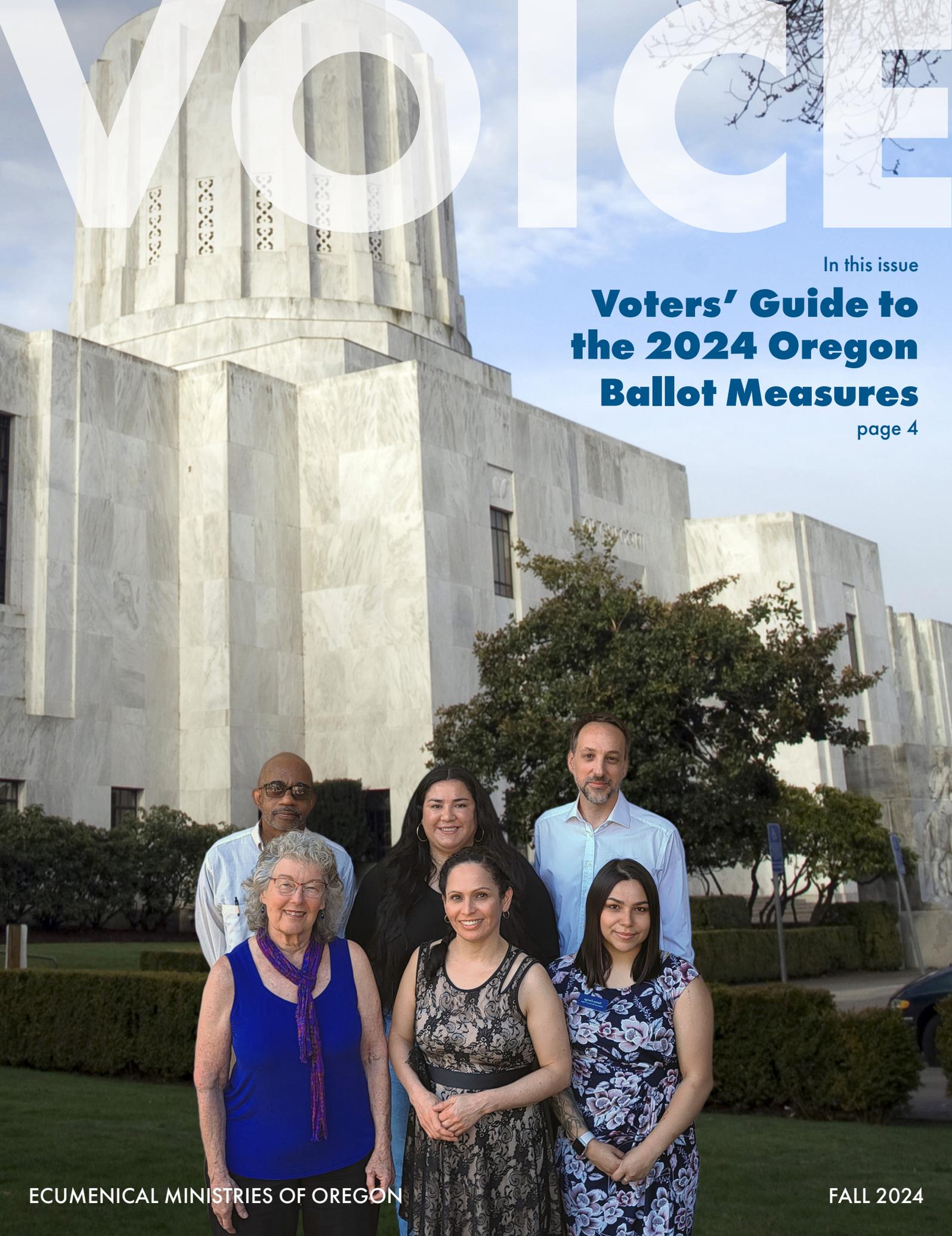


VOICE

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The VOICE is published by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. EMO brings together diverse communities of faith to learn, serve, and advocate for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation.

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ON THE COVER

EMO's Public Policy Team (clockwise from top left): The Rev. Cecil Prescod, Lorena Ambriz, Britt Conroy, Savina Zuniga, Nacia Castañeda and Patti Whitney Wise.

Photo by Michelle Bush.

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“We encourage our fellow citizens to practice tolerance and to build bridges based on our common values of love, justice, harmony, and mutual respect.”

Dear Readers,

In this general election year with extremists on both sides of the political spectrum making false accusations, spreading conspiracy theories, and causing unwarranted fear, we must seek dialogue for the sake of learning and not for merely argument, yelling, and mockery. Be it our advocacy efforts with legislators, Interfaith Advocacy Day in Salem or online meetings with decision makers, we must invest in these opportunities to engage.

In August, EMO held our annual education and dialogue event, the Collins Lecture. This year, the topic was “Politics and Faith in a Divided World,” featuring two Global South leaders. While there were members of the community who expressed concern over one of our speakers, we were glad to see a number of those individuals attend the event to listen and engage.

At EMO, we strive to bring opportunities for dialogue to those who seek to challenge their own opinions and grow in their perspectives. We devote our time, energies and resources to bring our communities together, especially during times like a contentious election season. In that effort, interfaith members of the Common Table of Oregon drafted the following Statement of Unity, signed by nearly 100 Oregon interfaith leaders to date.

Oregon's faith communities stand for love, justice and harmony. We do not believe that any form of violence will solve the issues facing our community. We work together to foster understanding, combat hate in all its forms and promote love for all people.

As leaders in Oregon's faith communities, we commit ourselves to be peacemakers in this time of heightened violence and fear. Violence in the world is also in our communities within the United States, and many are feeling threatened—both physically and emotionally. We abhor the hatred and bias that lead to such violence. We oppose any false information that inflames hostilities.

Despite our differing political and religious views, we call on ALL people of conscience to stand against hatred, bigotry, and discord and to be the peacemakers that God calls us to be.

We encourage our fellow citizens to practice tolerance and to build bridges based on our common values of love, justice, harmony, and mutual respect. We urge our civic and elected leaders to foster environments for dialogue and understanding, to overcome animosity, and to promote peace.

With love, kindness and compassion, I thank you for being part of the EMO family.

Thank you for reading,



Frank So
Executive Director

VOTERS' GUIDE

Fall 2024

COMING TOGETHER ON BALLOT MEASURES

BY BRITT CONROY

Director of Public Policy Advocacy

VOTERS' GUIDE TO THE 2024 OREGON BALLOT MEASURES IS WRITTEN BY:

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Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon does not speak for The Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon; they release all public policy statements through the Oregon Catholic Conference.

Our core mission at Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) is to bring together diverse communities of faith to learn, serve, and advocate for justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. For 50 years, we have used our voice to advocate for policies and legislation that help create an Oregon that works for everyone, emphasizing those on the margins.

Releasing our “Voters’ Guide to the 2024 Oregon Ballot Measures” is an important part of this work. We’re privileged to provide thoughtful guidance to people of faith and goodwill and help connect current ballot initiatives to deeper values. We hope our discussion of these five ballot measures will provide valuable insights to Oregon voters.

At EMO, we stand for a lively and diverse body politic by encouraging varying perspectives and respectful disagreements. We use these differences to enhance diversity of thought to lead us towards the common good.

In the public square, EMO unapologetically stands alongside Oregonians who—because of their race, economic status or limited access to power—have been neglected by our society at large. We stand for the aspirations and rights of all, no exceptions.

The positions taken in this voters’ guide are endorsed through a democratic process by our board of directors after the careful recommendation of our volunteer

Public Policy Committee. We use our Statement of Social Principles to guide this public policy work and identify which area, or areas, of social concern we base our recommendations on, including:

- Environmental Stewardship
- Economic Justice
- Family and Community Well-being
- Human Rights and Religious Freedom
- Public Witness and the Common Good
- Peace and Global Justice

As our Public Policy Committee engages in a discussion regarding each ballot measure, we consider arguments offered by both supporters and opponents of each measure.

We also rely on the Scriptures, our social principles, past positions on similar measures and rigorous deliberation.

We invite you to prayerfully consider the wisdom of your own tradition and engage in a thoughtful process of discernment in exercising your civic duty to vote.

We are reminded by human rights activist Loung Ung, “Voting is not only our right, it is our power.” ■

VIEW STATEMENT OF SOCIAL PRINCIPLES AT emoregon.org/socialprinciples

“Our faith traditions call us to be thoughtful and active advocates for peace, social justice, human dignity and environmental stewardship. ... EMO seeks to empower people of faith and all Oregonians to fulfill their role in the democratic process.”

—EMO STATEMENT OF SOCIAL PRINCIPLES

VOTE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT!

The Nov. 5, 2024, election is a statewide general election and will be vote-by-mail.

Any Oregon resident who is at least 18 years old on Election Day is eligible to vote, but voter registration is required. Register online on the Oregon Secretary of State website (below) or turn in a voter registration card to any county election office within five calendar days after signing the card. The last day to register is Oct. 15. A registered voter who has moved, changed address or changed their name must re-register.

Ballots will begin being mailed to voters on Oct. 16. Voters can use any official ballot drop site in Oregon to return their completed ballot during the 20-day voting period. Locate Oregon ballot drop boxes on the Oregon Secretary of State website (below). Ballots may also be returned in person or by mail to a county election office by 8 p.m. on Nov. 5.

Oregon Secretary of State website: sos.oregon.gov/voting



VOTERS' GUIDE

MEASURE 115

MEASURE 116

IMPEACHMENT OF ELECTED STATE EXECUTIVES

COMPENSATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Initiated Constitutional Amendment: Authorizes impeachment of statewide elected officials by Oregon Legislature with two-thirds vote by each House.

EMO RECOMMENDS
VOTE YES ON MEASURE 115

BASED ON EMO'S SOCIAL PRINCIPLE
PUBLIC WITNESS AND THE COMMON GOOD
For details, visit emoregon.org/socialprinciples

SUMMARY
Measure 115 would allow the Oregon State Legislature to impeach and remove elected state executives, including the governor, secretary of state and attorney general. The House of Representatives could impeach an elected official for "malfeasance or corrupt conduct in office, willful neglect of statutory or constitutional duty, or other felony or high crime," with a two-thirds vote. The Senate must then reach a two-thirds vote to convict and remove the official from office and disqualify them from holding any other public office.

Under the current constitution, the Legislature has no ability to remove elected state executives. Notably, Oregon is the only state without the power to impeach the governor.

SUPPORTERS
Measure 115 passed with unanimous bipartisan support in both chambers. Supporters of the measure emphasize the importance of a mechanism to remove public officials who abused their power to safeguard against tyranny and corruption. The power of impeachment encourages officials to adhere to a higher standard of conduct and deters them from unethical behavior, ensuring they remain committed to serving the best interests of constituents.

OPPONENTS
There is no organized opposition to Measure 115.

EMO RECOMMENDATION
Vote YES on Measure 115.

A YES vote supports EMO's vision of a "government and social order that is founded on principles of human dignity and political equality." EMO values the "important role of government in maintaining a system of laws, regulations and public services" and believes Measure 115 would ensure the executive branch does not become too powerful or operate without oversight.

We understand how essential public confidence in government is to ensure both a healthy democracy and public support for state programs upon which so many Oregonians depend. If an elected official engages in corruption, abuse of power, or neglect and faces no consequences, the public trust in the entire political system erodes.

The power of impeachment entrusted in the Legislature is fundamental to Oregon's democratic governance. It upholds the principles of accountability, checks and balances, and ethical conduct in public office, while protecting the public interest and maintaining the integrity of government. ■

SUMMARY
Measure 116 aims to create the Independent Public Service Compensation Commission to set salaries of public officials. The need arises from a desire to eliminate conflicts of interest and ensure that compensation decisions are based on objective criteria. Commission members will serve staggered terms to maintain continuity and independence. The commission will gather data, consult with experts, and set compensation based on the cost-of-living index, job responsibilities, and state comparisons. The measure ensures that members cannot be current public officials, employees, lobbyists or any immediate family members of those individuals.

SUPPORTERS
Supporters of Measure 116 emphasize the importance of paying public officials a fair and livable wage to attract and ensure retention of qualified officials in public service. Additionally, the measure promotes accountability by requiring the commission to operate transparently and justify its decisions to the public.

Supporters argue appropriate salaries for public officials are also an issue of equity. Low legislative pay has historically hindered candidates who are young, low-income and people of color from serving as public officials.

Ideally, this commission would minimize barriers to elect legislators who represent Oregon's diversity.

OPPONENTS
Opponents of Measure 116 are concerned about the true independence of the commission, given that its members are appointed by political figures. They are also concerned about the costs associated with establishing and maintaining the commission and the cost of likely paying higher salaries for some public officials.

EMO RECOMMENDATION
Vote YES on Measure 116.

EMO supports Measure 116's comprehensive solution to better the public service compensation structure. This measure aims to promote economic fairness, attract talent, enhance transparency, and create a more effective and accountable government in Oregon. Most importantly, we believe it would further EMO's mission to be "in solidarity with those on the margins," and "establish social and economic systems that encourage, enable and empower all people to develop and use their capabilities to meet their needs and to contribute to the social welfare." Measure 116 accomplishes this by creating a compensation structure that allows individuals who are young, low-income and people of color to serve in public office. ■

Initiated Constitutional Amendment: Establishes "Independent Public Service Compensation Commission" to determine salaries for specified officials.

EMO RECOMMENDS
VOTE YES ON MEASURE 116

BASED ON EMO'S SOCIAL PRINCIPLES
ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND PUBLIC WITNESS AND THE COMMON GOOD
For details, visit emoregon.org/socialprinciples

VOTERS' GUIDE

Measure 117

RANKED-CHOICE VOTING

Legislative Referral:

Establishes Ranked Choice Voting as the new voting system for federal and state elections; eliminates plurality votings.

EMO TAKES A
**NEUTRAL
POSITION ON
MEASURE 117**

SUMMARY

Measure 117 would establish ranked choice voting (RCV) for elections to federal and state offices, including the president, U.S. senator, U.S. representative, governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, and commissioner of labor and industries. The measure would not affect state legislative elections. If passed, RCV would take effect on Jan. 1, 2028, and would require the secretary of state to establish a program to educate voters.

Oregon currently uses a plurality voting system in which the candidate with the highest number of votes wins.

With RCV, voters rank candidates by preference on their ballots. Voters may also choose to identify only their top choice. If a candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, they are declared the winner. If no candidate wins a majority of first-preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated and the voter's next-preference choice is allocated to the remaining candidates. A new tally is conducted to determine whether any candidate has won a majority of the adjusted votes. The process is repeated until a candidate wins an outright majority.

SUPPORTERS

Supporters of Measure 117 state RCV allows voters to vote for their top candidate even if that candidate is not likely to win, thus eliminating the need to vote for the "lesser of two evils." RCV better determines the candidate with the strongest support across the entire electorate, because they always receive the majority of the votes.

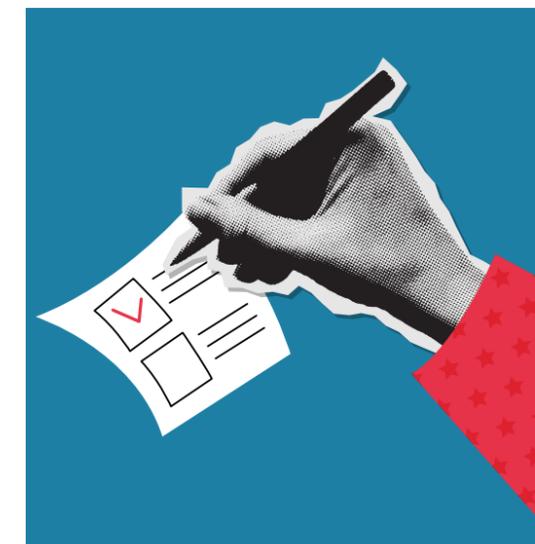
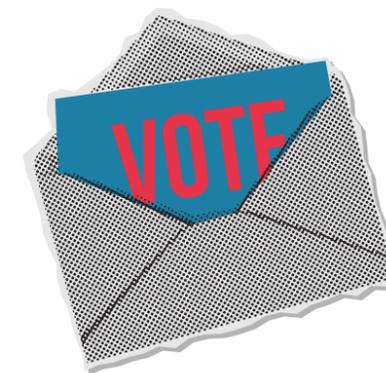
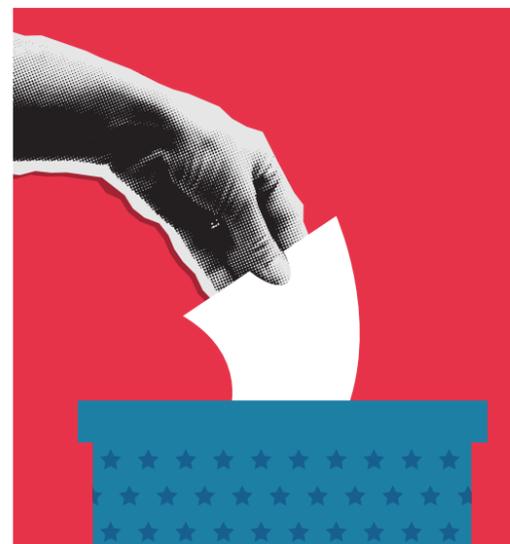
Supporters also emphasize that RCV encourages civil campaigning among candidates and incentivizes candidates to engage with voters across racial, ideological, and other polarizing demographics. This leads to better representation for all Oregonians.

They also argue RCV disincentivizes candidates to air negative political ads that spew fear mongering and half-truths. For example, a candidate who wants to be the second choice of a group of voters may refrain from leveling extreme attacks against those voters' first preference.

OPPONENTS

Opponents of RCV are concerned this voting system is too complicated and could cause confusion among voters, leading people to give up without voting properly or causing voters' ballots to be thrown out because of a voting error.

Those opposed to RCV also worry



this voting system would cause too many exhausted votes, where a voter's ballot could be discarded before the last round of tallying due to choice elimination.

With RCV, precinct-level results would not be available, since this system would require centralized tabulation—meaning all ballots need to be tallied at one central location. This could also make audits difficult to execute.

EMO RECOMMENDATION

EMO takes a neutral position on Measure 117.

The EMO Board of Directors urges Oregonians of faith to discern the best approach to Measure 117. The board officially takes a neutral stance on the measure.

While EMO envisions a democratic government that "further social justice and the common good," there is not enough research data about RCV to make a qualified recommendation.

RCV is a fairly new concept, and much of its effectiveness and impacts are not yet fully known. Maine and Alaska are the only two states that have adopted and implemented RCV at the state level, though RCV is used in 60 jurisdictions across 24 states, including some in Oregon.

Recent studies and surveys have shown increased voter satisfaction with RCV and increased voter turnout. Some studies have found that voters in RCV jurisdictions are more likely to be contacted by campaigns. Greater campaign civility and mobilization and increased contact in RCV elections has also been attributed to higher youth turnout in RCV jurisdictions.

In addition, while some studies have shown that voters' reported understanding of RCV is generally high across race and ethnic groups, additional research has found that people of color may be less likely to rank multiple candidates.

This is concerning as it may lead to ballot exhaustion that weakens the influence of these voters in later rounds of counting.

Other studies suggest RCV may lead to higher rates of ballots being voided due to overvoting, especially in lower income communities and communities with a high concentration of Latino residents. Additional research is required to fully understand demographic makeup of RCV voters and to assess how racial and ethnic bias affects voter turnout.

If passed, we support the secretary of state's creation of a voter education program before the implementation of the new voting system. EMO strongly advocates for an education program that is accessible by all cultures, languages and disabilities. ■

VOTERS' GUIDE

Measure 118

CORPORATE TAX REVENUE REBATE FOR RESIDENTS

Statutory Initiative:

Increases highest corporate minimum taxes; distributes revenue to eligible individuals.

EMO RECOMMENDS
VOTE NO ON MEASURE 118

BASED ON EMO'S SOCIAL PRINCIPLES
ECONOMIC JUSTICE AND PUBLIC WITNESS AND THE COMMON GOOD

For details, visit emoregon.org/socialprinciples.

SUMMARY

Measure 118, also known as the Oregon Rebate, would levy an annual 3 percent tax on a corporation's Oregon sales above \$25 million. The roughly \$7 billion in annual revenue raised would be distributed equally among Oregon residents, with the Oregon Legislative Revenue Office (LRO) estimating that every Oregonian, regardless of age, would receive a \$1,600 rebate in 2026.

SUPPORTERS

Citing the fact that corporations currently pay the higher of up to 7.6 percent tax on profits or up to a \$100,000 minimum tax for C corporations or a \$150 minimum tax for S corporations, those in favor of the rebate program argue the largest corporations do not pay their fair share of taxes.

Proponents point out that, even if well-off Oregonians also receive a rebate, the measure's biggest winners are low-income Oregonians, with the campaign arguing that Measure 118 will decrease the poverty rate in Oregon by 36 percent.

Supporters believe unrestricted financial support would enable struggling families to address basic needs, support child development, and improve physical and mental health. They argue that the rebates would allow even those households without dire financial situations to simply have a better life.

OPPOSITIONS

Opponents worry passing this measure would make it more politically difficult to raise taxes in the future to address needs they see as more critical than those addressed by a universal rebate. Opponents also argue the tax increase would lead to higher operating costs for businesses, potentially driving them to reduce their workforce, cut wages or make them less competitive.

Opponents point to the Legislative Revenue Office's analysis predicting that prices will increase by 1.3 percent. Opponents point out that all of a corporation's sales above \$25 million are taxed, including essentials like food or medicine. For those businesses unable to raise their prices—because those prices are set by commodity markets or by the government, such as a pharmacy that is paid according to set Medicaid reimbursement rates—opponents worry these businesses would shutter. And opponents note that all businesses with sales over \$25 million would pay—even those that are unprofitable.

The LRO's analysis that Measure 118 will, on net, reduce the State General Fund by hundreds of millions of dollars in the 2025-2027 biennium and more than \$2 billion in the 2027-2029 biennium may lead to cuts to education, health care and public safety supports.

In addition, because the federal government would likely consider the Oregon Rebate as income,

low-income Oregonians could see delays or reductions in income-based support received from the federal government, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Finally, opponents point out that the Oregon Legislature can, with a simple majority vote, redirect these funds for other purposes.

EMO RECOMMENDATION Vote NO on Measure 118.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon agrees that corporations do not pay their fair share of taxes and that the lives of many financially struggling Oregonians would be improved through a rebate program. However, we also believe Measure 118's impact on General Fund-supported services, employment and the state's ability to raise funds for more pressing needs outweighs the benefits of this large, non-targeted rebate program.

For decades, EMO's direct service programs and public policy advocacy have focused on economically marginalized and too often politically ignored Oregonians, particularly our neighbors living in deep poverty. In evaluating Measure 118, we applaud the proponents' intent to make the rebate available to those excluded from other models of government support, including children, those unemployed, incarcerated and undocumented.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a strong supporter of direct financial assistance: legislation spearheaded

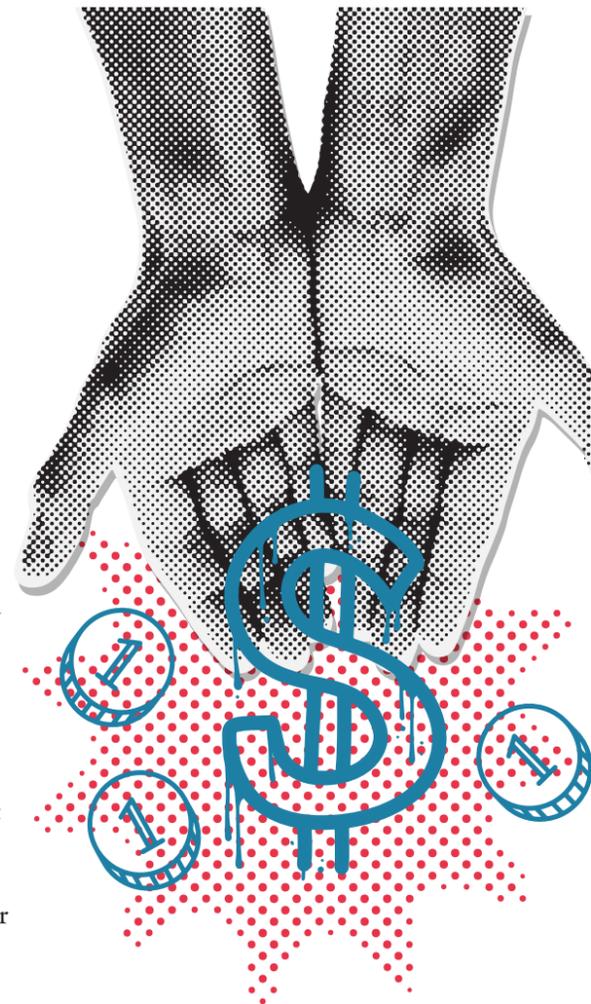
by EMO in 2023 to prevent youth homelessness currently funds prevention efforts in six rural communities, with direct cash payments as one of many tools the program uses to ensure housing stability.

Unfortunately, of the roughly \$7 billion per year in rebate revenue that Measure 118 would raise, just 12 percent would go to those in households at or below the federal poverty level, based on the most recent poverty data.

Measure 118 contradicts our vision, as described in EMO's Statement of Social Principles, to create "an equitable system of taxation that can adequately fund ... core public functions ... for social progress, economic justice and environmental stewardship." This vision focuses on both who pays taxes and whether there is sufficient tax revenue to meet the core needs of our state.

In 2016, EMO supported Measure 97, which proposed a similar corporate tax to fund education, healthcare and senior services. Such prioritized and needed investments justified the minimal economic and employment impact of the proposed tax increase.

We ultimately do not believe a non-targeted rebate program is worth what are very real impacts to our neighbors—both directly and through cuts to programs dependent on the state General Fund. ■



Measure 119

UNIONIZATION OF CANNABIS WORKERS

Statutory Initiative:
Require cannabis businesses to sign a labor peace agreement between the business and a labor organization.

EMO RECOMMENDS
VOTE YES ON MEASURE 119

BASED ON EMO'S SOCIAL PRINCIPLE
ECONOMIC JUSTICE
For details, visit emoregon.org/socialprinciples

SUMMARY
With the goal of increasing workplace safety and reducing wage theft by employers, Measure 119 would require that a cannabis dispensary, processor or other cannabis entity licensed by the Oregon Liquor and Cannabis Commission (OLCC) enter into a labor peace agreement as a condition to hold an OLCC license. Under the measure, the labor peace agreement would ensure unions have access to employees to discuss union representation. If passed, Oregon would become the seventh state to require a labor peace agreement for licensed cannabis entities.

Measure 119 seeks to secure labor protections for cannabis workers, whose status under federal labor law is uncertain. Under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), most employees are protected when seeking to join a union, with agricultural workers being a key exception. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) has not taken a position on whether cannabis workers are covered by the NLRA.

During the 2023 Legislative Session, UFCW Local 555 championed legislation that mirrors Measure 119, but lawmakers—concerned with legislative counsel’s legal opinion that the bill was not legal under federal labor law—chose not to pass the bill. UFCW 555 disagrees with this legal opinion, choosing to take Measure 119 directly to voters.

SUPPORTERS
Measure proponents argue that too often cannabis employers block union organizing efforts by claiming employees are ineligible for such protections under the NLRA—either because employers define their jobs as agricultural workers or because cannabis is a controlled substance under federal law.

Proponents argue that mandatory labor peace agreements offer an alternative pathway to labor protections because those protections would be enshrined in an enforceable labor contract. While many employers have been amenable to union efforts, Measure 119 would protect cannabis employees of those employers who block union organizing.

In addition, proponents state that cannabis workers are often in contact with hazardous materials and areas where both water systems and high-capacity electrical wiring are present.

OPPONENTS
Opponents argue that the premise of the measure is unfounded, pointing out that across the country cannabis workers are successfully joining NLRB-approved unions and that, contrary to proponents’ statements, the NLRB has offered sufficient clarity on which workers are eligible to do so.

Opponents further argue that the measure: (A) unfairly limits an employer’s ability to communicate about unionization with their

employees; (B) would be preempted by the federal NLRA; and (C) puts cannabis employers in an unfair position during negotiations over a labor peace agreement, given that if a labor peace agreement is not finalized, the employer can be required to close.

EMO RECOMMENDATION
Vote YES on Measure 119.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon affirms the rights of workers, consumers, and communities to organize and to engage in dialogue or collective bargaining with employers. EMO recognizes that unionization of some workplaces leads to increased worker pay and higher workplace safety expectations elsewhere, including in other industries.

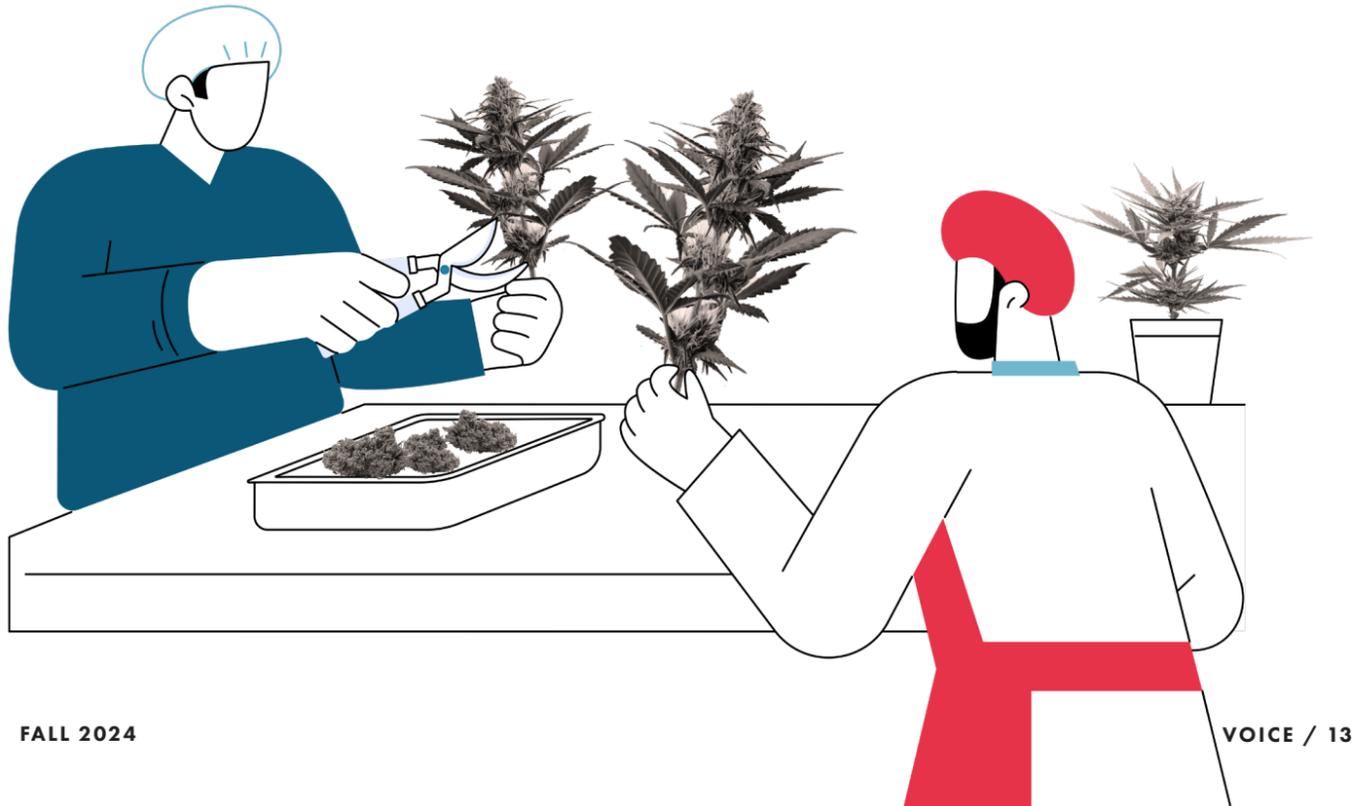
EMO believes Measure 119 removes barriers that can hinder cannabis employees from forming a union, despite a recent ruling by the NLRB covering some of these workers.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon appreciates that there are competing legal opinions about whether this measure violates the U.S. Constitution and whether it would be preempted by federal labor law. For example, attorneys for Measure 119 proponents argue that the measure does not prevent employers from sharing with employees their opinions about a potential labor peace agreement, as claimed by measure opponents. Instead, it requires employers to remain neutral regarding a union’s ability to communicate to

employees about their rights to organize.

In urging a “Yes” vote, EMO prioritizes removing barriers to union organizing efforts and thereby increasing the likelihood of adequate worker protections, while leaving legal disagreements to the courts.

Should this measure become law after these legal reviews, EMO urges lawmakers to monitor this measure’s impact and consider whether the law should be amended on practical grounds, such as to address opponents’ concerns about lopsided leverage in labor peace agreement negotiations between a union and an employer at risk of losing their licensure if an agreement is not reached. ■



MARTES LATINOS

Food pantry expands service to the Latino community

BY JON MAKLER
NEFP Program Manager



NEFP employee Aracel Gonzalez Hernandez (above right, with his wife and volunteer Tamara) recommended “Latin Tuesdays,” a new shopping opportunity focused on the Latino community.

In early 2023, EMO’s Northeast Emergency Food Program (NEFP) was providing groceries to about 400 families per week. Of these, the Latino share was approximately 5 percent—far less than the Latino population of Oregon (12 percent), Portland (9 percent), the Cully neighborhood where NEFP is located (24 percent), and the census tract adjacent to the pantry (52 percent).

One year later, NEFP is serving 1,000 families per week; of those families, approximately 25 percent are Latino—five times the previous number. How did these changes come about, and what does it mean to the people involved?

The change began with an idea from NEFP’s Facilities and Operations Coordinator Aracel Gonzalez Hernandez, a Cuban immigrant. Aracel recommended a new shopping opportunity focused on the Latino community. In response, NEFP launched “Latin Tuesdays” in June 2023 on a new day (Tuesday) and at a new time (late afternoon).

Outreach efforts for Latin Tuesdays emphasize that clients will not be asked for identification or documentation, creating a safe space to meet their basic needs.

Aracel also recruited many Spanish-speaking friends to volunteer, enabling the pantry to serve the Latino community in their primary language.

Rene Martinez was one of the first friends Aracel recruited. A naturalized citizen, Rene came from Cuba in 2008, where he was a community organizer advocating for workers’ rights and helping with a monthly free food market.

“I feel happy to be able to offer my help to wonderful people who truly need it.” – ROSA SANCHEZ

“We are a large family of volunteers. It is very good to be able to contribute with my work to the community.” – YROIDES COBAS

“What I like about NEFP is the respect that they give to clients and the recognition they show to volunteers,” says Rene, who usually volunteers five hours each week. “The organization of ‘Latin Tuesdays’ is giving more opportunities to Latin volunteers and those from the Latin world in general.”

Oscar Beltran is a volunteer who first came to NEFP as a client and felt the need to help the community. “I am happy with the results of the program, which has expanded to the point that it is already known by a large part of the Hispanic community in the area,” shares Oscar. “With the help of all of us who are involved in some way, we are helping many families in our community. As a volunteer, I feel motivated and grateful to the NEFP program and to Aracel and Jon, who run this house of hope and goodwill for all in Portland.”

Daniel Brixius is a long-time volunteer who is fluent in Spanish. He stepped up to run the intake process for arriving clients on Tuesday afternoons. “I enjoy seeing people week after week,” says Daniel. “One man told me that without NEFP, he would have lost his housing. It’s gratifying to be appreciated.”

Osmany Portelles and his wife Yamiley Sosa volunteer as often as their work schedules allow. “I am very

grateful and proud to belong to the NEFP volunteer group. You gave me a hand when I needed it, and I will always be grateful,” says Osmany. “The quality of the products is extremely good with a wide variety of products to distribute, and everything is well organized.”

Maria Paula, a student who has volunteered since before the Latin Tuesdays program began, shares, “I am very grateful to be in this program because it has given me the opportunity to work for the people who need it most. I have met very kind people and they have also shared a little of their personal lives with me, and that makes me happy. I am very proud that the program is growing over the years and that it provides more help to people who need it.” ■

LATIN TUESDAYS

are held each Tuesday from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, 4800 NE 72nd Ave., Portland.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more, visit emo-nefp.org or call (503) 284-5470.



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THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon’s Board of Directors and staff extend their appreciation to those who support EMO’s ministries. The following is a partial list of foundation and community support received by EMO during February to July 2024.

SUPPORTER	PROGRAM	SUPPORTER	PROGRAM
Bambuza Hospitality Group	Second Home	Jouris Family Foundation	Second Home
Boys & Girls Aid	Second Home	Lutheran Community Services	SOAR
Broadway Cares	HIV Services	Marquis Foundation	NE Emergency Food Program
Equity Fights AIDS		Meyer Memorial Trust	Public Policy
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.	SOAR Immigration Legal Services (SOAR Legal)	Multnomah County	HIV Services, SOSS
Charis Fund	NE Emergency Food Program	New Seasons Market	NE Emergency Food Program
Church World Service	Sponsors Organized to Assist Refugees (SOAR)	Oregon Food Bank	NE Emergency Food Program
Church World Service	NE Emergency Food Program	Oregon Health Authority	Creation Justice
CROP Walk		Oregon State Bar	SOAR Legal
City of Portland	SOAR Legal	Portland Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence	HIV Services
Columbia Riverkeeper	Creation Justice	Rose City Park Presbyterian	NE Emergency Food Program
DevNW/HUD	Second Home	Saint James Lutheran Church	NE Emergency Food Program
Earth Advantage/ City of Portland	Creation Justice	State of Oregon	HIV Services, Second Home, SOAR, SOAR Legal, SOSS
First Presbyterian Church	NE Emergency Food Program	The Collins Foundation	Public Policy
Harold and Arlene Schnitzer Care Foundation	HIV Services, Slavic Oregon Social Services (SOSS), SOAR	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services	SOAR Legal
Hillsboro First United Methodist	SOAR Legal	United Way of the Columbia - Willamette	HIV Services
Hoover Family Foundation	HIV Services	Washington County	Second Home
Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization	SOSS	Westminster Presbyterian	NE Emergency Food Program
		Zera Foundation	Second Home