



SALEM CITY CLUB

MEASURE 50: RAISE CIGARETTE TAXES TO EXPAND STATE HEALTH CARE?

We've scheduled a debate October 26 on Measure 50. It's a **proposed constitutional amendment** that would increase Oregon tobacco taxes about 70% and dedicate the new revenue to state health programs, including medical insurance for more children.

A representative of the **"Yes on the Healthy Kids Plan"** will advocate the measure. J. L. Wilson will represent the opposition, **"Oregonians Against the Blank Check."** The debate is presented in conjunction with the League of Women Voters of Marion and Polk Counties.

If approved, the amendment would increase Oregon's state tax on cigarettes by 84.5 cents per pack, from \$1.18 to \$2.025, with comparable increases for other tobacco products. State officials estimate this would raise about \$153 million for the remainder of 2007-09 and about \$233 million in 2009-11. Additional revenue would be constitutionally dedicated to providing health care for children, for low-income adults, for other medically underserved Oregonians, and for tobacco prevention programs.

If approved, the measure would trigger the 2007 legislature's **"Healthy Kids Program."** It includes increasing income eligibility for children's health insurance, providing Oregon Health Plan coverage for additional low-income adults, increased funds for rural health care and clinics, and strengthening tobacco prevention programs.

Advocates stress the need to provide medical insurance for additional Oregon children and adults and to discourage tobacco use. **Opponents criticize** imposing a heavy tax on the minority who smoke and for attempting to place a specific sales tax in the Oregon Constitution.

You can expect a spirited debate of an important issue. *Don't miss it.*

For lunch reservations email nelalind@aol.com or call 503-589-2975 before noon Tuesday, October 23, 2007. The community is welcomed 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, about costs for different lunch options, and directions to the event, please go to www.salemcityclub.com.

When: Friday, October 26, 2007; 11:35 lunch | Noon Program
Where: Mission Mill Museum-Spinning Room, 1313 Mill St. SE, Salem, OR 97301
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