

**BALLOT MEASURES
GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 2020**

Lane County Ballot Issues

Ballot Measure 20-308

City of Oakridge, Oregon Five-Year Public Safety Operations Local Tax

Question: Shall Oakridge impose \$2.73 per \$1000 of assessed value for five years beginning July 1, 2021-2022 for Public Safety Services?

This is a five-year levy, submitted to the voters by the Council. The City would use the tax revenue to continue to provide police and emergency services to the community at the current level. Without this levy or revenue taken from other sources, the City would have to find reductions in the city budget beyond those made for taken fiscal year 2020-2021. Public safety services are the most significant expenditures in the city budget, and these services would likely have to be reduced to provide a balanced budget. This levy would allow the City to maintain its Advanced Life Support Level 1 ambulance transport service and provide a police force of four officers, one sergeant and a police chief. During the period of the levy, the City would work with Lane County to develop a more efficient ambulance service so the City budget would be sustainable following the levy expiration. (<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

Ballot Measure 20-309

City of Eugene, Oregon Renewal of the Five-Year Library Local Option Levy

Question: Shall Eugene levy \$2,850,000/year for five years, beginning 2021-2022, to maintain the current level of library services?

This measure renews current local option taxes. In 2010, faced with a slow economy and steadily rising personnel expenses, the City of Eugene cut more than \$6 million from its \$445 million annual budget. Cuts to the Library's budget included 15-20% of its \$840,328 budget for new books, magazines, newspapers, audio books, DVDs, other materials, hours of operation, and librarian hours.

In 2015, voters approved a Eugene Library Local Option Five-year Levy that has been used to increase operating hours, the number of free programs offered, new materials purchased and technology at all Eugene Public Library locations: Downtown, Bethel, and Sheldon. That levy expires in June 2021.

Ballot Measure 20-309 asks voters to renew the five-year library local option levy approved by voters in 2015 in order to continue:

- the 47 additional open hours per week across three library locations
- the 1/3 increase in free programs for all ages
- the Maker Hub area, programming, and upkeep
- the increased off-site delivery of programs and outreach
- and to replace the internet-ready devices at Bethel and Sheldon branch library locations

The levy will generate \$2,850,000 each year for five years for a total levy of \$14,250,000. The estimated tax rate for this levy will be approximately \$0.15 per \$1,000.00 of property value. (\$0.02 less than the 2015 levy.) It is estimated the typical Eugene taxpayer will pay an average of \$37 per year over the levy's five-year period. Based on the best information available from the county assessor, it is estimated to raise more money than it did in the last five years due to increasing property values.

Current demand for library services is high. Since the pandemic, demand for the Library's virtual resources are up almost 75%, and nearly 1,000 new library cards have been issued. The renewed levy can help the community address COVID-19 impacts such as:

1. Supporting student learning success with high-quality educational resources, including:
 - Online tutoring services and traditional books (even a telescope available for checkout)
 - Information access opportunities, such as mobile Wi-Fi "HotSpots" and other internet-ready devices available for checkout
 - Helping students recover and cope with changes resulting from the pandemic
2. Facilitating strategies to address community economic/employment impacts such as:
 - Partnering with agencies like the Small Business Development Center and the Chamber of Commerce
 - Providing space to partner agencies and individuals with a physical location and meeting point when it is safe
 - Offering high-quality programming and resources such as the Business and Career collection for retraining and developing new skills
3. Providing Access and Inclusion by:
 - Assisting individuals in their use of library resources
 - Helping isolated or vulnerable individuals connect socially and, when it is safe, physically
 - Purchasing more materials from many different voices
 - Offering programs that target specific populations and focus outreach toward underserved and underrepresented populations such as people of color, individuals who have inadequate or no Internet access, and people of color

The measure will also require an annual report on spending that will be reviewed by the Library Advisory Board and made available to the City Council and the public.

(<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

(<https://www.registerguard.com/article/20151018/OPINION/310189958>)

(<https://www.registerguard.com/article/20150913/NEWS/309139992>)

Ballot Measure 20-310

Lane Fire Authority, Oregon Five-Year Local Option Levy for General Operations

Question: Shall the District impose \$0.50 per \$1000 of assessed value for general operations for five years beginning 2021-2022? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

If passed, the District, which is based in Veneta, will use the tax revenue to hire three full-time firefighter/medics. This increase in staffing will help to ensure faster response times, better coverage, and reduce wait times. In addition, the tax revenue will help to fund general operational expenses such as replacing and repairing fire apparatus, many of which are past their expected service life.

(<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

Ballot Measure 20-311

Springfield, Oregon Local Option Levy for Fire and Safety Services

Question: Shall Springfield levy \$0.38 per \$1000 of assessed value, for five years beginning FY2021/22 for fire and safety services? This measure may cause property taxes to increase more than three percent.

This levy provides funding for fire and life safety services. It funds a portion of the operating costs for one of the five engine crews staffed with firefighter-paramedics that respond to calls for emergency medical services and fire suppression. Operating costs supported by this levy include personnel, safety equipment, vehicle and equipment expenses, dispatch, and required training. Approval of this measure would replace the current \$0.36 levy that expires on June 30, 2021 with a \$0.38 levy. This rate is anticipated to provide the same level of service as the current levy rate, considering the effects of inflation on the City's operating costs. In the first year, a typical homeowner with an assessed value (not market value) of \$164,000 would pay \$62.32 under this levy. (<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

Ballot Measure 20-312

Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Permanent Tax Rate Limit

Question: Shall the District adopt permanent rate limit authorizing levy of up to \$0.07 per \$1000 assessed value, beginning fiscal year 2021-22?

Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District serves Central and Eastern Lane County. The District promotes voluntary efforts to improve water quality, protect drinking water, improve soil health for local food production, support forest health and fire resiliency, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and conserve natural areas. The District does not make or enforce regulations. The District is currently funded through short-term grants. The District has conducted a thorough assessment of unmet natural resource needs and asks voters to approve a permanent rate limit in which the maximum amount the District can levy is \$0.07 per \$1000 assessed value. By law this rate cannot be raised. If the maximum amount is levied, it will cost about \$16 per year on a property value assessed at \$231,000. The revenue generated will allow the District to enhance services in their current programs and fund new conservation efforts within the local community through projects for urban and rural residents. (<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

Ballot Measure 20-313

McKenzie School District No. 68, Lane Bonds to Construct, Renovate, Repair and Improve District Facilities

Question: Shall McKenzie School District No. 68 issue \$15,215,000 in bonds and receive a \$4,000,000 state matching grant to renovate schools? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

The District will receive a \$4,000,000 state grant only if bonds are approved. Bonds are expected to finance construction, renovation, repair and improvement of District facilities, including: new elementary school, play structures, demolition of existing school; high school improvements; upgraded gymnasium; security/safety features throughout the District; reconfigured bus dropoff area; and site improvements. A citizen oversight committee would ensure proceeds are used as intended. The estimated tax rate is \$1.96 per \$1000 of assessed property value.

(<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

Ballot Measure 20-314

Bethel School District 52, Oregon Bonds Repairing, Replacing Facilities

Question: Shall Bethel School District update educational materials; improve student safety; repair, construct facilities; issue \$99.3 million in general obligation bonds? If the bonds are approved, they will be payable from taxes on property or property ownership that are not subject to the limits of sections 11 and 11b, Article XI of the Oregon Constitution.

This measure is estimated to not increase the current 2020-21 tax rate. Bethel School District has qualified for \$6,065, 898 in state grants, awarded only if the bonds are approved.

These bonds are expected to fund:

- Student safety/security improvements at all Bethel schools
- Math, language arts, science textbooks, other instructional materials
- Updated computers and capital projects supporting classroom and distance instruction
- Repairs to District facilities, including roofs, siding, flooring, and plumbing
- Installation of energy-efficient ventilation and heating/cooling systems
- Vocational Ed Center at Willamette High School accomodating hands-on learning in technical and trades programs
- Replacement of Cascade Middle School, constructed in 1955
- Site improvements, furnishings, equipping and costs of issuance.

Citizen oversight and annual audits of expenditures will be conducted. Bonds mature in 31 years or less. Final levy rate may differ due to changes in interest rate and assessed value.

(<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

Ballot Measure 20-315

Goshen Fire District, Lane County, Oregon
Annexation of Pleasant Hill Fire District into Goshen Fire District

Question: Shall Goshen Fire District annex all territory located within the Pleasant Hill Fire District boundaries?

Ballot Measure 20-316

Pleasant Hill Fire District, Lane County, Oregon Dissolution of Pleasant Hill Fire District

Question: Shall Pleasant Hill Fire District dissolve, allowing all PHFD territory to be annexed into Goshen Fire District?

Since 2013, Pleasant Hill and Goshen Fire Districts (GFD) have worked jointly to provide services to both territories. Now, both Districts desire to dissolve Pleasant Hill Fire District (PHFD) and annex all the PHFD territory into the Goshen Fire District. If this dissolution measure is approved and the Annexation measure is approved, the Goshen Fire District will continue to provide all fire and emergency services to the PHFD area at a tax rate of \$1.72 and will legally change its name to Pleasant Hill Goshen Fire & Rescue. All PHFD assets and liabilities will be transferred to the new entity. The Dissolution Measure must be approved by the PHFD electors, and the companion Annexation Measure must be approved by the GFD electors. Both measures are contingent upon each other and each must pass or else each will be null and void.

(<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)

Ballot Measure 20-316

Pleasant Hill Fire District, Lane County, Oregon Dissolution of Pleasant Hill Fire District

Question: Shall Pleasant Hill Fire District dissolve, allowing all PHFD territory to be annexed into Goshen Fire District?

Ballot Measure 20-317

Fern Ridge Library District, Oregon Renewal Five-Year Local Option Levy for General Library Operations

Question: Shall Fern Ridge Library continue to levy \$0.35 per \$1000 assessed value for general operations for five years beginning 2022/23? This measure renews current local option taxes.

The current local option levy, voter-approved in May 2017, provides funding for staff, library materials, and programs and services for our patrons. Without continuation of the revenue from this levy, the district will need to reduce its budget by an estimated \$350,000 in the 2022-23 fiscal year. *(<https://apps.lanecounty.org/Elections/Document.ashx?id=2900>)*

State Ballot Issues

Ballot Measure 107

Campaign Finance Limits Amendment

What: Referral by 2020 Oregon Legislature. Amends State of Oregon Constitution to allow laws limiting political campaign contributions and expenditures, requiring disclosure of political campaign contributions and expenditures, and requiring political campaign advertisements to identify who paid for them.

Summary: The Oregon Supreme Court has interpreted the Oregon Constitution to prohibit limits on expenditures made in connection with a political campaign or to influence the outcome of an election. Limits on contributions are allowed if the text of the law does not target expression. If approved by voters, the proposed measure would amend the Oregon Constitution to allow the Oregon Legislative Assembly, local governments, and the voters by initiative to pass laws that limit contributions and expenditures made in connection with a political campaign and contributions and expenditures made to influence an election. The measure would allow laws that require disclosure of political campaign and election contributions and expenditures.

The measure would allow laws that require political campaign and election advertisements to identify who paid for them. Laws limiting campaign contributions cannot prevent effective advocacy. The measure applies to all laws enacted or approved on or after January 1, 2016.

What would be the result of a “Yes” vote?

A “Yes” vote allows laws created by the Legislative Assembly, local governments or voters that limit contributions and expenditures made to influence an election. A “Yes” vote also allows laws that require campaign or election advertisements to identify who paid for them. Campaign contribution limits cannot prevent effective advocacy. The measure applies to laws enacted or approved on or after January 1, 2016.

What would be the result of a “No” vote?

A “No” vote would retain current law. Courts currently find that the Oregon Constitution does not allow laws limiting campaign expenditures. Laws limiting contributions are allowed if the text of the law does not target expression.

Arguments for:

- Spending by political action committees and other advocacy organizations gives undue influence to wealthy individuals, big corporations and big organizations.
- Transparency lets voters know who’s trying to influence them. Voters can make better-informed choices when they can evaluate funders.
- Existing campaign finance practices fuel a disconnect between elected officials and citizens by giving elected officials and would-be elected officials the incentive to pay more attention to big funders—and by creating barriers to running for office.
- In addition to strengthening citizen voices and empowering voters, campaign finance reform

would boost confidence in the electoral system, better protecting system integrity.

Arguments against:

- Given the scope and power of government, voters need more information, not less. And with rising campaign costs, more money should be spent to communicate about issues and candidates.
- Restricting the involvement of individuals, political organizations, and political parties could distort the electoral process and exert unnecessary control over citizens.
- Limits on freedom of speech and association are anti-democratic.

(Sources: *Modified Ballot Title to the Secretary of State, Oregon Department of Justice, Appellate Division, July 9, 2020*; Brennan Center for Justice and League of Women Voters on Campaign Finance)

Ballot Measure 108

Tobacco and E-Cigarette Tax Increase for Health Programs (Statutory)

What: Legislative referral that increases cigarette and cigar taxes. Establishes tax on e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping devices. Funds health programs.

What would be the result of a "Yes" vote?

Measure 108 was designed to increase taxes on distributors of tobacco products and other nicotine delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes, at the following rates:

- cigarette tax at 16.65 cents per cigarette, an increase from #1.33 to \$3.33 per 20-pack of cigarettes;
- e-cigarettes and other nicotine inhalants at a rate of 65% of the wholesale sales price;
- cigar tax cap of 65% of the wholesale sales price, not to exceed \$1.00 per cigar.

Under the ballot measure, revenues would first be dedicated to the administration and enforcement of the tax. The remaining revenue would be dedicated to the Oregon Health Authority for medical and healthcare-assistance programs.

What would be the result of a "No" vote?

A "No" vote retains current law. Nicotine inhalant delivery systems, such as e-cigarettes and vaping products, remain untaxed.

(Source: *Oregon Measure 108, Tobacco and E-Cigarette Tax Increase for Health Programs Measure (2020)*, Ballotpedia.org)

Ballot Measure 109

Oregon Psilocybin Services Act (Statutory)

What: Allows manufacture, delivery, administration of Psilocybin at supervised, licensed facilities; imposes two-year development period.

This Act would establish rules surrounding the use of Psilocybin in the treatment for mental illnesses.

It would establish a comprehensive regulatory framework concerning Psilocybin products and services.

Psilocybin is a naturally-occurring psychedelic compound which can be produced from more than 200 species of mushrooms. Historically, it has been found in prehistoric murals and rock paintings in Mesoamerica. It has been used in spiritual and divinatory ceremonies chronicled in the 16th century by Spaniards. In 1959, the psychedelic compound was isolated and was used for psychedelic psychotherapy. As drug laws became more stringent, it's use was discontinued. In recent years, it has gained more favor and has been used to successfully treat PTSD and other mental illnesses.

What would be the result of a "Yes" vote?

A "Yes" vote would allow manufacture, delivery, and administration at supervised, licensed facilities.

What would be the result of a "No" vote?

A "No" vote retains current law, which prohibits manufacture, delivery, and possession of psilocybin and imposes misdemeanor or felony criminal penalties.

<http://egov.sos.state.or.us/elecweb.irr.search.main.search>

Ballot Measure 110

Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act (Statutory)

What: Provides statewide addiction/recovery services; marijuana taxes partially finance; reclassifies possession/penalties for specified drugs.

This Act would decriminalize the possession of Schedule I, II, III, IV of the federal Controlled Substances Act. It would include drugs like heroin, Ecstasy, and methamphetamine. The act would establish clinics in coordinated care areas throughout Oregon that would provide 24/7 services for addicted individuals. The clinics would be required to work with acute care cases as well as provide community based care. The work would be funded by marijuana taxes.

This initiative was developed by the Drug Policy Alliance (drugpolicy.org) which is based out of New York. The Alliance was founded in 1987 by a professor and attorney in opposition to the drug wars.

Oregon ranks near the bottom of the 50 states in access to drug treatment. One in eleven Oregonians is addicted to some substance. In 2017, law enforcement arrested nearly 8000 people for drug-related issues. On average, it cost \$15,000 per case where a misdemeanor drug conviction is the most serious offense. The proponents of this act say that delivering care would save money and lives, and that it is a more equitable solution for the poor and low-income population.

What would be the result of a "Yes" vote?

A "Yes" vote would make personal non-commercial possession of a controlled substance no more than a Class E violation (maximum fine of \$100 fine) and establish a drug-addiction treatment and recovery program funded in part by the state's marijuana tax revenue and state prison savings.

What would be the result of a "No" vote?

A "No" vote would maintain the existing maximum penalty for a Class A misdemeanor of one year in prison and a \$6,250 fine.

(Source: Oregon Measure 110 Drug Decriminalization and Addiction Treatment Initiative(2020)
ballotpedia.org)

Discussion Questions:

1. Measure 107 Campaign Finance Limits would amend the Constitution. Which arguments, either for or against, do you find compelling? Can you think of additional reasons to vote for or against this measure?
2. Are there other ballot measures you want to discuss further before the November 3 election? Beyond the election?
3. Where do you think we should focus education and advocacy efforts in the coming year? (Climate Action Plan, Housing, Education, Natural Resources, Redistricting, Immigration)
4. What do you see as a good role for LWVLC and what kinds of programs and activities would you like to see?

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