Energy Tax Credit) and RETC (Residential Energy Tax Credit)"	"Encourage Green Building (LEED); Promote flex time and work from home projects; Establish Green Business Tool Box and Network"
Jim Gilbertson <i>District 59-Culver</i>	"Establish a permanent adequate source of education funding; Promote bi-partisanship; Establish better health-care"	"Health care for all children 0-12 yrs [sic]; Enhance the Oregon Health Plan; Give tax credits to business [sic] who give/share needs to poor"	"Give clothing, food to Salvation Army; Have workshops for education to adults; Provide jobs when possible"	"Build more windmills—farm the wind; Use more solar power; Use biomass"	"Recycle more waste; Chip the wood leftover in forest instead of slash burning; Go toward hydrogen usage"

Please note: Candidate questionnaires received after the publication deadline of the *Guide* will be posted on EMO's Web site at www.emoregon.org.

Measure 42

Statutory Amendment—Prohibits insurance companies from using credit score or "credit worthiness" in calculating rates or premiums.

Additional Information

PRO: Ban Insurance Discrimination, (503) 806-5187
CON: Oregonians Against Insurance Rate Increases, (503) 363-7084, www.stop42.com

Analysis — Credit scores are among several risk factors assessed by insurance companies when setting their premium rates and when granting a policy to new customers, especially policies regarding homeowners and automobiles. Other factors include age, marital status, driving record, location, house construction, etc., depending on the type of policy. Presently, Oregon only permits the use of credit scores for granting new policies but not for renewals.

Proponents of the measure argue that credit scores bear no correlation to risk potential and are prone to misinterpretation. Thus, the use of credit scores would adversely affect consumers by either increasing their premiums or denying coverage. Proponents argue that when credit scores are assessed with zip codes, low-income areas and communities of color would be disproportionately affected with higher premiums or denial of coverage. They cite the findings from a study by the Missouri Department of Insurance in 2004 as evidence.

Opponents of the measure argue that credit scores are statistically valid and non-discriminatory.

Credit scores help to predict risk such as the probability of claim filing, claim frequency and claim cost. Opponents also argue that it would unfairly discriminate against insurance companies when other industries use credit scores. The Texas Department of Insurance conducted studies in 2004 and 2005 on the use of credit scores. It concluded that credit scores are actuarially supported but do disproportionately affect low-income communities and communities of color. However, the Texas Department of Insurance also concluded that the use of credit scores is not inherently unfair.

EMO Recommendation — **Vote "YES."** The EMO Board believes the use of credit scores in insurance policies does disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color regardless if its use is not intentionally discriminatory. Access to affordable insurance policies is important to individual and family livelihood. Higher premium rates or lack of coverage leave vulnerable populations at greater risk than necessary. The role of insurance is to help spread risk so that the greatest number of people can enjoy certain benefits like homeownership and automobile transportation. Banning the use of credit scores would not be a hardship for insurance companies nor would it prevent them from accurately assessing risk using other factors.

Measure 44

Statutory Amendment—Allows any Oregon resident without prescription drug coverage to participate in Oregon prescription drug program.

Additional Information

PRO: Prescription For A Healthy Oregon, (888) 654-2273, www.yesonmeasure44.org
CON: Unavailable at time of publication; for information, call (503) 221-1054 or visit www.emoregon.org.

Analysis — In 2003, the Oregon Legislature passed legislation that created a limited statewide bulk prescription drug purchase program to increase the availability and affordability of prescription drugs to a limited number of Oregon's low-income elderly population. In order to reduce the costs of prescription drugs, a purchasing pool was created. The program permitted employees of state agencies, the Public Employees' Benefit Board, local governments, OHSU and enrollees in the state Senior Prescription Drug Assistance Program to join the pool as way to increase price leverage. Presently, the program only permits Oregon residents 54 years old or older, without private insurance and with income below \$1,510 per month (185 percent of Federal Poverty Level). In 2005, an effort to expand the program failed after the Oregon House of Representatives did not act despite its passage in the Senate.

Proponents argue that expansion of the purchasing pool would further reduce the costs of prescription drugs, making them more widely available to residents without health insurance. They state that the expansion would not cost additional tax dollars because the state already negotiates with pharmaceutical companies under the existing

program. They also argue that the discounts would come from pharmaceutical companies' rebates and not public funds. They say another benefit of expansion is that the program would help cover the gap in drug coverage under Medicare Part D.

Opponents argue that the current program has not experienced the level of participation anticipated; meaning the need for expanding it to all Oregon residents is premature. They also argue that it would lead to private employers dropping prescription drug coverage in their health insurance plans to reduce cost. Further, they argue the program would be an unwarranted intrusion in the private health care market by state government. This would lead to a single payer system and fewer choices for private purchasers of health insurance.

EMO Recommendation — **Vote "YES."** The EMO Board believes that care of one's physical and mental health should not be limited by financial means. Life itself as physically manifested is a gift from God to care for. Without health, one cannot realize his/her full potential as God intended. The high cost of drugs and health insurance are significant barriers to many people in the world. Prices of drugs are increasing yearly due to a number of reasons. There are approximately 780,000 Oregon residents that would be eligible for the program if expanded. This measure would help reduce costs, especially for older residents facing the coverage gap in drug coverage under Medicare Part D and those without sufficient insurance coverage.

Measure 43

Statutory Amendment—Requires 48-hour written notice to unemancipated minor's parent before providing abortion to unemancipated minor.

Additional Information

PRO: Committee to Protect Our Teen Daughters, (503) 390-3645; www.protectourteendaughters.com
CON: No on 43, (503) 234-9300, www.noonip51.net

Analysis — There are no laws in Oregon that require parental notification for minors ages 15 or older seeking to terminate a pregnancy. Parental consent is required for all medical procedures including abortion for minors under the age of 14 years old. In 1990, Oregon voters rejected a similar measure. There are three categories of laws governing minors that seek abortions. They are consent, notification or a requirement of consent and notification. Consent requires the approval of at least one parent or legal guardian. Notification requires written notification from a physician. Twenty-five states require consent and 23 states require notification.

Proponents argue that an abortion is a significant medical procedure in which the parent or legal guardian should be notified, unlike other notification requirements for lesser procedures like aspirin dispensing. They argue that minors should benefit from parental support in order to consider other options before choosing an abortion. They also argue that parental notification helps stop statutory rape. There is a provision that bypasses parental notification in cases where the minor's safety is concerned.

Opponents argue that minors are already free to consult their parent or legal guardian without a legal requirement. Doctors are also legally permitted to contact the parent or legal guardian without the minor's consent. They argue that the bypass provision would place minors under the authority of administrative judges without experience with troubled youth. They also argue that parental notification laws would only delay the procedure at the expense of the minor.

EMO Recommendation — **No recommendation.** It is the policy of EMO not to take positions contrary to the theological underpinnings or divisive for any of its member communions.

Save the Date: Interfaith Advocacy Day on Feb. 19

For the first time, *Interfaith Advocacy Day* at the state Capitol in Salem will fall on President's Day, Feb. 19, 2007. This is an opportunity for many to attend who could not in the past because of work, family or school commitments.

Every legislative session, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon brings together communities of faith for a day of worship and advocacy at the state Capitol. It is a tradition of putting faith into action and being in solidarity with those that who seek justice.

To register early or for more information, please call (503) 221-1054 or go to www.emoregon.org.

Measure 45

Additional Information

PRO: Oregon Term Limits '06, (503) 358-0421, www.oregontermlimits.org

CON: Unavailable at time of publication; for information, call (503) 221-1054 or visit www.emoregon.org.

Analysis — The elected offices of state representative and senator for the state Legislature are no longer term limited since the Oregon Supreme Court overturned in 2002 Measure 3, passed in 1992. The court ruled that Measure 3 violated the “single subject” rule that prohibits two separate Oregon Constitutional amendments in a single ballot measure. Fifteen states currently have term limits for state legislators. All term limit laws were enacted in the 1990s, except for one of the states. Six states have since repealed or overturned term limits for various reasons, including Washington and Idaho.

Proponents argue that term limits would reduce political corruption, citing Oregon’s Measures 28

Constitutional Amendment—Limits state legislators: six years as representative, eight years as senator, 14 in Legislature.

and 30, two tax measures, as examples of special interests and incumbency largesse (Oregon voters rejected both measures). They also argue that term limits would attract a greater number of qualified candidates because of open seats occurring regularly.

Opponents argue that term limits would increase political corruption by placing power and influence at the hands of veteran lobbyists and career bureaucrats. They argue that state legislators would not have the parliamentary expertise or institutional memory to prevent special interests from manipulating the process. They also argue that it leads to greater partisanship.

EMO Recommendation — Vote “NO.” The EMO Board upholds its opposition to term limits as it did in 1992 with Measure 3. It finds that term limits are inherently undemocratic because they deprive

voters from retaining their preferred candidate. Incumbency is not necessarily problematic or morally suspect. Veteran lawmakers are just as capable and likely of serving the public interest or being corruptible as junior lawmakers. Voters in Oregon have demonstrated the ability to vote for change several times. In the 1990 election, Republicans took control of the Oregon House of Representatives after 16 years of Democratic control. Since 1995, Republicans gained control of the Oregon Senate until a 15-15 split occurred in the 2002 election. In the 2004 election, Democrats took full control. Corrupting influences are a result of undue influence exerted by groups and individuals who hold their interests over that of the common good. Term limits would not necessarily change that. Other measures such as effective campaign finance and lobbying reform are more direct methods than term limits to reduce corruption.

Measure 46 & 47

Additional Information

PRO: Fair Elections, (800) 939-8011, www.fairelections.net

CON: Our Oregon, (503) 239-8029, www.ouroregon.org

Analysis — Presently, there are no campaign contribution limits for Oregon elected offices, unlike federal elected positions such as U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative and President. Instead, there are reporting requirements with the Secretary of State for campaign contributions and expenditures. In 1994, Oregon voters passed Measure 9, a similar campaign finance law with contribution limits. The courts struck down the measure as unconstitutional. Voters also defeated Measure 6, public financing of campaigns in 2000. The Oregon Constitution prohibits campaign contribution limits or expenditures. In order for Measure 47 to become law, Measure 46 needs to be passed simultaneously in order to amend the Oregon Constitution. If Measure 46 fails at the ballot, so will Measure 47.

Proponents argue that limits on campaign contributions are needed to in order to reduce corruption in the political process. They argue that the most effective methods are: prohibiting

Measure 46: Constitutional Amendment—Allows laws regulating election contributions, expenditures adopted by initiative of three-fourths of both legislative houses.

Measure 47: Statutory Amendment—Revises campaign finance laws: limits or prohibits contributions and expenditures; adds disclosure, new reporting requirements.

candidate loans; prohibiting use of campaign funds carried over from prior elections; limiting expenditures by individuals, political action committees, political parties and non-profits; and prohibiting direct union or corporate contributions. They also argue that unlimited individual contributions of \$50 or less is the most effective way to reduce undue influence.

Opponents agree that campaign finance reform is needed but disagree on the methodology in Measure 47. They argue that the courts would strike down the measure’s expenditure limits for individuals and political parties and limits on candidate expenditures, leaving an incomplete campaign finance system that would be detrimental to public interest. They

also argue that legal challenges would set back the movement to reform campaign financing.

EMO Recommendation — Vote “NO” on both Measures 46 and 47. The EMO Board believes that campaign finance reform is an ethical imperative to ensure fairness and equal representation of all people in society. Given the likelihood of the courts striking Measure 47’s expenditure limits, the result would be that wealthy individuals and political parties would dominate campaign financing at the expense of individuals of lesser means. Until the U.S. Supreme Court reinterprets campaign expenditures as not speech, a better method is a voluntary system based on public financing with oversight.

Measure 48

Additional Information

Pro: Taxpayer Association of Oregon, (503) 603-9009, www.rainydayamendment.com

Con: Defend Oregon Coalition, (503) 231-3672, www.defendoregon.org

Analysis — Presently, state government spending is limited to no more than eight percent of projected personal income in a biennium. Federal funds and donated moneys are excluded from the spending limit. In 2001, the Legislature enacted the spending limit to replace an existing limit that was complicated to administer. Measure 48 would require the Oregon Legislature to reach a two-thirds majority in order to refer a ballot to voters to bypass the limit.

Proponents argue that state government spends more for public services than necessary due to administrative inefficiency and incorrect priorities. They argue that state spending should fall in line with inflation and population growth. They also

Constitutional Amendment—Limits biennial percentage increase in state spending to percentage increase in state population, plus inflation.

argue that a state spending limit is a rainy day fund for economic downturns, although the measure does not specifically call for one.

Opponents argue that a spending limit would affect the state’s ability to provide public services asked for by citizens. They argue that state government serves specific segments of the state’s populations such as unemployed or laid off workers, seniors, children and prisoners that grow at a faster rate than the general population. Education, human services and public safety spending would be inadequate to serve those populations. They also argue that state health services would be severely cut because health care inflation generally rises faster than the Consumer Price Index.

EMO Recommendation — Vote “NO.” The EMO Board believes that a restrictive state spending limit like Measure 48 is counter to the common good. Democratic government’s role is to ensure that certain social systems permit people to fulfill their individual and mutual interests such as education, health, personal safety, financial opportunity and recreational pursuits. Measure 48 would hurt the elderly, children, the disabled and the mentally ill who depend on state services.

Citizens should demand accountability from its government, but it does not mean harming the most vulnerable in doing so with such a blunt tool. Accountability can be achieved by more constructive ways such as participating in the legislative process, voting, communicating with elected officials and government agencies, and campaign finance and lobbying reform.