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## TO RAISE TAXES OR NOT TO RAISE TAXES?

**Ballot Measures 66 and 67 will ask this of voters on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in a special election**

Known as *the Oregon Tax Hike Referendum*, these two ballot measures directly challenge HB 2649 and HB 3405, which were signed into law by Gov. Kulongoski last July 20<sup>th</sup>. In an effort to shrink a massive budget deficit, the Oregon Legislature passed the bills to increase taxes in the state by \$733 million through increasing taxes on higher income earners, raising taxes and fees on corporations.

Last month, a coalition of tax activists gathered more than twice the 55,000 signatures needed for securing the referenda:

- **Ballot Measure 66** is a referendum on HB 2649, which will increase taxes on an estimated 28,000 upper income earners;
- **Ballot Measure 67** is a referendum on HB 3405, which will increase the \$10 corporate minimum tax and also increases income taxes on corporations that net more than \$250,000.

Both measures contain temporary increases through 2012, and some permanent increases afterward. A 'yes' vote means you agree with the Legislature, while a 'no' vote defeats the tax hikes.

Opponents of the referenda believe that it is wrong to increase taxes during a recession saying higher taxes will hurt businesses and may force them to leave the state altogether.

Supporters of the measures believe that the increased taxes are needed for public safety, human services, and education citing teacher lay-offs, increased class sizes, and loss of music and arts programs.

### **Today's Speakers:**

**Pat McCormick** serves as communications coordinator for **Oregonians Against Job-Killing Taxes**, the business-led group opposing Measures 66 and 67 on the January 26 ballot and is a partner in Portland-based Conkling Fiskum & McCormick, a public affairs, public relations and research firm.

Pat has managed communications on more than 20 Oregon ballot measure campaigns. In 1973, he was chief of staff to Oregon House Majority Leader Les AuCoin, and became AuCoin's Oregon chief of staff when Les was elected to Congress in 1974. In 1979, he returned to the state capitol as chief of staff to House Speaker Hardy Myers, working with Myers through the deep recession Oregon weathered in the 1981-83 biennium.

As a public relations professional, Pat was honored with the William E. Marsh Award for lifetime achievement in 1999, the highest professional honor awarded by the Public Relations Society of America's Portland Metro chapter.



**Steve Novick** represents **Defend Oregon**, a coalition of groups that reads like the who's who of non-profit organizations. Steve graduated Harvard Law School at age 21 and was a U.S. Dept. of Justice litigator. As lead counsel, he spent nearly 10 years arguing on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency culminating in the Love Canal case in N.Y. He negotiated a \$129 million dollar settlement with Occidental Chemical of a U.S. claim for clean-up costs at this superfund site.

As Executive Director of the Center for Constructive Citizen Action, he successfully spearheaded the fight against Measure 91, a

Bill Sizemore initiative that would have cut the state budget for schools, health care and public safety by more than 20%. Steve served as policy director for Gov. Kulongoski in his first, successful bid for the governorship.

He ran for the Democratic Party's nomination for the U.S. Senate in 2008 for the seat held by Republican Gordon Smith but narrowly lost to Oregon House Speaker Jeff Merkley. Steve brings his famous *hard left hook* to the fight for Ballot Measures 66 and 67.

You will not want to miss this program on Friday, November 6 when Salem City Club guest speakers Pat McCormick and Steve Novick debate: **TO RAISE TAXES OR NOT TO RAISE TAXES?** For lunch reservations (\$12 members, \$14 non-members) email [RSVP@SalemCityClub.com](mailto:RSVP@SalemCityClub.com) or call 503.370.2808 before noon Tuesday, November 3, 2009. The community is welcome and encouraged to join us! There is no charge to attend the program at noon. Parking is free. Doors open at 11:30 AM. For more information on this program, and directions to the event, please go to [www.salemcityclub.com](http://www.salemcityclub.com)

When: Friday, November 6, 2009; 11:40 lunch | Noon Program  
Where: Mission Mill Museum-Dye House, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301  
Contact: Rosa Leonardi, 503.370.2808  
Email: [office@salemcityclub.com](mailto:office@salemcityclub.com), [rsvp@salemcityclub.com](mailto:rsvp@salemcityclub.com)  
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