

EASY VOTERS' GUIDE

OREGON SPECIAL ELECTION

January 26, 2010



Volume 39, Number 1

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF OREGON *Education Fund*

WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

This free guide has information about 2 state ballot measures: 66 and 67. The information is neutral. It is not for or against either measure. This guide, researched by the **League of Women Voters**, does not try to get you to vote one way or another. Instead, it gives you information so you can make up your own mind.

WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

You can help make decisions about important issues that affect everyone.

Your vote is secret.

WHAT'S NEW IN VOTING?

Did you know that you can get your ballot in large print? Or, you can get your ballot e-mailed to you and use your computer to fill it out? (You will still need to print it out, sign the envelope and send it back so that it's received by January 26).

If you need voting assistance or for more information, call your county elections office or 1-866-ORE-VOTE (1-866-673-8683).

HOW DO I REGISTER?

You need to register to vote in Oregon if:

- You have not registered to vote in Oregon before.
- You have moved since the last election.
- You have changed your name.
- You want to change your party.

You can get a voter registration card from any county election's office, the DMV, or online at www.oregonvotes.org.

REMEMBER!

You must register by January 5th, 2010 to vote in this Election! You will receive your ballot in the mail January 8-12.

Ballot Measure 66

Raise Taxes for High Income People; Get Rid of Taxes on Part of Unemployment Benefits



Official Title: Raises Tax on Household Income At and Above \$250,000 (\$125,000 for Individual Filers). Reduces Income Taxes on Unemployment Benefits in 2009. Provides Funds Currently Budgeted for Education, Health Care, Public Safety, Other Services.

The Way It Is Now:

Workers in Oregon pay taxes based on their “taxable income,” which is the money you earn minus your deductions (for example, money you give to charity).

The highest tax rate is 9%, which is paid on the amount of taxable income that is over \$7600 a year (or \$15,200 for people who file a joint tax return, like married couples).

All taxpayers deduct federal income taxes from their state taxes.

Unemployed workers getting unemployment benefits must pay taxes on these benefits.

Measure 66 Would Do

1) It would add new top tax rates for people who have a taxable income over \$125,000 a year (or \$250,000 for people who file a joint return). These people would pay a tax of 10.8% on the money over \$125,000. People who have taxable income over \$250,000 (or \$500,000 for joint return) would pay a tax of 11.8% on the money over \$250,000.

2) It would reduce the amount of the federal tax deduction for people who have a taxable income over \$125,000 a year (or \$250,000 for people who file a joint return).

3) It would get rid of taxes on the first \$2400 a person got in unemployment benefits in 2009.

Ballot Measure 66, Continued

People in Favor of this Measure Say:

The people who make the most money will pay more in taxes which will bring in needed money to help balance the state budget.

The money for schools, health care, public safety and other services would not be cut further.

The state has a savings account, but that money is for paying off state debt and for paying for programs if the economy gets worse.

Unemployed people will not have to pay taxes on part of their benefits.

People Against this Measure Say:

Higher taxes may cause up to 30,000 people to lose their jobs.

New taxes would hurt the economy by causing higher prices for gas, groceries and other services.

Lawmakers can cut government costs and use money from the state savings account to balance the budget.

Businesses are less likely to locate in Oregon with the high income tax rate.



A “Yes” Vote Means:

Change the tax rate so that people with high incomes will pay more in taxes.



A “No” Vote Means:

Do not change the tax rate.

How Much It Would Cost: There is no new cost to the state. But, the state would get more money from taxes, about \$472 million in the next 2 years. Almost 38,000 high income taxpayers would pay about \$4300 more a year.

Ballot Measure 67

Raise Taxes on Some Businesses



Official Title: Raises Corporate Minimum Tax, Business Minimum Tax, Corporate Profits Tax. Provides Funds Currently Budgeted for Education, Health Care, Public Safety, Other Services.

The Way It Is Now:

Businesses that are called “C-corporations” pay state income tax on their net profits. Net profits mean the money that the business makes after they pay for business expenses, like wages to their workers. If the business does not have net profits, they pay \$10 in taxes.

Businesses that are called “S-corporations” give their profits to the business owners and stockholders, who pay income tax. The S-corporation itself pays \$10 in taxes.

Oregon lawmakers passed a bill, called HB 3405, to change the amount of money these businesses pay in taxes.

Measure 67 Would Do

This measure would allow HB 3405 to become law and change the amount of money these businesses pay in taxes.

The tax for S-corporations would go up from \$10 to \$150.

The tax a C-corporation would pay depends on how much money it makes.

C-corporations with no profit:

Up to \$500,000 in sales would pay \$150 in taxes

More than \$500,000 in sales would pay more in taxes, up to \$100,000 (if the business had at least \$100 million in Oregon sales)

C-corporations with a profit would pay whichever is higher:

The tax based on how much money they had in Oregon sales, -or-

The tax based on the net income (the money they made minus the expenses they paid)

Ballot Measure 67, Continued

People in Favor of this Measure Say:

It isn't fair that many businesses only pay \$10 in taxes each year to the state.

In 2007 almost two-thirds of businesses paid the minimum \$10 tax.

If Measure 67 doesn't pass, there will be additional cuts to important services and to schools.

People Against this Measure Say:

It isn't fair to make businesses that have little or no profit pay a higher tax.

This will make businesses charge customers more and cut jobs.

This will hurt Oregon's economy.



A "Yes" Vote Means:

Change how much money these businesses pay in taxes.



A "No" Vote Means:

Do not change how much money these businesses pay in taxes.

How Much It Would Cost: There would be a small cost to the state to make these changes. The state would get more money from business taxes, between \$118 million and \$138 million more each year through 2012. After that, the state would get about \$123 million more from business taxes each year.

AUDIO, BRAILLE, AND INTERNET VERSIONS OF THIS GUIDE

To make election information available to voters who cannot use the printed version of our standard *Voters' Guide* and our *Easy Voters' Guide*, HAVA, the Help America Vote Act, helped pay for the development and expanded distribution of voting guides in Braille, audio, and Internet versions.

To get an audiotape or Braille copy of the standard nonpartisan *Voters' Guide*, call Talking Book and Braille Services at 1-800-452-0292. You can request an audio CD of the *Easy Voters' Guide* by calling 503-986-2352. You also can get printed copies of the *Easy Voter Guide* at many libraries and any elections office, or by contacting Disability Rights Oregon at 1-800-880-1931 or online at www.disabilityrightsoregon.org/need-help/voting.

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League of Women Voters of Oregon

Phone 503-581-5722 or email lwvor@lwvor.org

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