



COMMON SENSE FOR OREGON

[Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Government Waste](#) | [Measures](#) | [Issues](#) | [News](#) | [Contribute](#) | [Contact](#)

Better Government. Better Results. Stronger Oregon.

In this newsletter:

[Primary Ballot Measures](#)

[Keeping Clackamas Accountable](#)



68 & 69, Primary Ballot Measures

By Ross Day, Executive Director and General Counsel

There are two ballot measures on the May 18, 2010, primary election ballot, neither of which Common Sense For Oregon has taken an official position on. The Measures, 68 and 69, both address issues dealing with Oregon's constitutional provision relating to bonded indebtedness. Measure 69 is a fairly simple and innocuous measure. The measure simply "updates" the current Oregon Constitution as it relates to selling bonds to finance construction and renovation at Oregon's universities and community colleges.

The old language of the Oregon Constitution did not necessarily allow for the construction and renovation of facilities for research and development purposes. Of course, relevant provisions of the Constitution that Measure 69 seeks to amend were adopted at a time when universities simply taught students and did not conduct much research and development. In this sense, one could say Measure 69 "modernizes" the current Oregon Constitution.

Measure 68, however, presents somewhat of a different scenario. The measure does four things:

1. Measure 68 allows local school districts to sell bonds to finance "capital construction" costs. Capital construction costs include building school buildings and purchasing land upon which school buildings will be built.
2. Allows the state of Oregon to sell bonds to create the "school capital matching fund." Money in the "school capital matching fund" could be used as matching funds to local school districts help them build schools and acquire land.
3. As stated in the paragraph above, Measure 68 allows the state to set up a program to grant matching funds to school districts for the cost of acquiring land and building new school facilities.
4. Measure 68 sets aside approximately 15% of lottery proceeds in order to help pay down the debt from these bonds.

There is a slight problem, from my perspective, with Measure 68. The purpose of Measure 68 is

[Share on Facebook](#)

[Share on MySpace](#)

[Share on LinkedIn](#)

[Share on Twitter](#)

E-Mail Updates

Yes, please periodically send me e-mail updates.*

[Click Here](#)

*By subscribing to my e-mail updates, you are authorizing me to send regular e-mail updates from my office to your e-mail account.

Please Feel Free to Tell a Friend

E-mail:

E-mail:

E-mail:

to use the credit rating of the state of Oregon to help school districts finance the construction and renovation of school buildings. That, of course, is a fairly laudable goal.

DONATE

However, the problem with Measure 68 is there is no requirement that the state match any funds raised by local school districts for purchasing land or building school buildings.

Let me explain why this is important.

Say there are three school districts: School District A, School District B, School District C. All three school districts send bond measures to the voters seeking approval to sell 15 million dollars in bonds to finance the construction of three new school buildings. School District A and B have freshmen legislators representing them in the Oregon legislature, while School District C has the President of the Oregon Senate.

Not surprisingly, when applications are made to the state for matching funds to assist in the construction of these school buildings, only School District C receives the matching funds. School Districts A and B are left high and dry.

The point here is that because there is no requirement that the state match funds raised by local school districts, the state has the discretion to determine which school districts get money from this new account and how much. This could (and most likely will) lead to favoritism of the worst kind. Leaving some school districts high and dry while other school districts who have politically powerful legislators and other patrons in a decidedly more advantageous position.

The point is, under Measure 68, there is no guarantee that the money from the newly created fund will be distributed fairly. If such a guarantee were in fact in place, perhaps Measure 68 would be a good idea. However, as it is currently written, Measure 68 is simply an invitation for cronyism and political payoff.

Although Common Sense For Oregon has not taken an official position on Measure 68 or Measure 69, at least when it comes to Measure 68 there are some issues voters should consider before casting their vote.

Common Sense Seeks to Keep Clackamas Accountable

www.molallapioneer.com/news/2010/April/29/Local.News/clackamas.county.residents.decry.m6667.postcard/news.aspx

Common Sense teams up with Clackamas County residents issuing a complaint to keep the local government accountable for its blatant electioneering using taxpayer dollars for Measures 66 & 67. Read more in the link above!

2007 State Street
Salem, Oregon 97301
info@commonsensefororegon.org
503-480-0523

[Update My Profile](#) - [Unsubscribe](#) - [Privacy Policy](#)