

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

OREGON EDITION **VOTERS' GUIDE** VOLUME 43 NUMBER 1



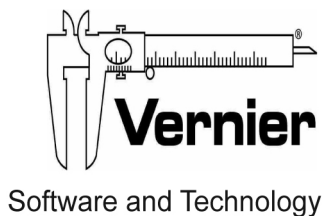
SPECIAL ELECTION JAN 23, 2018

www.LWVOR.org

Table of Contents

County Elections Offices.....	2
Voter Information.....	2
Ballot Measure 101	3-6
2018 League Special Election Events.....	7

Benefactors



Carol and
Velma Saling
Foundation

League of
Women
Voters
MEMBERS

ON THE WEB

The information in this VOTERS' GUIDE
and more is available on-line at

League of Women Voters of
Oregon

www.LWVOR.org

For more information go to

www.LWVOR.org/VOTEResources

Important Dates:

January 2: **Last day to register to vote.**

January 3-January 9: **Ballots mailed to registered voters. If you don't get yours, contact your county elections office.**

If you mail your ballot, remember to add more time because of our Oregon USPS site closures and rerouting.

January 23-Election Day: **Last day to DROP OFF your ballot at an official drop-off site by 8:00pm.**

Check your voter registration

You can check, update and/or register to vote online in Oregon. Be sure to check if you have moved.

www.oregonvotes.org

County Elections Offices

Baker	541-523-8207	Lane.....	541-682-4234
Benton	541-766-6756	Lincoln	541-265-4131
Clackamas.....	503-655-8510	Linn	541-967-3831
Clatsop	503-325-8511	Malheur	541-473-5151
Columbia.....	503-397-7214	Marion.....	503-588-5041; 1-800-655-5388
Coos	541-396-7610	Morrow	541-676-5604
Crook.....	541-447-6553	Multnomah	503-988-3720
Curry	541-247-3297	Polk.....	503-623-9217
Deschutes	541-388-6547	Sherman	541-565-3606
Douglas.....	541-440-4252	Tillamook.....	503-842-3402
Gilliam.....	541-384-2311	Umatilla.....	541-278-6254
Grant	541-575-1675	Union	541-963-1006
Harney.....	541-573-6641	Wallowa.....	541-426-4543; Ext 158
Hood River.....	541-386-1442	Wasco	541-506-2530
Jackson.....	541-774-6148	Washington	503-846-5800
Jefferson.....	541-475-4451	Wheeler	541-763-2400
Josephine.....	541-474-5243	Yamhill	503-434-7518
Klamath	541-883-5134		
Lake.....	541-947-6006		

State of Oregon Ballot Measure 101

Healthcare Provider Assessments to fund Medicaid and stabilize individual insurance premiums.

REFERENDUM: *Ballot Measure 101 is a veto (repeal) referendum. A veto referendum is a citizen-initiated measure addressing a law that the state legislature and governor approved. Certifying a veto referendum for the ballot requires signatures equivalent to 4% of the votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election. This veto referendum was placed on the ballot with 70,230 valid signatures.*

FINANCIAL IMPACT: *HB 2391 will produce an additional \$673 million for the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid) in the 2017-2019 budget cycle through state medical fund transfers and new assessments.*

Although there is no direct financial effect on local government revenues, there may be an indeterminate effect on local government expenditures related to increases in associated insurance assessments. There is likely to be an indirect and indeterminate effect on the state economy and local government revenues and expenditures.

If the measure is defeated, there will be a reduction of \$210-\$320 million in state revenue, resulting in possible reduction of \$630-\$960 million in federal matching funds.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A YES VOTE

A “Yes” vote allows House Bill 2391 to go into effect in its entirety as enacted by the 2017 Oregon Legislature. It upholds specified assessments on health insurance companies, managed care organizations, the Public Employees’ Benefit Board, and some hospitals. These assessments will provide Oregon’s non-federal portion of funding for the Oregon Health Plan. Insurance companies cannot increase premiums by more than 1.5% as a result of the assessments.

PROBABLE RESULTS OF A NO VOTE

A “No” vote rejects temporary assessments on health insurance companies, managed care organizations, the Public Employees’ Benefit Board, and some hospitals. Defeating ballot measure 101 will remove funding for HB 2391.

See the Proposal section on page 5 for details.

BACKGROUND:

The Oregon Health Plan (OHP)—Oregon’s Medicaid program—covers about a million people, including low-income children, seniors and people with disabilities.

In 2014 the federal government’s Affordable Care Act provided federal funds to Oregon and other states to expand Medicaid coverage. As of 2017, this resulted in OHP providing coverage to 350,000 previously uninsured low-income Oregonians. Medicaid expansion includes adults not covered by an employer’s plan who earn up to 138% of the federal poverty level. Initially, the federal government paid 100% of these expansion costs. However, starting in 2017, Oregon was required to pay 5% of the expansion costs in order to release federal funds to cover the Medicaid Expansion coverage. Oregon’s required percentage contribution will increase in 2018 to 6%, 7% in 2019, and its share will be capped at 10% in 2020 and beyond.

By the end of 2016 there was a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall for Oregon’s mandated programs. Starting in January 2017, the Oregon Legislature worked with stakeholders on HB 2391 to fund the Oregon Health Plan for another 2 years to ensure that this shortfall did not cause approximately 350,000 Oregonians to lose insurance. It was signed into law on July 3rd, 2017, passed by a three-fifths majority vote (Senate: 20 to 10, House 36 to 23).

HB 2391 funds the state’s cost sharing obligation by imposing temporary (two-year) additional assessments on hospitals and health insurance companies. (Since the Medicaid healthcare provider organizations are the primary beneficiaries of federal Medicaid funding, such assessments are used in 49 states to fund health care. Oregon has used similar assessments since 2003; prior to 2014, an assessment on insurers funded Oregon’s Healthy Kids Program.)

Part of the revenues will be used as “reinsurance” for individual policy insurers, as a backstop for extraordinarily large claims. The intention is that individual market insurers will be able to lower their premiums. If this measure passes, the assessments on some hospitals will be approved, subject to the approval date by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) of the federal Department of Health and Human Services.

Approval of Ballot Measure 101 will retain HB 2391 in its entirety, including the five contested sections summarized below:

SECTION 3.

The Public Employees’ Benefit Board shall pay a 1.5% assessment on the gross amount of premiums equivalents received during the calendar quarter. (A “Premium equivalent” means a claim for reimbursement of the cost of a health care item or service provided to an eligible employee or family member, other than a dental or vision care item or service, and the administrative costs associated with the claim.)

SECTION 5.

An insurer shall pay a 1.5% assessment of the gross amount of premiums earned by the insurer during that calendar quarter that were derived from health benefit plans delivered or issued for delivery in Oregon.

BALLOT MEASURE 101

Healthcare Provider Assessments to fund Medicaid and stabilize individual insurance premiums.

SECTION 8.

Insurers may increase their premium rate on policies or certificates that are subject to the assessment (Section 5 above) by 1.5%. and increase its rates up to 1.5%, and may include a notice in its billings.

SECTION 9

A managed care organization shall pay a 1.5% assessment of the gross amount of premium equivalents received during that calendar quarter.

SECTION 27

In addition to existing assessments, a 0.7% assessment is imposed on the net revenue of each hospital in Oregon that is not a waived hospital (such as public hospitals).

PROPOSAL:

Ballot Measure 101 contests certain sections of HB 2391 as passed by the Legislative Assembly. A “yes” vote on Ballot Measure 101 would uphold HB 2391 and retain the assessments. A “no” vote would overturn sections 3, 5, 8, 9, and 27 of HB 2391. Removal of these sections eliminates the funding for HB 2391.

HOW WE RESEARCH BALLOT MEASURES

League of Women Voters members research and write these ballot measure reports. Researchers try to verify all factual information. We work diligently to ensure our reports are balanced, accurate, and fair. We strive to provide the information you need to make an informed VOTE!

Our sources include:

- Financial Impact and Explanatory Statements from the Secretary of State
- Measure supporters and opponents summaries
- State agencies and economists
- Reports and published information, including current press coverage





SUPPORTERS SAY

- Hospitals, insurers, nurses, doctors and consumer groups all supported the financing package, which passed the Legislative Assembly by a three-fifths majority. Seventy-five civic and health care organizations so far have signed on to support Ballot Measure 101.
- HB 2391 protects health insurance coverage for about 350,000 Oregonians (1 in 4) on the Oregon Health Plan (Medicaid). Without funding, uninsured low income Oregonians will lose preventative care and may end up in the emergency room, causing everyone's premiums to go up again.
- HB 2391 protects the 94% federal share of the funds for Oregon's Medicaid program. Federal money provides three quarters of the funding for the Oregon Health Plan.
- HB 2391 protects the 210,000 Oregonians, who buy their own insurance, from rising costs in health insurance premiums.
- With lower individual market premiums and more Oregonians insured, fewer medical bills end up unpaid, lowering future premiums for everyone.



OPPONENTS SAY

- Rejecting the taxes will force lawmakers to get more creative and find other ways to cut costs when it comes to providing health care for low-income Oregonians.
- The fiscal impact analysis is based on forecasts which are speculative and not quantifiable; Oregon should not assume that the federal contribution will continue.
- HB 2391 assessments represent a cost shift from the Oregon General Fund to Medicaid; the assessments will cost the General Fund \$12 million for the Public Employees Benefit Board and \$25 million for the Oregon Educators Benefit Board that will be collected from local school boards, depriving funds for other agencies and services.
- HB 2391 assessments are not applied fairly, as small group insurers are assessed, while large corporations, unions, and insurance companies are not.
- HB 2391 increases the cost of private insurance for 217,000 Oregonians who purchase health insurance inside or out of the health exchange, as well as 11,681 college student healthcare plans, and 50,500 employers who employ 50 people or less.

Special Election 2018 League Forums

Event details coming soon.

Check for the latest updates at <http://lwvor.org/home/joinus/events-calendar/>

VISIT

www.lwvor.org/joinus/events-calendar/
for more current listings.



Yes! I want to support the League of Women Voters.

League of Women Voters membership is open to all men and women. We have Leagues in many communities around Oregon.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

I would like membership information

Dues are \$60 to \$70 depending upon local community

Send to:

League of Women Voters of Oregon
1330 12th St. SE, Suite 200,
Salem, OR 97302
Phone 503-581-5722
Or find us at
www.lwvor.org/voterresources/

Published by the League of Women Voters of Oregon

1st VP, Voter Service & Education - Rebecca Gladstone
Administrative Manager - Sarah Andrews
Research and Support Team - Vernadene Anderson, Jane Berry-Eddings, Diana Bodtker, Bea Epperson, Rebecca Gladstone, Sally Hollemon, Josie Koehne, Margaret Noel
Voters' Guide Layout - Sarah Andrews

Benefactors (\$6,000+)

Carol and Velma Saling Foundation
Vernier Software and Technology
League of Women Voters Members

Supporters (\$1,000-\$2,999)

Debbie Aiona	Paula Krane
Dorothy Anderson	Karan Kuntz
Alice Bartelt	Betty Mack
Jean Bottcher	Margaret and Gordon Noel
Heather Drake	Betsy Pratt
Becky and Igor Gladstone	Merilyn Reeves
Mary Hepokoski	Karen Taylor
Kris Hudson	Norman Turrill
Claudia Keith	Chris and Daryl Vogel
Ruth Kistler	Veronika and Jerry Walton