

The voter's ballot measure guide: Why we do it & how we do it

Measure 70: *Veterans Home Loans Expansion.*
Vote YES

Measure 71: *Oregon Legislature Annual Sessions Amendment.*
No Position

Measure 72: *Authorizes exception to \$50,000 state borrowing limit for state property projects.*
No Position

Measure 73: *Increases mandatory minimum sentences for specified crimes.*
Vote NO

Measure 74: *Regulated Medical Marijuana Supply System Act.*
No Position

Measure 75: *Authorizes Multnomah County Casino.*
Vote NO

Measure 76: *Continues dedicated funding for parks, wildlife and watershed protection.*
Vote YES

City of Portland Measure 26-108: *Continues City public campaign financing for Mayoral, Commissioner and Auditor candidates.*
Vote YES

This voters' guide to ballot measures for the Tuesday, Nov. 2, 2010, statewide general election is provided as an educational resource by the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) Board of Directors and Public Policy Advocacy Committee.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon's ballot measure recommendations reflect a vote of its board of directors based on the recommendations of its Public Policy Advocacy Committee. EMO has adopted a "Statement of Social Principles," that guides our public policy advocacy work. In this statement, we affirm the value of religious involvement with civic affairs and the governmental process:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon believes that the demands of the Gospel and our understanding of our diverse religious traditions call us to participate in civic life. Our faith traditions give us a unique and important perspective to offer the community in deliberations on civic, legislative and governmental matters. EMO believes that every person should be given the opportunity to be informed about the policies and processes of government at every level.

As we consider each ballot measure, we keep in mind our statement of principles and seek to make recommendations that are consistent with our past positions and our biblical and theological core principles. We consider arguments offered by both

supporters and opponents of each ballot measure and rely on our principles, our past positions on similar measures, and dialogue and deliberation in our Public Policy Committee and among the Board of Directors. We ask that you prayerfully consider the wisdom of your own tradition and engage in a thoughtful process of discernment in exercising your civic duty.

The preamble of our "Statement of Social Principles" lays out some broad themes that guide our work:

- We affirm the value of love, respect of all life and value of every human being.
- We are committed to a vision of a world free from suffering, injustice, violence, racism, sexual prejudice and exploitation. We affirm compassion, non-violence, social justice, and working in constructive and creative ways to achieve a better world.
- EMO draws strength and inspiration from its Judeo-Christian heritage as it responds to the needs of a changing world. Past assumptions, old divisions, and former understandings of our world and ourselves demand re-examination in light of present understanding and future goals.

The main body of the "Statement of Social Principles" addresses key issues of concern. These fall under the broad headings of Human Rights, Economic Justice and Environmental Justice.

Download or order extra copies of the 2010 Voters' Guide

For over 20 years, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) has produced high-quality ballot measure guides with recommendations from a faith-based perspective for Oregon voters. The guide is an informative tool used by many, including non-religious groups.

The *2010 Voters' Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures* is available as a free PDF download on EMO's website, www.emoregon.org. If you would like to order extra copies of the *Voters' Guide*, please fill out an order form, also at www.emoregon.org, or call the EMO office at (503) 221-1054. A donation of \$1 per guide is suggested; for orders of 50 or more, a donation of \$0.75 per guide is suggested.

According to the statement, for example, "Scripture leads us to affirm that human rights include the rights to faith, hope, love and life." We also acknowledge and "defend those human rights placed in

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A message from the EMO president & executive director

It is with great pleasure that Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO) presents the *2010 Voters' Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures*.

This Nov. 2 general election, like all elections, is important for people of faith, and for all Oregonians. This guide provides information, analysis and recommendations for the seven ballot measures on the state ballot and for one local ballot measure being voted on in Portland. We hope our discussion of the ballot measures will provide valuable insights for Oregon's voters, especially for people whose faith is their ultimate guide.

The November 2010 election occurs in the context of a deep recession in the United States and in Oregon. There are now some 44 million Americans living in poverty. Unemployment remains high, and many of the unemployed have been without a job for such a long time that they have already exhausted their unemployment benefits or are about to do so. Food stamp use in Oregon is at an all-time high, and the January 2010 homeless count found that in Oregon the number of homeless families with children had increased 36 percent in one year alone.

This severe economic downturn has also created a severe fiscal crisis at the state and local levels. State legislators are now expected to face a budget shortfall in excess of \$3 billion for the 2011-2012 budget when they convene in Salem in January. This brings up yet again the need for eliminating the tax refund program—known as the kicker—and, instead, channeling those revenues into the state's rainy day fund, and we certainly hope the next session of the Legislature will act on this.

Unfortunately, although there are several important ballot measures this fall, none of them are likely to have much impact on the current recession, though one could worsen the revenue crisis. Measure 73—yet another effort to expand the scope of mandatory minimum sentencing for various crimes—threatens to further drive up the number of people held in Oregon prisons, at an unacceptable cost to taxpayers. It comes at such a bad time in terms of state revenues that *both* the Democratic and the Republican candidates for governor oppose it.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is committed to continue to promote citizen engagement within faith communities and to advocate on behalf of peace, economic justice, and human and civil rights. If you appreciate this *Voters' Guide to Oregon Ballot Measures*, our Interfaith Advocacy Day event or any of our other public policy activities, we hope you will support this work with a generous donation. For assistance or to make a contribution, please go to www.emoregon.org or call (503) 221-1054.

Thank you, and may God continue to bless you,

Rev. Lynne Smouse López

The Rev. Lynne Smouse López
President, Board of Directors

David Leslie

David Leslie
Executive Director

Measure 70

Constitutional Amendment—Expands availability of home ownership loans for Oregon veterans through Oregon War Veterans Fund.

Summary & Analysis — Put on ballot by legislative referral. This measure passed without opposition in both chambers of the Legislature.

The Oregon Constitution currently provides that Oregon combat veterans may receive low-interest home loans from the Oregon War Veterans' Fund. Veterans must have received an honorable discharge and must have served for more than 210 consecutive days or been released because of injury or disability. Veterans must apply for loans within 30 years after release from service and must show ability to repay the loans. This measure amends the Oregon Constitution to make loans available to more veterans, including National Guard veterans, others who have honorably served overseas and veterans who have not seen combat. This measure would make low-interest home loans a lifetime benefit and would increase the number of honorably discharged

veterans and surviving spouses who are eligible for the low-interest loan program.

Financial Impact — The expansion of eligibility for this program is not expected to have any direct financial impact on either state or local government.

EMO Recommendation — Vote “YES.”

A YES vote removes unnecessary restrictions on this home loan program for Oregon veterans, and we especially like the fact that it makes this program available to surviving spouses and to Oregon National Guard personnel who have served overseas. In addition, any steps we can take at this time to shore up a fragile housing market are particularly beneficial to the economy. For these reasons, we recommend a YES vote on Measure 54.

Measure 71

Constitutional Amendment—Requires Legislature to meet annually; limits length of legislative sessions; provides exceptions.

Summary & Analysis — Put on ballot by legislative referral. Currently the state constitution requires regular sessions of the Legislature only in odd-numbered years, with no limit on the length of the sessions. A YES vote on this measure would require the Legislature to meet each year, but it would limit the regular sessions in odd-numbered years to 160 days and would limit the sessions in even-numbered years to 35 days. It also allows for a five-day extension by a two-thirds vote of both houses of the Legislature.

Financial Impact — The financial impact of this measure on state or local government is expected to be quite limited and is estimated to be less than \$100,000 per year.

EMO Recommendation — No Position.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is generally supportive of the concept of annual legislative

sessions. As Oregon's population and economy have grown, and grown more complex and diverse, there is a need for annual sessions of the state Legislature to respond to changing budget projections and emerging governmental problems or social issues requiring legislative action. However, we are also concerned about the 35-day limit on sessions in the even-numbered years. We see no problem with a 160-day limit on sessions in the odd numbered years. That seems to us to provide ample time for careful legislative consideration of measures needed to be acted on. However, a 35-day limit in even-numbered years does not allow adequate time for careful consideration of measures that may need to be enacted and too greatly limits the number of measures that may be considered. Consequently, on balance, we are uncertain whether Measure 71 represents an improvement over the current system, and we have decided to remain neutral on Measure 71.

Measure 72

Constitutional Amendment—Authorizes exception to \$50,000 state borrowing limit for state's real and personal property projects.

Summary & Analysis — Put on ballot by legislative referral. This measure would allow the state to issue general obligation bonds in excess of \$50,000 to purchase, remodel, repair or furnish state owned or operated property. Because general obligation bonds are the cheapest method of borrowing the state may use, this will save the state money compared to the certificates of participation that are currently used to finance these projects. The measure prohibits the levying of property tax increases to pay off any bonds issued under this new authority and limits the total amount of bond financing to one percent of the real market value of property in the state.

Financial Impact — By itself, this measure has no fiscal impact on state or local government. If the Legislature uses this new authority to issue general obligation bonds to fund projects that otherwise would have been financed through other means, it is estimated that there would be a savings of \$5 million in interest costs for every \$100 million issued.

EMO Recommendation — No Position.

EMO does not take positions on measures that fall outside our areas of concern, as stated in our “Statement of Social Principles.” Therefore, we are taking no position on this measure.

Measure 73

Statutory Initiative—This measure requires increased minimum sentences for certain repeated sex crimes and incarceration for repeated driving under the influence.

Summary & Analysis — Put on ballot by voter initiative. This measure contains two substantive provisions. The first requires that any person convicted of a major felony sex crime, who has previously been convicted of a major felony sex crime, shall be imprisoned for a mandatory minimum term of 25 years. This includes first degree rape, sodomy in the first degree, unlawful sexual penetration in the first degree, or using a child in the display of sexually explicit conduct. The second provision establishes a mandatory minimum term of incarceration of 90 days for certain persons convicted of a Class C felony violation for Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI), and it expands the circumstances under which a person found guilty of a DUI will be considered to have committed a Class C felony.

Financial Impact — This measure will require additional state spending by increasing amounts over the first five years. By five years out, this measure is expected to require at least \$36.2 million in additional state spending per biennium and could possibly require as much as \$58.2 million in additional spending per biennium. This measure will also directly reduce local expenditures, by a much smaller amount (\$6.4 million per biennium to \$9.2 million), by shifting some local costs to the state.

EMO Recommendation — Vote “NO.”

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has consistently opposed ballot measures that impose mandatory minimum sentences in criminal cases. Not only do these measures result in increased state costs for imprisonment—utilizing state revenue badly needed for schools, human services and affordable housing programs—but they also reduce the legitimate discretion of judges to tailor sentences to the facts of the case and to take advantage of smart alternatives to imprisonment when these are available. Although the sex crimes selected in this measure are particularly offensive to our conscience, increasing the mandatory minimum sentences already on the books and requiring a minimum of 25 years imprisonment in every case in which there is one previous felony conviction for a major sex crime case is not only financially irresponsible but is also just bad law.

Written by:

Kevin Finney, *director of Public Policy*

Publisher:

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

David A. Leslie
executive director

EMO Public Policy Committee:

Rev. Stephen Schafroth, chair
Rex Hagans, vice chair

Rev. Dr. Dan Bryant	Rev. Chuck Currie
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Measure 74

Statutory Initiative—Establishes medical marijuana supply system and assistance and research programs; allows limited selling of marijuana.

Summary & Analysis — Put on ballot by voter initiative. Under current law, the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP) establishes three classes of cardholders. Cards are issued for patients, primary caregivers and growers. The fee is \$100 for a new or renewal application. A reduced fee of \$20 is available for specified low-income individuals. For a patient to receive a card, a physician must state in writing that the patient has a qualifying debilitating medical condition and that medical marijuana may mitigate the symptoms or effects of that condition. Cardholders are required to update their information annually or when any changes occur. Patients, primary caregivers and growers may possess in combination up to 24 ounces of useable medical marijuana. The patient, primary caregiver or grower may possess in combination up to six mature plants and 18 seedlings or starts. Only registered patients are allowed to ingest or consume medical marijuana. Patients may only give excess medical marijuana to another patient who is a cardholder. Under current law the purchasing or selling of medical marijuana is unlawful at all times; there are no exceptions.

Measure 74 would create a medical marijuana supply system composed of licensed nonprofit dispensaries and marijuana producers, and it establishes licensing guidelines. Producers and dispensaries can possess 24 plants and 96 ounces of marijuana. The measure exempts dispensaries, dispensary employees and producers from most marijuana criminal statutes, as long as they are in “substantial compliance” with OMMP requirements. The measure also establishes low-income cardholders’ assistance program and allows the state to conduct or fund research of cardholders’ marijuana use.

Financial Impact — This measure is not expected to require any increased local spending. It will require an additional \$400,000 to \$600,000 per year in state spending, but this will be funded through

program fees charged to those who purchase medical marijuana through the dispensary system established by this measure. Program fees will also potentially provide some additional amount of state revenue beyond what is required to offset program costs, and this is estimated to range from \$0 to a maximum of somewhere between \$3 million and \$20 million per year, depending on the number of dispensaries, number of participants (purchasers), pricing and costs of production.

EMO Recommendation — No Position.

Measure 74 is a complex measure that establishes a potentially sweeping new system of nonprofit dispensaries to provide marijuana to OMMP cardholders. There are currently 36,380 cardholders in Oregon. Advocates have argued that it is difficult for some cardholders to utilize the current system that requires cardholders to grow their own marijuana or designate a third-party over 18 years of age to grow marijuana for their use. They argue that this is especially true for low-income Oregonians, isolated seniors with special needs, or other patients whose particular medical condition is improved or relieved by the use of medical marijuana. In their view, this measure provides a well-regulated system of nonprofit dispensaries to meet that need and also establishes funding from program fees to help low-income cardholders obtain financial assistance in purchasing marijuana for medical use.

Opponents have argued that this measure is poorly written, would allow individuals with a criminal background to operate or be employed by dispensaries, and would allow an unlimited number of dispensaries to be established statewide. In their view, this would make marijuana more widely available, not only for those who hold cards but for youth and the general public as well. A major concern opponents have is that establishing a far-flung network of poorly-regulated dispensaries may

make it easier for Oregon youth to have greater access to marijuana, which they argue has adverse effects on brain development, diminishes school productivity and acts as a gateway into a broader drug culture. In addition, they argue that vague language in the measure limits the ability of law enforcement officials to prosecute those operating or employed by these dispensaries for violating the regulations established in this measure and other statutes and regulations that structure the OMMP.

We are unclear at this time if there is a widespread problem with access to medicinal marijuana under the OMMP and if a system overhaul such as is proposed in Measure 74 is needed. Yet we have heard compelling anecdotal evidence that such a problem exists, and we have deeply-held concerns that those who are ill or in pain have access to medical marijuana if they find it provides relief to their suffering or improves their condition. We think it is also unclear what the full ramifications of this measure will be if passed, and we recognize the validity of some of the concerns raised by opponents.

In the end, we have decided to make no recommendation, but we encourage members of the faith community and the broader public to study this measure and discuss the issues involved more fully—especially since this is an issue that has not had enough discussion in recent years. In addition, whether Measure 74 passes or is defeated, we call on the state Legislature to take a more in-depth look at the Medical Marijuana Program in the near future.

If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.—1 John 3:17-18

Measure 75

Statutory Initiative—Authorizes Multnomah County Casino. Casino to contribute monthly revenue percentage to state for specified purposes.

Summary & Analysis — Put on ballot by voter initiative. This measure authorizes the issuance of a 15-year casino license to operate a casino “only at the location of the former greyhound racing site, historically known as the Multnomah Kennel Club,” located in Wood Village, Ore. It also establishes a new state fund to help distribute tax revenues collected from the operation of this casino. The casino would be authorized to operate up to 3,500 electronic gaming devices and up to 150 table games and Keno but would be prohibited from offering live animal racing or sports bookmaking.

Financial Impact — If this measure passes, and after a successful casino is opened and operates, there will be an increase in state and local revenues of between \$13 and \$68 million each year. However, the measure would also result in a shift of some funds from the state to the local level and could thus lead to the state alone having a gain of no more than \$1.8 million and a possible loss of \$26.2 million.

EMO Recommendation — Vote “NO.”

Casino Gambling, as well as other forms of gambling, has expanded exponentially in the United

States in recent years. Before 1990, casino gambling was allowed only in Nevada and Atlantic City. Today, some 32 states allow either tribal casinos or non-tribal casinos or both, though Nevada is still the only state where casino gambling is allowed statewide.

Supporters of Measure 75 argue that it will provide jobs and badly needed tax revenue, while providing a safe and legal form of entertainment. However, economists who have studied the impact of casinos on local economic development find that jobs provided by casinos are usually offset by loss of business or jobs at nearby restaurants and other local businesses. Studies have also found that crime rates and rates of gambling addiction and personal bankruptcy increase within 50 miles of a new casino.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has consistently opposed the expansion of legalized gambling in Oregon, including the state lottery. In our view, the damage caused to families and communities by an activity that is inherently addictive for some individuals outweighs the limited benefits from government receiving a portion of casino revenue. Studies have consistently found that when gambling is made more accessible and more acceptable, the

Voter registration procedures

The Nov. 2, 2010, election is a statewide general election and will be vote by mail. The Voters’ Pamphlet will be mailed to each household by Oct. 19. The ballots must be returned in person or by mail to a county election office by 8 p.m. on Nov. 2.

Any Oregon resident who is at least 18 years old on election day is eligible to vote, but voter registration is required. For new registrants, the voter registration cards must be turned in to any county election office within five calendar days after signing the card. The last day to turn in cards is Oct. 12.

A registered voter who has moved, changed address or changed name must re-register. This information may be updated through election day at a county election office.

number of problem or pathological gamblers will increase. Casino gambling, like the state lottery, largely depends on problem gamblers to provide a major share of overall revenue.

Since this measure would allow the first non-tribal casino in the state, its passage would establish a dangerous precedent that would likely lead to subsequent proposals to allow additional casinos in other counties. In fact, once one county is allowed to build a non-tribal casino, we will have opened a Pandora’s box, leading to another significant growth in the level of gambling activity in Oregon, with the many negative effects that accompany an expansion of gambling. EMO urges a NO vote on Measure 75.

Measure 76 *Constitutional Amendment—Continues lottery funding for parks, beaches, wildlife habitat and watershed protection beyond 2014; modifies funding process.*

Summary & Analysis — Since 1999, the Oregon Constitution has dedicated 15 percent of net Oregon Lottery proceeds to a Parks and Natural Resources Fund; other dedications of lottery proceeds support education and economic development. Half of the Natural Resources Fund is placed in a parks sub-account and applied to purposes related to state parks, ocean shore and beach access areas, historic sites and recreation areas, and grants to local governments for parks. The other half is placed in a natural resources sub-account and applied to restoration and protection of native salmon and trout, watersheds, fish and wildlife habitats, and water quality.

The constitution requires this dedication of 15 percent of lottery proceeds to expire in 2014, unless an extension is approved by state voters. Measure 76 is essentially the vote to make permanent this 15 percent set-aside, although it also includes some improvements to the way the funds that are set aside are expended. It continues the equal division of the fund between the two sub-accounts described above—parks, beaches and historic places get half and natural resource preservation and protection (fishes, watersheds and wildlife habitat) receives the other half.

However, for the Parks subaccount, this measure now authorizes spending for regional parks, in addition to state and local parks. It authorizes grants to regional entities in addition to local government entities to acquire property for public parks, natural areas or outdoor recreation areas, or to improve existing parks or recreation areas. The measure also prohibits using grant subaccount moneys to pay for state government costs of administering the

grant program.

For the Natural Resources subaccount, the measure authorizes spending for the restoration and protection of native wildlife and all native fish, instead of just salmonids. The measure eliminates an existing requirement to spend 65 percent of all sub-account moneys for capital expenditures. Instead, it requires at least 65 percent of sub-account moneys go to one state agency for grants to entities other than state or federal agencies for projects that achieve the outcomes specified for the subaccount. The state may not pay its administrative costs out of the 65 percent set-aside for grants but may draw on the other 35 percent in this sub-account for such a purpose

Financial Impact — This measure neither increases nor decreases overall state revenues. It makes permanent the current dedication of 15 percent of Oregon Lottery revenues to parks and to natural resources protection and preservation. For the year 2011, this amount is estimated to be \$87 million.

EMO Recommendation — **Vote “YES.”** Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon has consistently opposed the existence of the Oregon Lottery. We believe it is bad public policy to rely on legal gambling of any sort as a source of state revenues. We would encourage legislators and voters to support revenue reform that would generate sufficient new revenue from taxes to allow the Oregon Lottery to be eliminated. However, that is a separate issue from how lottery funds will be used by the state, as long as the lottery exists as a source of state funding.

This measure continues the major elements of a voter initiative that was approved in 1998 and has for 12 years guaranteed a stable and mostly adequate source of funding for state parks, watershed protection and other natural resource programs. When it was originally enacted, it corrected a situation in which parks and wildlife programs had been woefully underfunded. This measure mostly improves upon the current system by expanding the variety of natural resource projects that might be eligible for funding in a way that will distribute grant funding more broadly and equitably among counties and regions of the state. In addition, supporters of this measure have negotiated with state legislative leaders an agreement that follow-up legislation will propose certain additional improvements that will allow these funds to be adjusted by the Legislature in situations where the state faces a revenue emergency or where lottery revenue is increasing at a rate significantly faster than state general fund revenues. This has eliminated most opposition to this measure and has addressed the few concerns that we at EMO have had about it. For this reason, and because environmental stewardship is a core religious value, we strongly support, endorse and urge a YES vote on Measure 76.

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.—Psalm 82:3-4

City of Portland Measure 26-108

Continues public campaign financing for Mayoral, City Commissioner and Auditor candidates.

Summary & Analysis — This measure would continue Portland's public campaign financing program that is sometimes referred to as voter-owned elections. Unless city voters approve Measure 26-108, this program will be eliminated after the November 2010 election. Under current law, candidates for Mayor, City Commissioner and Auditor would continue to be eligible to seek certification to receive public funds in primary, general or special elections by collecting a certain number of \$5 qualifying contributions and meeting other requirements. Currently, the requirement is 1,000 signatures and \$5 contributions for City Commissioner or Auditor and 1,500 of each for Mayor. Once qualified, candidates receive \$150,000 (less the amount raised in qualifying contributions and seed money) for the primary election. A mayoral candidate receives a base of \$200,000. In the general election, candidates for commissioner or auditor receive \$200,000 and mayoral candidates receive \$250,000. All city candidates would continue having more frequent campaign disclosure requirements, as required by current law. The measure would also continue current authorization of penalties for violations..

Financial Impact — Overall program costs depend on factors such as the number of certified candidates. The City would continue to limit the annual impact of the program on city funds to 0.2 percent without raising new taxes or fees.

EMO Recommendation — **Vote “YES.”** Usually, EMO does not take positions on local ballot measures. We do, however, sometimes make exceptions when a ballot measure seems to have statewide or national significance and is of unusual importance. After evaluating this measure, we feel it does have both statewide and national significance. The movement to reduce the influence of wealthy donors in public elections is ongoing at a local, state and national level, and a defeat of this measure would be a setback with ramifications beyond Portland. Additionally, because, as people of faith, we believe the election system must recognize the fundamentally equal worth of all people before God, and because we believe we have an important role to play in protecting the interests of the poor and vulnerable, we believe it is consistent with our religious values to support the voter-owned election system established in Portland. We recognize there have been problems with one or two candidates who inappropriately made use of public funds in elections held under this relatively new system. However, after those problems came to light, changes have been made to reduce the opportunities for further abuses. As Portland grows and becomes even more diverse as a city, it becomes increasingly important to encourage candidates from a variety of backgrounds—including worthy candidates who may not have sufficient funding, either personally or in their network of acquaintances—to fund a campaign in the absence of public financing. For these reasons, we endorse Measure 26-108, and urge a YES vote on voter-owned elections.

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jeopardy by hatred, greed and discrimination in current society. These include rights to universal education, basic health care, equal opportunity, honorable employment, a free and independent media, an equitable system of justice, a safe and supportive natural environment, to live without fear and basic human dignity.”

With regard to Environmental Justice, the “Statement of Social Principles” offers the following principle: “Our religious traditions affirm the sacred in all creation and our role as stewards of the earth. As we grow closer and more numerous, the need to understand, sustain, preserve and protect the world's land, air, water, energy and life becomes ever more critical.”

Finally, with regard to Economic Justice, EMO affirms that,

Fair and ethical understandings between employers and employees, producers and consumers, and the responsibilities of those who guide and direct the economy are all major areas of concern for Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon.

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is a statewide association of Christian denominations, congregations, ecumenical organizations and interfaith partners working together to improve the lives of Oregonians through community ministry programs, ecumenical and interreligious dialogue, environmental ministry and public policy advocacy.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland and the Greek Orthodox Church abstained from EMO's deliberations regarding the November ballot measures. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese releases all public policy statements through the Oregon Catholic Conference.