

# ISSUES 2010 A Biblical Ballot Measure Voter's Guide

Produced by the Parents Education Association • P.O. Box 847, Canby, OR 97013 • 503-263-8337 • [peapac.org](http://peapac.org)  
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## PEAPAC Ballot Measure Recommendations

Recommendation	Ballot Measure	Subject	PageNumber
No	Measure 70	Expands State Veteran Home Loan Program. . . . .	
No	Measure 71	Mandates Annual Legislative Sessions. . . . .	
Yes	Measure 72	Lowers Interest Costs for State Bonded Indebtedness.. . . .	
Yes	Measure 73	Mandates Longer Prison Sentences for Repeat DUIs, Repeat Sexual Offenders. . . . .	
No	Measure 74	Increases Access to Marijuana. . . . .	
Yes	Measure 75	Provides for Private Competition to State and Indian Gambling Monopoly. . . . .	
No	Measure 76	Permanently Ties Up Some Lottery Proceeds for Parks. . . . .	

### Who We Are

In 1983, God blessed in ways far beyond our expectations. Heading a cooperative effort of home schoolers around the State, we successfully introduced and lobbied for the passage of what became known as the 1985 Home School Freedom Bill. We successfully defended our hard fought home school liberties from attacks by the educational establishment in Salem. We also worked arm in arm with other Christian political activists and helped elect a pro-family majority in the Oregon House and Senate. In 1996, we reorganized as a Ballot Measures PAC (Political Action Committee) and began to publish the Biblical Ballot Measures Voters Guide.

### Christian, not Conservative

Micah 6:8 says God requires three things of men. These are “to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.” Conservatives focus on doing justice, while liberals focus on loving mercy, and neither, apart from the regenerating work of Christ, walk humbly with God. As a result, the conservative’s justice is not Biblical. focusing on longer prison sentences, not restitution, for instance. The liberal’s acts of mercy are not really merciful. For instance, God

gives the slothful man hunger to awaken in him the need to work. The liberal’s state subsidies tend to take away that godly incentive. In the words of Proverbs 12:10 “the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.” We don’t need right wing politics or left wing politics, but a Bible-wing approach to political action. The Parents Education Association is dedicated to seeking out the truths of God’s Word as they apply to public policy matters, and then speaking these truths into the public arena.

### The Voters Guide is a Guide

According to the Westminster Confession of Faith, the Bible is “the only rule of faith and obedience.” We have tried in this Guide to bring Scriptural truths to bear on the ballot measures we must vote on in Oregon this year. But good men can and do disagree, particularly when it comes to what can be very complex public policy issues. Please use this guide as a guide, not as a rulebook. Think about the issues carefully and prayerfully, then vote on the issues you are confident of, and don’t feel compelled to vote if you are uncertain. And do all things for the glory of God! I Corinthians 10:31

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## Measure 70

### Simply Stated

A Yes vote would expand Oregon's state veterans home loan program.

### PEAPAC Commentary

This referral from the Legislature would change some of the provisions for state veteran home loans. This would increase the number of military veterans who could use the program. Currently, 30 years after leaving military service, the vet no longer qualifies. If passed, one of the provisions of this Measure would remove this restriction. Typically, state veteran home loans require no down payment and no mortgage insurance, but the interest rate is a little higher than a conventional loan.

The most important function of the civil government is to defend its citizens. Men and women who perform this invaluable and sacrificial service should be compensated well for their labors. When the veterans' loan program began, military pay was quite low. Benefits like veterans loans were intended to make military service more attractive. Military pay has, however, been significantly increased over the past four decades.

Additionally, the no down payment provision makes sense when a man is unable to save money during his term of service. But after 30 years of being out of the military and in the work place, it would seem that a down payment should be within the reach of the vet.

Finally, Oregon is one of only five states with a State Veterans home loan program. Most American vets use the national VA program. The fact that our armed forces are primarily national suggests that the veteran loan program be an exclusively national one.

We thus lean towards a No vote on Measure 70.



## Measure 71

### Simply Stated

A Yes vote would change Oregon's Legislature from meeting every two years to meeting every year.

### PEAPAC Commentary

The Oregon Legislature, composed of sixty state representatives and thirty state senators, currently meets for about six months every other year. This Measure would mandate that the Legislature meet every year.

There are some good reasons to consider annual legislative sessions. For instance, it would be good for the full Legislature to make more of the monetary decisions that are currently made by the State Emergency Board. This E-Board is made up a small subset of Legislators. It meets frequently between legislative sessions to make important decisions about the State's money.

Another reason for annual Legislative sessions is balance among the three branches of government - judicial, legislative, and administrative. [Note the resonance between our form of government and Isaiah 33:22 "For the LORD is our judge; the LORD is our lawgiver; the LORD is our king; he will save us."] Of these, only the legislative branch is inactive roughly 75% of the time in Oregon.

Additionally, the administrative branch of government, the bureaucracy, is dominated by big-government advocates, and is in "session" all the time. Through their rule-making authority, the power of the administrative branch is immense. The result is a continual lessening of freedom. And unlike elected representatives who can be replaced fairly easily, the bureaucracy becomes entrenched and difficult to change.

Eventually, then, we will need the people's elected representatives to meet frequently to combat creeping administrative power, micro-management and interference with the free-market decisions that undergird our economy and way of life.

But for now, the Legislature is not an effective counter-weight to the liberal administrative branch. The present Legislature is filled with tax and spend advocates who expand government seemingly without end. The more they meet, the bigger they get. Annual sessions would, we think, result in even bigger government and budgets, more mischief, and more government intrusion. We lean towards a No vote on Measure 71.



## Measure 72

### Simply Stated

A Yes vote would lower interest costs for Oregon's bonded indebtedness.

### PEAPAC Commentary

Approving this referral from the Legislature would allow the State to use general obligation bonds for most of its debt financing. The practical effect is to slightly lower Oregon's costs to borrow money. Lower borrowing costs is obviously a good thing.

However, from another perspective, this could be said to prop up a system of debt financing, with no firm commitment to the reduction of debt. It's sort of like a man in debt making use of a lower cost credit card to pay off higher cost ones, instead of making a commitment to live debt-free as much as possible. While debt is a way of life in America today, Scripture repeatedly and clearly negatively characterizes most forms of debt (Deut 28:12,13 with 28:43,44; Prov. 22:7; Rom. 13:8). Debt is not sin, but frequently (not always) results from the sin of covetousness - desiring and then obtaining through unrighteous means what God has not provided for with righteous means.

So some good men oppose this Measure. But in our mind, the commitment to try to reduce state bonded indebtedness is a separate issue from the cost of that debt. And we are hopeful that a sea change is occurring in our State and nation. There will be a significant number of lawmakers elected this year who are committed to cut state spending and debt. The approval of this Measure will be one more tool for these lawmakers, and be a help to them to cut spending by lowering the cost to finance current debt. We therefore recommend your Yes vote on Measure 72.



## Measure 73

### Simply Stated

A Yes vote would mandate longer prison sentences for repeat DUIs, and some repeat sexual offenders.

### PEAPAC Commentary

The Parents Education Association is committed to bringing

a biblical perspective to public policy issues. The Bible plainly tells us that God has instituted civil government to punish people that do evil things, and, as a result, the government provides protection and safety for its citizens (Rom. 13). 1 Timothy 2:1,2 and Jeremiah 29:7 tell us we are to pray and work towards peace in our cities, which would include personal safety.

This Ballot Measure would mandate that habitual sexual offenders and drivers who repeatedly drive while intoxicated receive stronger punishments via longer jail times than at present. The intended result is the safety of citizens.

In the Bible, the punishment for violent rape and, by extension, other serious sexual felonies, was the death penalty (Dt. 22:25-27). Since we are not ready to affirm God's justice in this way, prison is the primary means we use to keep citizens safe from sexual criminals. We support the provisions of this Measure requiring long mandatory prison sentences for repeat sexual felons.

Locking up third time drunk or drugged drivers for 90 days, which this Measure also mandates, is another way this Measure seeks to protect people. While we are concerned with the repeated lowering of the standard used to define driving while intoxicated, overall, we support this provision as well.

We believe it's the job of the Legislature, not the citizenry via ballot measures, to protect us, and Measures such as this one should be unnecessary. However, our Legislature is currently dominated by people who seem more concerned about treating the offenders, rather than protecting the citizens. Ultimately, their approach does neither. We believe that the best way to help those tempted to sexual crime or driving while intoxicated is the promise of stiff punishments, which also keeps Oregonians safe. We urge your Yes vote on Measure 73.

The Bible certainly warns against some of the attitudes that are usually present in gambling (Prov. 13:11; 20:21; 23:428:19-22; 1 Tim. 6:6-11; Gen. 4:7; Rom. 6:12). But it does not absolutely prohibit it. Neither should we.

Some say we already have enough gambling and casinos in Oregon. But, the same line of reasoning would prohibit a man from selling burgers from his store front, because the people have decided there are already enough burger joints. Surely this artificial restriction on the free market and competition is no way to make decisions about activities that are not prohibited in the Bible. It is not the job of government to pick winners and losers.

Nor is it the job of government to enforce personal decisions we make about issues that are not clearly prohibited in the Bible. Some people think fast food or video games are a waste of time and generally unhealthy. But do we really want to use the power of the civil government's sword to impose our personal lifestyle choices on others in areas where no Biblical crime is involved? We think not.

Ideally, this proposal should go through the Legislature so that a deliberative process could take place. But, unfortunately, the State of Oregon is in the gambling business via the state lottery system. It is thus not a neutral party, and is negatively minded to approve of private competition. It has a dog in the fight.

One more comment. We have been amazed listening to the debate over this Measure in our media. Business profits that may result from a private casino are regularly scorned and decried as bad, and tribal and state control of gambling proceeds are portrayed as the only sure way to goodness and blessing. In fact, the opposite is true. We live in an age of radical statism, and the more money the state gets, the more control they attempt to exert over its citizens. One of the loudest arguments against this Measure is that funding for government schools will decrease if it passes. Yet one more reason for lovers of freedom to support Ballot Measure 75!

Since this is a statutory measure, the Legislature can easily make changes to it to ensure proper oversight of private casinos. We therefore lean towards a Yes vote on Measure 75.



## Measure 74

**Simply Stated**

A Yes vote would increase access to marijuana.

### PEAPAC Commentary

Even if one agrees with our State's current provisions for medical marijuana (which we do not), Measure 74 should be rejected. The Legislature is the best place to hold hearings, hear expert testimony and develop systems of dispensing approved medical drugs. We urge your No vote on Measure 74.



## Measure 76

**Simply Stated**

A Yes vote would permanently tie up some lottery proceeds for parks.

### PEAPAC Commentary

We are seeing more and more ballot measures that commit this or that much percentage of this or that pot of money to this or that cause. This is known as "ballot box budgeting." This particular Measure seeks to make permanent the current practice of giving 15% of lottery proceeds to state parks, etc.. Ballot box budgeting contributed to the current financial mess in California. This is because it ties the hands of the Legislature from making necessary budget cuts. This is particularly true when these budget mandates become enshrined in the Constitution, requiring a vote of the people to change them. We think we will likely be seeing a whole new breed of legislators, committed to smaller state government. We don't want to tie their hands as they attempt to properly prioritize state spending. We therefore urge your No vote on Measure 76.



## Measure 75

**Simply Stated**

A Yes vote would allow for private competition to State and Indian gambling monopolies.

### PEAPAC Commentary

*[We know that we are going cross-grain with many of our supporters in recommending a yes vote on this measure. Please read on, and read on carefully!]*

The issue raised by this Measure is not gambling or no gambling. Rather, it is whether Indian reservations should have a monopoly on casino gambling. And it is also whether the State of Oregon (and Indian reservations) should have a monopoly on organized gambling.

# PARENTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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### Christians Have an Obligation to Vote

And seek the peace of the city whither I have caused you to be carried away captives, and pray unto the LORD for it: for in the peace thereof shall ye have peace. Jeremiah 29:7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions,

and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:1-4

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