

## **1. VOTE NO to Ballot Measures 106, 103, 104 and 105**

Here is a summary of the Measures, the reasons why we oppose them and a reference to National Public Policy Priorities that support our opposition.

NO to Ballot Measure 106 - I put this Measure first in our lineup because of AAUW's full throated and flat out support of women's reproductive choices. This Measure would bar public funding for abortions, which not only restricts reproductive freedom and access to the full spectrum of reproductive services for those who receive coverage through the Oregon Health Plan, but public employees as well. If this Measure is passed, it is only the first step down the road to complete eradication of the right to reproductive choice. The fact that Oregon voters rejected measures to restrict state funding for abortion in 1978 (losing 52% to 48%) and 1986 (losing 55% to 54%) should not make us complacent about this vote. I likely don't have to tell you that the political scene is different today than it was in 1978 and 1986, and we need to be extra vigilant about protecting women's reproductive rights.

*Basis for Action per National AAUW Policy Priorities:* "AAUW promotes the economic, social and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are . . . quality, affordable and accessible health care, including reproductive health care . . ."

NO to Ballot Measure 103 – This Measure seeks to amend the OR Constitution by prohibiting state and local governments from enacting any taxes, fees or assessments on any transaction for the sale, purchase, distribution or transfer of "groceries," or for the privilege of selling or distributing "groceries." "Groceries" are defined as "any raw or processed food or beverage intended for human consumption except alcoholic beverages, marijuana products, and tobacco products." The measure prohibits these fees at all stages of food distribution, i.e. in warehouses, transit, packing and processing plants, etc. The State Attorney General has also ruled that because the Measure includes the entire supply chain for food, it applies to restaurants as well. You will also note that this Measure contains a retroactivity provision (October 1, 2017) which is likely to create a good deal of confusion and use of state funds in trying to figure out what that provision covers. It is difficult to determine what economic impact this Measure could have, but that's the point — there will likely be a number of unintended consequences. This Measure is a remedy in search of a problem — there is no effort to impose sales taxes in general or sales taxes on groceries. It also enshrines a special economic interest into a Constitutionally mandated loophole, which is not a good way to govern and to manage state budgets.. The main group pushing this Measure are manufacturers of sugary drinks and sodas. They want to counter a growing movement for cities to ban such products.

*Basis for Action per National AAUW Policy Priorities:* "AAUW promotes the economic, social and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are . . . reduction of poverty, and . . . quality, affordable and accessible health care. . ."

NO to Ballot Measure 104 – This Measure would extend the requirement for a 3/5ths majority vote in both the House and Senate in order to enact tax exemptions, credits and deductions. Right now a 3/5ths supermajority vote is required to raise revenue, i.e. taxes, and that provision will remain as is. While there are hundreds of these exemptions, credits and deductions, some examples include such things as tax breaks that currently end or "sunset" after a given period of time, and real estate, beautician and hunting license fees. The primary reason we oppose this Measure is that it just does not make sense to mandate fiscal policy via

a Constitutional amendment. The necessity of a supermajority also serves to heighten attention on each and every legislative vote, which further fosters the winner-take-all, hyper-partisan approach that our political parties seem to feel they must adopt in order to enact their platforms. Even more importantly, we do not need to reduce funding for much needed educational, health care, social services, law enforcement and other services. The combination of the Constitutionally mandated necessity of a supermajority to raise revenue and the kicker law have done enough to complicate the state budgeting process and erode those services.

*Basis for Action per National AAUW Policy Priorities:* "We support public budgets that balance individual rights and responsibility to the community."

No to Ballot Measure 105 - This Measure would repeal Oregon law forbidding state resources from being used to apprehend persons violating federal immigration laws. The resources include such things as personnel, equipment or other funds. There are also some exceptions, for example, that allow the state to help verify a person's immigration status or request criminal investigation information, and police can arrest a person charged with a criminal (not civil) violation of immigration law. Passage of Measure 105 could open the door to widespread racial profiling and is a "slippery slope" that might embolden those who seek to exclude "others." It would support separation of families and increase the fear among immigrants, including those legally documented. Nothing in the law prevents federal authorities from apprehending those violating federal immigration laws.

*Basis for Action per National AAUW Policy Priorities:* "We support the civil and human rights of all immigrants, including a fair and just path to legal status." Because of the fact that AAUW of OR has not previously taken a position regarding immigration matters, members of the State Public Policy and Executive Committee were consulted about this issue. A significant majority voted in favor of opposing Ballot Measure 105.

## **2. Increased Clarity in Defining Unlawful Age Discrimination - An AAUW of OR Legislative Priority**

Right now if employers can find a reason other than age to justify an adverse employee decision, even if age is a factor, they can avoid liability in court cases. While the bill to remedy this problem is currently in a drafting process, we need to make sure that if age discrimination can be proven, then the employer who is doing the discriminating needs to be held accountable. Age discrimination is increasingly becoming a problem, and In a study released by AARP in August, 2018, nearly 2 out of 3 workers have seen or experienced age discrimination on the job. More to come on this issue !!

## **3. Conclusion - VOTE**

While this Update may be brief, its message is critical: VOTE !! Mailing of ballots will begin next Tuesday, October 16th. Ballots must be returned to County Elections Office by Tuesday, November 6, 2018.

*Trish Garner  
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