

ISSUES 2018 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
Yes	Measure 102	Remove Some State Control of Local Bonds
Yes	Measure 103	No Taxes on Our Daily Bread
Yes	Measure 104	If It Looks Like A Tax
Yes	Measure 105	Repeal Oregon Sanctuary State Status
Yes	Measure 106	Stop Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

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TRANSFORMING CIVIL GOVERNMENT THROUGH BIBLICAL TRUTH

PROTECTING EDUCATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Cor. 10:31

**For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our
Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us!"**
Isa. 33:22

We are to engage in every area of human activity, including the political one, as Christians. This means from a distinctively biblical perspective. We believe that our judges, law-makers and rulers should reflect the character, honesty, integrity, justice and love of God. This is the mission

of the Parents Education Association. To that end, we offer this biblical analysis and voting recommendations on Oregon's 2018 state-wide ballot measures. It is provided to encourage Biblical thinking about the issues.

Our comments are intended to start discussions, not end them.

To interact with our measure discussions, go to Facebook.

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Measure 102

**Amends Constitution:
Allows local bonds for
financing affordable housing
with nongovernmental entities.
Requires voter approval, annual audits**

Remove Some State Control of Local Bonds

It's a bit wonky, but simply put, Measure 102 would allow local voter-approved bonds to fund public-private partnerships to develop affordable housing. Currently, Oregon's Constitution prohibits this. The reason you are voting on something so technical is that Oregon's Constitution can only be changed by a vote of the people. Measure 102 was placed on the ballot with strong bipartisan support, including many good conservatives.

We support this Measure because it decentralizes control over local bonding matters. We generally support efforts that increase local control of civil government, since the Bible warns against centralized government, and affirms local accountable self-government (1 Sam. 8, Deut. 17:16, rulers at the city gates, etc.). Measure 102 doesn't create any bonds, it just allows local governments the freedom to develop them, if their voters approve.

Having said that, it's not likely that such bonds would help fix the affordable housing problem. The opposite is more likely, in our view. Like other issues, government helped create the problem, and its proposed fixes usually make things worse while it takes money out of our pockets.

We could make housing more affordable by loosening zoning regulations, expanding the

urban growth boundaries, and by lowering permitting costs and other exorbitant fees associated with new construction.

We question the wisdom of voting to make your property collateral for projects that private developers will significantly profit from. National conservative commentator David L. Bahnsen warns that public-private partnerships are an "invitation to the worst forms of cronyism." We agree. But Measure 102 simply gives local voters the freedom to do what may well be quite unwise. Freedom includes the freedom to do foolish things.



Measure 103

**Amends Constitution:
Prohibits taxes/fees
based on transactions for
"groceries" (defined) enacted
or amended after September 2017**

No Taxes on Our Daily Bread

It's a truism that government rulers never think they have enough money, and that voters always think the government has more than enough. Much of politics these days is the back and forth battle over the control of the citizens property (money), tightly connected to life and liberty. Measure 103 is a bit unique, being a preemptive strike, so to speak, in that battle. We like this new tactic. The best defense is often a good offense.

For years, Oregonians have successfully fought off attempts by liberals to impose a sales tax. That is largely because they believe that a sales tax will just be another way to increase total state taxation on our hard-earned money, no matter how they might message it.

If passed, this Measure would prohibit state and local governments from enacting taxes, fees, or assessments on the sale of groceries. Taxes on groceries are particularly objectionable, since food is necessary for simple survival. Grocery taxes strike hardest at the poor, since they spend a high proportion of their money on food.

Another good reason to vote for Measure 103 is the growing fad among taxing authorities to act like parents, manipulating what we should eat via high taxes on specific products. These attempts to dictate our food choices are particularly controlling, and highly restrictive of liberty. And, frankly, they are insulting!

Christians are urged to be wise as serpents (Matt. 10:16). As Israel entered the Promised Land, God taught them battle strategies, including feints, encirclement tactics, etc. (Judges 8). There were, of course, times when God miraculously destroyed our enemies. But for the most part, our Lord wants us to be mature and wise, using good strategies and tactics to protect the resources He has entrusted to us. Manna ceased, and agricultural work began when we entered the promised land.

Measure 103 would put an ounce of tax prevention in the Constitution, meaning the Legislature could not enact such taxes without another vote of the people. This seems like a wise precaution, given our current Legislature, which seems to have an insatiable appetite for more and more money and control. They are like the undisciplined man who must be "controlled by bit and bridle" (Ps. 32:8). This Measure, like Measure 104, is a bit in the government's hungry mouth, ensuring

future freedom from having even our daily bread taxed and “eaten” by an out of control state government. We urge a Yes vote on Measure 103.



Measure 104

Amends Constitution: Expands (beyond taxes) application of requirement that three-fifths legislative majority approve bills raising revenue

If It Looks Like A Tax.....

In 1 Samuel 8, an oppressive ruler is characterized as one who would tax the people at a rate of 10%. Currently, government takes about 45% of our productive labor. The average citizen works nearly half of his week just to pay for taxes, both seen and unseen.

Why do most households today require two wage-earners? Why can't most of us afford private schools for our children and grandchildren, more in keeping with our values? Why do Americans have so much debt, which tends to reduce our liberty? Too high a tax burden is surely one of the most significant reasons

Proverbs 30:15, 16 The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough.

Let's add a fifth example to the list – liberal politicians.

Someone once said that the art of taxation is to get as many feathers off the chicken as possible with the least amount of squawking. One of the major struggles in politics is between lawmakers who want more and more money, and voters, who want to pay less and less. Tax receipts have never been higher, but it's just not enough, we are told. Money is the lifeblood of government, and the more it gets, the more control it will exercise. It's a double whammy – we have less money and more government control. Less money means less liberty.

In 1996, voters approved a ballot measure requiring a three-fifths supermajority vote in both House and Senate to raise taxes in Oregon. It was not a close vote. Since then, state legislators and the Oregon Supreme Court have found creative ways around the restriction. Votes to remove tax deductions are called revenue increases, not tax increases. That way, they can be passed

by a simple majority vote. Just this year, federal tax changes were passed, resulting in one billion dollars in tax savings for 250,000 small businesses in Oregon. But by a simple majority vote, Oregon's liberals kept this money as state revenue.

Measure 104 fixes the ambiguity, mandating that any increase in state revenue requires a supermajority vote. And it's a Constitutional amendment, meaning it could only be altered by a vote of the people. We urge your Yes vote on Measure 104.



Measure 105

Repeals law limiting use of state/local law enforcement resources to enforce federal immigration laws

Repeal Oregon Sanctuary State Status

God gave us nations. From the table of 70 nations in Genesis 10 to the nations referred to in Revelation 22 (e.g. “the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations” v. 2), God affirms nations. He also affirms gates, or walls, around cities, etc., which keep some out (see Rev. 22:14,15). Nations have borders, with the obvious need to control those borders. Oregon's sanctuary state law is a practical denial of our obligations as part of a nation with a need to control its borders.

The Bible also affirms the rule of law (Rom. 13:1), which our current sanctuary state law erodes. It creates special protections for those in our State whose one distinction is that their first act in America was to break the law by illegally crossing the border. This is frequently followed by breaking the laws regarding proof of identity. It is also routinely accompanied by businesses willfully violating those same identity laws, to procure cheap labor. All this fosters disrespect for the rule of law generally. That's why 14 Oregon County Sheriffs signed a letter calling on us to vote Yes on Measure 105, to help restore the rule of law. They wrote “Respect for the law, among citizens and noncitizens alike, is indispensable to a free society.”

Finally, a comment about the Bible and sanctuary cities. God established cities of refuge for a time in Israel's history. They were for the protection of those who had accidentally killed someone. The person who fled to such a city was tried by judges. If found guilty of murder, he was not allowed to stay in the sanctuary city (Numbers 35). There is no biblical warrant

in these texts for modern “sanctuary cities” or states. We urge your Yes vote on Measure 105.



Measure 106

Amends Constitution: Prohibits spending “public funds” (defined) directly/indirectly for “abortion” (defined); exceptions; reduces abortion access

Stop Taxpayer Funding of Abortion

We strongly recommend a Yes vote on Measure 106. We also urge you to ask your friends, family, and neighbors to vote Yes as well. It will reduce the number of abortions. It will also mean that Oregonians who are deeply opposed to what they see as the taking of human life are no longer forced to pay for the practice.

In 2017, our Legislature made Oregon the worst abortion state in the union. They decided that all women in Oregon can have free abortions for any reason, at any time during their pregnancy, paid for by the taxpayer.

Measure 106 will not eliminate most abortions in Oregon. But the State of Oregon predicts that it will save some lives. The government prepares financial impact statements for all ballot measures. While Measure 106 only cuts off public funding, the financial impact statement indicates it will reduce the deaths of unborn children. It predicts an increase of about 22 million dollars “resulting from an estimated increase in births”. The number one reason to vote Yes on 106 is to save lives.

Additionally, this Measure would stop forcing those morally opposed to abortion from funding some 4,000 abortions each year. We should not be forced to pay for what is morally repugnant to us. Every Oregonian, through our tax dollars, “participates” in elective abortions. This includes late-term and sex-selective abortions. It is very wrong to force each of us to pay for what we regard as the killing of a defenseless human being. It should be added that the mothers whose abortions we pay for frequently experience significant mental and emotional harm.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” Proverbs 31:8

Let's join the other 32 states and the District of Columbia that prohibit the use of public funds for abortion. Let's save lives. Let's use the voices of our votes to speak up for the unborn. Please do all you can to help pass Measure 106.

PARENTS EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Working for Educational Freedom – Restoring Parental Control

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A woman wearing a blue suit jacket is holding an open red Bible. The Bible cover has "HOLY BIBLE" embossed on it. She is wearing a ring on her left hand and a bracelet on her right. The background is an American flag. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Parents Education Association" and "Biblical Answers for Oregon's Political Questions".

Parents Education Association

Biblical Answers for Oregon's Political Questions