

ISSUES 2016 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
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PEAPAC Ballot Measure Recommendations

Recommendation	Ballot Measure	Subject	Page Number
Yes	Measure 94	Repeals Mandatory Retirement Age for Judges.	2
Yes	Measure 95	Allows Public Universities to Invest in Equities.	2
Yes	Measure 96	Dedicates Some Lottery Proceeds to Services for Vets.	2
No	Measure 97	Creates Massive Regressive Job-killing Tax Increase.	2
Yes	Measure 98	Requires Funding College Prep, Vocational Training, Dropout Prevention.	3
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Yes	Measure 100	Controls Trafficking of Certain Wildlife Species' Parts or Products.	3

SEEK THE PEACE!

“Seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.” Jeremiah 29:7 (NKJV)

America seems more and more like Babylon with each passing election. But even in Babylon, God called on His people to trust Him, and to seek the peace. Peace is the Hebrew word “shalom.” It is not merely the absence of conflict but also includes the right ordering and flourishing of a culture with God at its center, and His Word being honored. Our work is dedicated to exalting God and His Word in our modern day Babylon, seeking biblical peace for our State and Nation. This seems impossible to some. But consider those to whom Jeremiah wrote. Daniel and his friends served God and obediently sought the peace of Babylon. Eventually, Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon’s tyrant dictator, was humbled and converted, coming at last to praising the Lord.

One caution. While voting and political action are important, Jeremiah’s primary message was to exercise godly vocation, build

houses, have kids, marry them off to faithful followers of the Lord, and remain committed to knowing and obeying God’s Word. May the Lord grant you faithfulness in these seemingly small things, and may He grant His peace once more to our State!

In Judges 1 and 2, we read that after Joshua’s death there “arose another generation after them, which knew not the LORD, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel” God left enemies in the land that they “may prove Israel, whether they will keep the way of the LORD to walk therein,” “to know whether they would hearken unto the commandments of the LORD.”

God is in control. We are in a time of great testing, to see if we will keep the way of the Lord as we work, love, parent, worship and vote.

This Biblical Ballot Measure Voters Guide is provided to encourage thinking Biblically about public policy issues. *Our comments are intended to start discussions, not end them.*

global setting. A daunting task! But Jesus came to save sinners, transforming them into disciples who would be used by the Holy Spirit to “bring justice to victory” (Matthew 12:20).

Our job is to try to discern the core truths concerning justice and public policy contained in the Bible and discern their proper application to our context, this side of the Cross, and in a highly technological, industrial and

“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

“To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” Isaiah 8:20



Measure 94
*Amends Constitution:
Eliminates mandatory
retirement age for state
judges.*

Oregon law currently requires that judges retire when they turn 75. This referral from the Oregon Legislature would remove that requirement. We support its passage. The Bible has many texts commending the aged and encouraging respect for them, and attentiveness to them. Job 12:12 tells us “Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.” Of course, not all the aged are wise, and some are physically and mentally diminished. But this is no reason to force those without such shortcomings from judicial office. We are very pleased to see a ballot measure acknowledging the value of old age.

Judge Learned Hand is widely recognized as America’s best judge who never sat on the Supreme Court. At the age of 86, he lectured at Harvard Law School. He died at age 89, and judged 28 cases in the year of his death!



Measure 95
*Amends Constitution:
Allows investments in
equities by public uni-
versities to reduce financial
risk and increase investments to
benefit students.*

Oregon’s public universities strive to manage their money in the best way possible. Their goal is to reduce risk and increase returns. These revenues are then used to fund their core educational mission. They are currently prohibited from investing in company stocks and other equities. This Measure would remove this restric-



Measure 96
*Amends Constitution:
Dedicates 1.5% of state
lottery net proceeds to
funding support services
for Oregon veterans.*

This is one of two measures this year that would dedicate a certain percentage of lottery funds to a particular purpose. In this case, it would ensure that 1.5% will be spent on veterans programs. While so-called “ballot box budgeting” has some problems, this particular Measure would support the most important biblical purpose of civil government – the defense of the nation. We urge a Yes vote.



Measure 97
*Increases corporate
minimum tax when
sales exceed \$25 million;
funds education, health-
care, senior services.*

We strongly oppose this Measure, and urge your No vote on it. It would raise taxes more than 3 billion (with a B) dollars a year! It would be the largest tax increase in Oregon’s history. So, first, we oppose it because it would shift a huge amount of dollars from private to state

control. In 1 Samuel 8:1-20, God warns against civil government that gets too big and too intrusive. It also warns about the oppression of the poor by government structures. This is a very important text for our times!

The second reason we oppose this Measure is that it is “regressive”, meaning it would disproportionately hurt the poor. Companies with low profit margins, like Walmart grocery stores, would be forced to raise their prices. These businesses supply necessities such as food and clothing. This Measure, then, would hurt low income Oregonians. Medical providers would also be taxed under this Measure, increasing health care costs. Because of this, the Oregon Medical Association has gone on record opposing Measure 97.

Even Oregon’s iconic Powell’s Bookstore, the nation’s largest store front seller of new and used books, would be threatened by this Measure. Emily Powell, the owner, says that she is not sure they could survive the necessary price increases this Measure would force.

We urge you to vote No on this Measure, and ask you to encourage all your friends to vote No as well.



Measure 98
*Requires state funding
for dropout prevention,
career and college readi-
ness programs in Oregon
high schools.*

This Measure ensures that three of the most important aspects of any school system are prioritized in Oregon. Keeping students in school, and preparing them for vocation and college can be said to be the

The leech has two daughters; “Give” and “Give,” they cry. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, “Enough”: Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, “Enough” Proverbs 30:15,16

Well, let’s add another to this list: the state bureaucracy, which Measure 97 attempts to grow by 3 billion dollars a year in new taxes. Don’t believe the rhetoric of this tax increase being necessary “for the children.” There is no language directing the new revenues be spent on schools. And haven’t we had enough of the public school advocates wanting more and more of our hard-earned wages to teach kids that God is irrelevant to their lives, that more and more government is good and business is bad, and that socialization means using four letter words, showing disrespect for parents, and engaging in casual sex of various types?

most basic of goals for schools. And yet, over the decades, these goals have been shoved aside in Oregon. This Measure is a solid attempt to restore them, and in doing so, restore a proper focus for state secondary school education. The Measure would mandate that the state spend about \$150 million of **existing** school funds a year on these goals. It also allows local school districts and boards diversity in how they meet the goals. Restoring the proper goals of schooling, ensuring dollars follow those goals and providing significant implementation freedom to local districts makes this a very worthy Measure. We urge your Yes vote.

to provide outdoor school programs statewide.

This and Measure 96 both attempt to dedicate lottery funds to a particular purpose. The purpose of this Measure is Oregon’s outdoor school program. As important as veterans are to the biblical purpose of government, so outdoor schools seem to be as obviously unimportant to those core purposes. If local school boards and districts want to use their dollars to fund outdoor schools, great. But this Measure arises because local districts have made the opposite decision. Some of them are either shortening or eliminating outdoor schools. We generally affirm local control of schools. And outdoor school is not essential to the core purposes of education. We therefore advise a No vote on this Measure.



Measure 99
Creates “Outdoor School Education Fund,” continuously funded through Lottery,



Measure 100
Prohibits purchase or sale of parts or products from certain wildlife species; exceptions; civil penalties.

We generally think that complicated issues raised by ballot measures such as this one should go through the vetting process of legislative hearings. In this case, the backers of this Measure previously tried to do just that. But leftist politics got in the way, so this now needs to be done by Ballot Measure.

We ask for your support of this Measure. While it is complicated, its basic goal is a biblical one – proper stewardship of God’s creation. While we oppose radical environmentalism, we know that the Lord has called on us to exercise proper authority and care for the created order. This includes the astonishing animals the good Lord takes delight in. Every time we see a rainbow, we are reminded of God’s covenant with Noah. But, remarkably, that same promise to preserve human life was also made with the animals that Noah stewarded into the new world (see Genesis 9:10). God made a covenant with animals, as well as Noah.

So, we like the tenor and goal of this Measure. It also creates common sense exceptions, showing it is well thought out. And if some of the details need reworking, the legislative process can be used to fine tune this law. We endorse Measure 100.

THE BIBLE AND OLD AGE

God’s Word speaks often of the value of the aged, and the need to honor, respect, and listen carefully to them.

- The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness. Proverbs 16:31 (NKJV)
- Wisdom is with aged men, and with length of days, understanding. Job 12:12 (NKJV)
- Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old. Proverbs 23:22 (NKJV)
- Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father, younger men as brothers, 1 Timothy 5:1 (NKJV)
- I said, “Age should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.” Job 32:7 (NKJV)

- You shall rise before the gray headed and honor the presence of an old man, and fear your God: I am the LORD. Leviticus 19:32 (NKJV)

At the same time, the elderly have a very important job. God calls on them to serve Him in a way that would impact the next generation.

- O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. Now also when I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come. Psalm 71:17–18 (NKJV)

May God grant honor to the elderly, and their continuing service to the King and His Kingdom!

PARENTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

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Which would you rather see? Your tax dollars buying \$100 of atheistic school textbooks persuading children that God is irrelevant, or 200 Biblical Ballot Measure Voters Guides, asserting the relevance of God in all things?

If you make a joint contribution, note this on the check and put both names and both occupations on this form, please.

Yes, Dennis, I want to help. Here's my contribution to help bring God's Word into the political arena.

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