

No on Measure 64

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Measure 64 has enough flaws to make voting for it a mistake.

Its target is right. It's aimed at prohibiting the use of public resources for political purposes.

While it does that, Measure 64 is far from perfect. It is not particularly clear and does collateral damage to charities.

Measure 64 says basically that no public resource shall be used to collect or help collect money for a political purpose. As it is now, public employees unions use the state to gather money for their political agendas through payroll deductions.

Why should taxpayers be paying any amount to help further a group's political agenda?

We don't think they should. Measure 64 isn't that simple, though.

Unions are right that Measure 64 is unclear. Because of its language about "public resources," it could be bent and used to argue that a group could not rent out a government-owned hall and use that public space to fundraise for political purposes.

Then there are headaches that Measure 64 may cause charities. It would seem to mean that some charities would have to change what they do with the money from the charitable checkoffs on state tax returns. Groups like the United Way, that use payroll deductions to raise money and do political advocacy, also would have to change their fiscal practices for payroll deductions from state workers.

Does it matter that Measure 64 was a product of Bill Sizemore, Oregon's initiative king?

For some people, any measure Sizemore supports is poison. We think a measure should be weighed on its merits.

Measure 64 has merit in that taxpayers shouldn't help underwrite political agendas. Those merits don't outweigh the many flaws in the way this measure was written.

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