

### Chamber Positions on Ballot Measures

The North Clackamas Chamber of Commerce has been asked to provide a short report on the five measures it has taken a position on in the November 6, 2018 Oregon General Election. The following is a description of those positions and the rationale behind the Chamber's decision-making process which stems from in-depth research, formal presentations made at policy meetings and business forums, plus conversations with partners, industry leaders and association experts.

As a rule, the Chamber weighs-in on issues that affect business and align with its mission, values and strategic priorities. The decision to support, abstain or oppose are made in the interest of fostering a healthy business climate, keeping education and workforce development strong, as well as advocating for a solid jobs and housing balance. When in-depth information is not available the Chamber may abstain from supporting a measure, and look for avenues to support important socio-economic issues from other avenues.

If you would like to discuss in more detail, please contact NCCC CEO, Laura Edmonds.

#### **North Clackamas School District Bond Levy:**

The Chamber has taken a supporting position on this. The education of our youth equates to an educated - future work force. The bond is a first step in solving a major issue that the State has not yet solved. The revenue raised through this bond levy goes directly to the school district.

**Measure 102: Amends Constitution:** Allows local bonds for financing affordable housing with nongovernmental entities. The Chamber has taken a position in support of M102. If M102 passes, those public entities that issue bonds will have the ability to go into partnership with private industry to develop additional housing alternatives that can help to deliver the necessary affordable housing our communities need.

#### **Measure 103: Yes, Keep our Groceries Tax Free**

We ask that you vote yes to permanently keep our groceries safe from any future attempts to tax food. We are talking only about your consumables. Farm to fork if you need a picture in your mind. No - food is not currently taxed but, there have been numerous attempts at Gross Receipts Tax initiatives (ex: Measure 97) that will be pass through taxes. Major food manufacturers and grocers have confirmed that they would have to pass the costs on if a GRT should pass.

#### **Measure 104: End Easy Tax Hikes**

We, as voters have already passed a 3/5's majority vote requirement. Where in our Legislators can't pass any new taxes without a 3/5's majority vote in Salem. As it is, some very smart people figured out some loop holes by calling a tax by different names. Names like a fee, a repeal or simply eliminating a tax credit. The loopholes need to be closed and verbiage amended so a 3/5's vote is required on all revenue raising activities. There is a real threat that small business tax credits can be repealed, as well as the mortgage interest deductions that homeowners currently receive.

**Metro Housing Bond:** We are remaining neutral on this measure. Although we understand fully the need for affordable housing for all, unfortunately we do not have enough information to move forward in support of the bond.