

## **Candidate Forum at October Membership Meeting**

**Get your tickets now!** The chamber's October 21 membership meeting lunch program will be a candidate forum for the U.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional district. The chamber confirms the attendance of Pacific Green Party candidate Justin Filip and Republican Party candidate Monique DeSpain. Democrat incumbent Congresswoman Val Hoyle has declined due to a schedule conflict and Libertarian Party candidate Dan Bahlen has been invited, but not confirmed. [GET TICKETS!](#)

Attendees will hear directly from the candidates. There will also be an opportunity to submit questions to candidates in attendance. The chamber encourages members to come prepared with business-related, business-relevant questions. Also, be prepared to write your questions down. As most of our members are aware, the chamber will provide notecards on dining tables for attendees to submit questions for consideration. The chamber does not take questions from the floor during candidate forums.

Chamber membership lunches are held from 11:45 am to 1:00 pm at the Douglas County fairgrounds. **Advanced online ticket purchase is required. Tickets are not available at the door. The last opportunity to purchase tickets to attend the lunch/program, is Noon on Wednesday, October 16.** The chamber's October membership meeting lunch is generously sponsored by [Rogue Credit Union](#).

## **Measure 118 Updates!**

Ballots for November's general election will be mailed out next Wednesday, October 16. You are aware about the myriad of problems Measure 118 would create for Oregon businesses and citizens. Measure 118 proposes the largest tax increase in Oregon history, a tax on sales, including sales on utilities, food, insurance and medicine, to name a few. Our members can help get the word out to neighbors, customers, vendors, employees and friends.

**Yard Signs, Business Window Signs, Rack Cards and More!** The chamber has "NO on 118" yard signs available. If you/your business would like a sign, [email me HERE!](#) We have ordered business window signs and bumper stickers and will let you know when we receive them!

**Measure 118 Toolkit is Available!** The Defeat the Costly Tax on Sales Coalition's Outreach Toolkit for employers and coalition members is available. The chamber recognizes that for many of our members, direct engagement in political activity of any kind – either through communication with your employees, your customers, or vendors – requires careful consideration. This toolkit is intended as a resource for interested members as you think of various ways to communicate about Measure 118.

If you are interested in receiving the toolkit and associated resource documents, [CLICK HERE](#) and we'll email it to you. This type of grassroots connectivity is vitally important to defeat Measure 118.

**New "NO on Measure 118" Ad is Launched!** The coalitions' newest TV ad highlights several ways in which Measure 118's \$6.8 Billion annual tax on sales would increase costs for basic necessities like utilities, home and car insurance, gasoline, internet service, medicine, food and health care. **Watch the ad [here](#).**

In case you've missed it, check out the first ad [here](#). It which features Joel Kelly, an organic food grower and small business owner in Milwaukie, who describes the negative impacts Measure 118 would have on small businesses in Oregon.

These ads are part of a comprehensive effort by the Defeat the Tax on Sales coalition to inform Oregon voters about the negative impacts of Measure 118, a massive tax on sales that would drive up costs for Oregon households and businesses.

**What Others are Saying About Measure 118!** Oregon chambers of commerce and business organizations are not alone in recognizing the harm this measure would cause if passed. The list

of labor unions, businesses, social justice advocates, elected officials and newspaper editorial boards opposing the measure keeps growing. Here's what just a few of them have to say:

"A tax that raises the price of medicine, food and utilities, saps funding for essential services and sends that money as rebates to all residents – regardless of income or need – is a formula for chaos." – [Oregonian](#) editorial board

"Oregonians think they have no state sales tax, but residents will pay more as businesses pass their tax costs along to consumers in order to survive." – [Wall Street Journal](#) editorial board

"Don't be fooled by Measure 118's 'tax rebate.' You'll pay for that windfall through higher prices on just about everything." – [Gresham Outlook](#)

"It's a half-baked idea that could prove incredibly damaging." – [Yamhill County News-Register](#) editorial board

"Measure 118 will hurt firefighters and other frontline workers by reducing available public safety funds in state, county and municipal budgets." – [Oregon State Fire Fighters Council](#)

"Measure 118 would divert vitally needed funds from the state's general fund, limiting access to resources that are vital for our communities, particularly communities of color who have been under-resourced. Measure 118 runs counter to our work to build the capacity of communities of color and will make it more difficult to achieve justice and equity goals." – [Coalition of Communities of Color](#)

"Measure 118 is a hot mess, and voters should reject it as inequitable and wasteful." [Tax Fairness Oregon](#)

"If passed, Measure 118 would push us to the breaking point. While other businesses may pass this tax on to consumers, independent oncologists cannot pass this on to our patients – nor would we want to." – [Dr. John Schuler, radiation oncologist](#)

"Measure 118 would threaten small businesses by imposing a \$6.8 Billion tax on sales, the largest tax increase in Oregon history. It would drive up costs for basic supplies we need to run our business and force us to pass those costs onto our customers." – [Joel Kelly, small business owner](#)

"Measure 118 is another out-of-state and dangerous experiment that doesn't align with the needs of Oregonians." – [Senate Minority Leader Daniel Bonham, R-The Dalles](#)

"I am opposed to this ballot measure. It may look good on paper, but its flawed approach would punch a huge hole in the state budget and put essential services for low-wage and working families at risk." – [Gov. Tina Kotek](#)

"Measure 118 would hurt seniors living on fixed incomes by increasing prices for housing, groceries and medications – none of which are exempted from this tax. The last thing our state needs is to send rebates to wealthy folks who do not need it at the expense of services supporting our most vulnerable Oregonians." – [Oregon State Council of Retired Citizens and the United Seniors of Oregon](#)

*Have a wonderful weekend!*

*Debbie*

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