

ISSUES 2020 A Biblical Ballot Measure Voter's Guide

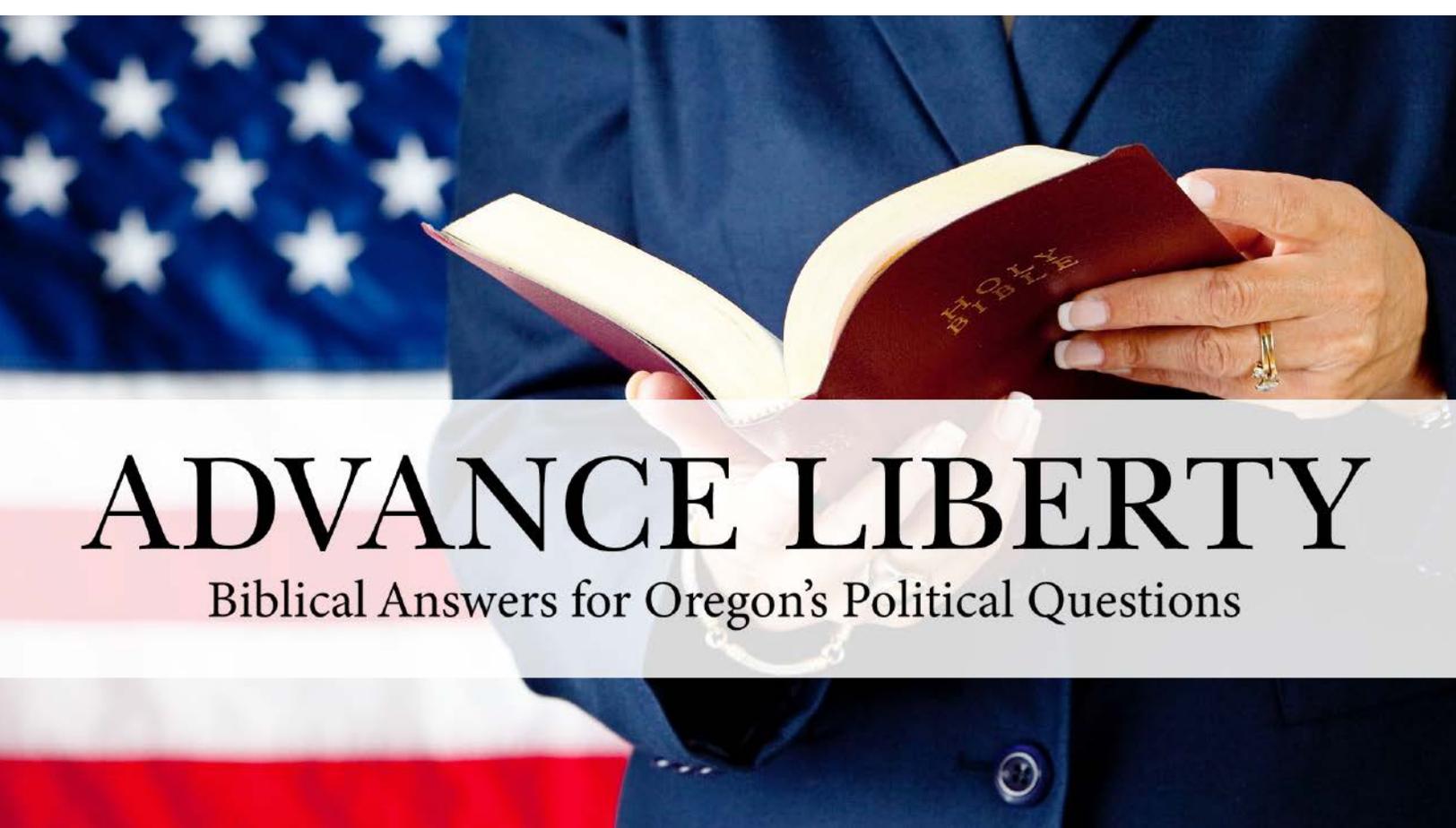
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Advance Liberty is the new name of the Parents Education Association.

The new name better reflects both the range of issues we address and the range of our audience.

BALLOT MEASURE RECOMMENDATIONS

NO	MEASURE 107	Attacks Your Political Free Speech Rights
NO	MEASURE 108	Huge New Cigarette Taxes to Expand State Takeover of Health Care
NO	MEASURE 109	Makes Magic Mushrooms Widely Available
NO	MEASURE 110	Essentially Legalizes Heroin, Meth, Fentanyl, Cocaine, etc.
YES	COOS COUNTY MEASURE 6-181	Protects Citizens From 2nd Amendment Attacks by State, Feds



ADVANCE LIBERTY

Biblical Answers for Oregon's Political Questions



Measure 107

Amends Constitution: Allows 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.

Advance Liberty Summary: This Constitutional Amendment would allow the Oregon Legislature to set limits on political campaign contributions and expenditures. These limits are currently forbidden by the Constitution. It would also require campaign ads to show who paid for them.

In 1722, Benjamin Franklin wrote: “Whoever would overthrow the Liberty of a Nation must begin by subduing the Freedom of Speech.” If passed, Measure 107 would restrain, and thus subdue, your freedom of political speech.

The Oregon Constitution, in guaranteeing freedom of speech, explicitly prohibits laws that would restrict election spending in Oregon. Measure 107 would reverse that, allowing limits on campaign spending. Such limits, in essence, are restraints on our political speech. It would pave the way for restrictions on how the average Oregonian could use his money to freely express his views into the political arena. We have the right to speak freely, to spend our money to advance that speech, and to join together with others in such advocacy. Measure 107 would interfere with these rights.

Proverbs 31:8 tells us to “Open your mouth for the mute, for the rights of all who are destitute.” The implication is that we actually have a duty to speak truth into the political arena. Measure 107 is a threat to that duty and to our liberty. All public policy organizations--pro-family, conservative and liberal alike--would lose much of their ability to educate voters or support candidates. More importantly, voters would be far less educated about candidate philosophies and positions on issues at election time.

Pragmatically, the result of such laws is the unjust empowerment of the rich. The US Supreme Court has ruled it is unconstitutional to limit the amount an

individual can spend on his own political campaign. Add political spending limits on all others, and it increasingly becomes the case that only the rich can run successfully for office.

Another concern is the Measure’s requirement of disclosure of who paid for what ads. Such knowledge can be useful, of course. But cancel culture and violent reprisals against conservatives gives us pause concerning this disclosure requirement.

In 2006, a similar measure was put before the voters. We urged a No vote. We were right then and we urge the same this year. Vote No on Measure 107.



Measure 108

Increases cigarette and cigar taxes. Establishes tax on e-cigarettes and nicotine vaping devices. Funds health programs.

Advance Liberty Summary: Increases cigarette taxes by two dollars a pack. Also increases taxes on cigars and establishes taxes on e-cigs and vaping devices, used by many to wean them off of the more harmful cigarettes. Uses the revenue to expand the State’s footprint in the health care system. Tax dollars are used to grow the Oregon Health Authority’s budget and reach.

The goal of this Measure is the expansion of the Oregon Health Authority. The means to that end is a tax on cigarettes, cigars, and vaping devices. The strategy is to fund the desired expansion through the hundreds of millions of dollars the Measure hopes to raise. These three issues (the goal, the means, and the strategy) are why we oppose Measure 108.

First, we are opposed to the goal of 108 – a growing take-over of private health care by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). In the parable of the talents, Jesus said that previous demonstrated faithfulness was the prerequisite to being given increased responsibility. Like much of Oregon’s bureaucracy, OHA has been incompetent and scandal-ridden. But even if they were competent, it’s just not the government’s job to take over more and more of the health care system.

Romans 13 makes clear that the state’s job is to protect the liberty of citizens from those that would threaten that liberty. In texts such as Deuteronomy 17 and 1 Samuel 8, God warns us of the strong negative consequences of centralizing more and more power in the state. These can be summed up in one phrase – the loss of liberty.

Additionally, the highly politicized OHA has pushed various controversial issues such as free abortions for illegals, universal in-home visits of all newborns, sex change operations, and puberty blocking drugs for confused children. We reject the goal of Measure 108.

Second, we are opposed to the proposed means. This is the latest massive tax increase in a long line of tax and revenue increases over the past three years. Big tax increases in a time of pandemic and deep recession is almost criminal, particularly when levied on low-income and sicker individuals. That’s the normal smoker. Even if one wanted to give OHA more money, the means should be a tax on all of us, not just a few. It’s easy to spend someone else’s money to do your good deed. That’s not noble or praiseworthy. And that’s what Measure 108 proposes - tax smokers so the rest of us can think we did something good for health. Cigarette smokers are the new villain minority that nobody minds kicking when they’re down. We find this sort of class-taxation objectionable. Add to that the fact that most cigarette smokers are low income, and most would like to quit but can’t, and this whole taxing scheme seems reprehensible.

Third, Measure 108’s strategy won’t work. By now, America has had a lot of experience with tobacco taxes. The data is clear – revenue goes up for a short time, but then recedes to the level before the new tax was added. Reasons for this include mail order sales (hurting local businesses), cigarette smuggling, Indian reservation sales, movement to e-cigs and hand-rolled, etc. If 108 passes, the new OHA budget will remain, cigarette tax revenue will recede, and we will have yet one more budget hole to be plugged with more and more taxes. The powers that be know this. Their goal is to push higher and higher state budgets and, thus, state power. Stop them by voting No on Measure 108.



Measure 109

Oregon Psilocybin Services Act

Advance Liberty Summary: Allows manufacture, delivery, administration of psilocybin at supervised, licensed facilities; imposes two-year development period.

This Measure will result in the dangerous wide-spread use of psilocybin, more commonly referred to as “magic mushrooms”. The practitioners who could provide this hallucinogenic drug would not be required to have any medical background.

It is true that the FDA has given “break-through therapy” status to this drug for a single condition, Major Depressive Disorder. But this just means that the FDA is now engaged in research, studying both the efficacy and safety of the drug for this one limited condition. Measure 109 wants to leapfrog over the safety standards that result from such research, and allow the general distribution of a very powerful hallucinogen for a wide variety of conditions, dispensed by people with no required medical background. Clearly, this is a very bad idea.

These sorts of radical law changes belong properly to our Legislature. There controversial new ideas are vetted through the legislative process of committee hearings. Experts can be heard from, the advice of the medical community, law enforcement, and the business community sought. This would lead to the development of a reasonable approach to the topic. Leaping over the FDA process, Measure 109 also leapfrogs the legislative process. We are warned by large numbers of doctors, including the Oregon Psychiatric Physicians Association (OPPA) that the likely outcome of this approach would be severe mental health issues.

One need only look to our recent experience of unintended negative consequences of medical and legalized marijuana as a cautionary tale. These include accidents at work and on the road as well as addiction and marijuana toxicity (which can lead to coma and even death). Citing numerous studies, a recent article in Psychiatric Times reports “Numerous lines of evidence suggest a correlation between cannabis consumption and a variety of psychiatric conditions, including canna-

bis-induced psychosis (CIP).” Hallucinogenic magic mushrooms are far more potentially dangerous to both the users and the broader public than marijuana. The OPPA also raises the concern that this dangerous and powerful drug will become available to minors. Again, the history of marijuana legalization would seem to support this.

Proverbs 22:3 tells us “The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the naïve goes on and suffers for it.” Perhaps psilocybin will be useful in treating some persons. But in our view the place to work through the myriad issues involved is the Legislature, not the ballot box. We urge a No vote on Measure 109.



Measure 110

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

Advance Liberty Summary: Decriminalizes various currently prohibited drugs, including heroin and fentanyl, for all ages. Sets up Assessment Centers that can refer addicts to treatment facilities but would remove any requirement for addicts to attend these facilities. Funded by money currently being spent on K-12 schools.

Our opposition to Measure 110 begins with its highly deceptive name and title. The drafters call this the “Drug Addiction Treatment Recovery Act.”

Drug Addiction: But Instead of reducing addiction, it opens the door wide for children and adults to these addictive substances.

Treatment: But it only gives lip service to treatment, simply referring addicts to treatment centers while it cuts their funding and removes the judicial incentives to avail oneself of them.

Recovery Act: But the only thing it actually “recovers” is the money it takes from our children’s education.

“The LORD detests lying lips, but He delights in people who are trustworthy.” Proverbs 12:22

We have four serious objections to this Measure. First, through decriminaliza-

tion, 110 removes the current strong messaging that these drugs are very harmful. It’s primary effect would be the decriminalization of user amounts of heroin, methamphetamine, ecstasy, LSD, psilocybin, etc.. This would apply to juveniles and adults alike. Decriminalization sends the message that these drugs are not really all that bad or dangerous.

As if this is not bad enough, it would, second, decouple these drug offenses from the justice system, which currently provides strong incentives to enter drug addiction treatment facilities. These systems have been established to break the devastating cycle of addiction. Many addicts say that if they hadn’t been arrested and then ordered to a treatment center, they would have died from their addiction. As the saying goes “You have to feel the heat before you see the light” But 110 removes the current justice system incentives to enter residential treatment centers. There is a consensus of those tackling the problem of drug addiction that residential treatment facilities are the most effective means of helping addicts break with their addiction and be restored to health and true liberty.

Third, Measure 110 does nothing to add treatment beds. 110’s assessment centers can only refer addicts to treatment centers. But Measure 110 does not provide any funding for treatment beds and instead removes money from these sorts of services. The predictable result would be to increase addiction, leading to a whole host of ill effects, including mental illness, child abuse and neglect, homelessness, crime that supports the addicted, poor health outcomes, suicides, and overdoses. This isn’t just informed speculation. These are the actual results of a similar approach tried in San Francisco.

It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. Similarly, God’s word says that “The tender mercies of the wicked turn out to be cruel.” (Proverbs 12:10). Measure 110 is cruel to those it purports to help and will increase some of the most intractable problems of our state.

Fourth and finally, 110 is primarily funded by removing over seventy million dollars from our K-12 schools, creating yet another budget hole, resulting in yet more taxes.

We urge you to vote No on Measure 110.

Why is this county measure being addressed in AL's state voter's guide? It involves the use of a potent legal tool to defend and advance liberty in all of Oregon's jurisdictions. Please read!



Advance Liberty Summary: Many attempts are being made in Oregon to restrict the Second Amendment's right to keep and bear arms. This measure will provide a buffer for Coos County citizens if some of these are successful at a State level and intrude into Second Amendment rights.

This measure would give Coos County officials the ability to protect county residents whose right to keep and bear arms is threatened by any other government official.

It would let county officials stand between the citizen and whatever government entity was trying to remove the citizen's Second Amendment rights. Legally, this is known as "Interposition." This practice has had a long history in western civilization. Consider Magna Carta, when in 1215 English barons compelled King John to agree to a "Great Charter." This contained a whole series of church rights and individual liberties. Its laws, processes, and procedures became foundational for our own laws and liberty. It could be said that the entire history of the growth of Western individual liberties was the result of such interventions.

Biblically, the practice flows from the teaching of Paul in Romans 13:1-10. Every ruler, not just the top one, is a servant of God. They are to apply the truths of God's word to protect citizens from those that would attack their person or property. Every official has a duty to do this, even when the threatening comes from another ruler or group of officials.

The Greek term for sword in Romans 13 referred to a symbol of authority, of the powers of the state. A useful illustration of the use of this authority in interposition comes from the Roman Emperor Trajan. When he presented a sword of rule to a new provincial governor of his, he said "For me. If I deserve it, in me."

As Oregon has become increasingly socialist, bills and measures that would diminish second amendment rights are abounding. And if the Democrat candidate wins the White House, we can expect the same sorts of attacks from the federal government. Given the current state of Oregon politics, this may well be the most important ballot measure in 2020. Its significance goes far beyond the gun issue.

We strongly recommend a Yes vote. We also recommend that you and your friends become familiar with 'interposition' for the protection of ALL our liberties. We would be happy to provide resources on interposition, and to come speak to groups on the subject and its significance.

PASTORS, POLITICS, PASSIVITY, AND PERIL

According to the Pew Research Center, 61% of Oregonians describe themselves as Christian. Nearly half of those describe themselves as Evangelicals. So why are our politics so liberal?

When was the last time you heard a sermon on what the Bible says about politics, about the right ordering of a polis (city, county, or state) along Biblical lines? Many pastors seem to have bought into the notion of the separation of religion and politics.

But when Paul writes to Timothy about how to be a good pastor, he begins with politics. As he begins his instructions about the worship of the Church he writes this:

"I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth." 1 Timothy 2:1-4

Paul tells Timothy that the most important thing to do in church is to pray for politi-

cians. The prayer is for them to be "saved." Paul is using the term "saved" comprehensively. He wants politicians to be disciples of Jesus, and govern all of their lives, including their positions of authority, in a God-pleasing way. The end result of this, Paul tells us, is that "we might live peaceful and quiet lives." Good rulers, and good public policies that mirror the Word of God, are what provide the stability in which Christian citizens can flourish in their lives.

Proverbs 29:2 "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked reign, the people mourn."

This country's early colonial period was marked by pastors who preached "election day sermons," in which they taught the truths of God's word as it relates to politics, to the governing of political units. They did this to prepare their congregants for that year's election, to prepare them to vote. I pastored for over 30 years and preached a number of election day sermons.

When pastors avoid politics like the plague, congregants become politically uninformed and passive, leading to peril - bad laws,

high taxation, anti-Christian education, the breakdown of the rule of law, and the rise of mismanagement and injustice.

Christians need to be instructed how to be good spouses, good parents, good workers, and good citizens. They need to be taught the linkage between good governors and lives of peacefulness and human flourishing.

We now live in a state that is marked by the breakdown of the family, the need for two wage earners in a home, the inability of parents to provide for a Christian education for their children, forced financial support for the killing of pre-born infants, and a government that seems more intent on protecting bums (those who refuse to work, and rioters than the well-being of citizens.

Ask your pastor, respectfully, for more help from the Word of God on how government should work. Ask for an occasional sermon on how our laws should be framed in ways that please God and honors the King of Kings. Ask him to pray regularly in worship for good governance and good governors. Ask him how the Bible informs us as to what candidates and ballot measures should be supported or opposed. Paul told Timothy its job one.

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