

## **Mannix's Mandatory Minimum Measure Will Cost Oregonians Billions**

Kevin Mannix is back in the ballot initiative game. His initiative, **Measure 61**, qualified for the November ballot in April. Analysis of his proposal for new mandatory minimum sentences for property and drug-related crimes shows this blunt approach will cost Oregonians billions and won't improve public safety.

Mannix's **Measure 61** would require mandatory prison sentences for first time offenders up to 36 months for property, drug and identity theft crimes. Today, judges can give people convicted of these crimes a range of sentences, from prison time to drug court intervention, depending on the severity of the crime, criminal history and the unique facts of the case.

### **Mandatory minimum sentences just don't work... and here's why:**

- Mandatory minimum sentences force a one-size-fits-all sentencing structure on Oregon, forcing judges to give even first-time offenders the harshest of penalties in lieu of treatment or other more effective, less expensive alternatives.
- Mandatory minimum sentences are expensive, driving the state to build and operate more prisons forcing cuts to programs that actually reduce future crime. Oregon already has over \$1 billion of debt to pay for past prison construction.

### **How gullible will we be for Mannix?**

*an editorial by the Daily Astorian*

If an even-numbered year is approaching and Kevin Mannix is short on money, there must be a ballot measure coming...

Mannix promotes these crime measures because they are easy to sell. If a politician can't demagogue crime, he can't demagogue anything.

The inconvenient question is: "At what cost?" That's a question that Republicans who call themselves fiscal conservatives used to ask. Here's the answer. Mr. Mannix' latest concoction will crowd out other things this state must accomplish.

### **How much will Mannix's Measure 61 Cost Oregon Taxpayers?**

The Dept. of Corrections estimates the next prison construction will cost over \$400 to \$600 million including interest plus millions more per biennium to operate. *Oregon already spends more of its general fund budget on corrections than any other state in the country...and this measure is likely to require an additional three new prisons to be built.*

As the Department of Corrections budget continues to grow, we'll have to take money from schools, health care and other important services to pay for Mannix's **Measure 61**.

**"State forecasters say the measure could increase Oregon's inmate population by 3,000 to 6,000 by 2011 at a cost of \$200 million to \$400 million a biennium."**

The Oregonian, 9/15/07

# There is an Alternative that Saves Oregon Money, and Expands Drug Treatment

- Voters will have a choice this election. There is an alternative, **Measure 57**, to Mannix's **Measure 61** that would provide stricter sentencing guidelines and allows judges to do their job. **Measure 57** also emphasizes getting offenders access to drug and alcohol treatment.
- If **Measure 57** gets more votes than Mannix's **Measure 61**, then it passes, and Mannix's doesn't.

## Drug Treatment Needs to be a Central Approach to Addressing Addiction-driven Crime

- National research shows that investing in drug treatment at the community level and prison-based treatment not only reduces future crime but saves money in the process. If we can reduce recidivism, the state saves on the substantial expense of incarceration. For every dollar invested in drug treatment, the state receives on average of \$7 of public benefits.

### So what's behind Kevin Mannix's Mandatory Madness?

*The Oregonian reported that Mannix had pocketed \$838,000 in campaign funds paid to his law firm, other businesses he controlled, or his own personal accounts in the past decade.* Mannix defended the payments, calling them "a modest means of defraying the personal costs of his community service." Modest, indeed. (*Oregonian article, April 9, 2006*)

In a September 11, 2007 story about Mannix's Measure, the *Oregonian* reported millionaire Nevada businessman Loren Parks had already contributed over \$1.1 million to the Mannix and Bill Sizemore initiative campaigns for 2008. Only time will tell how much Mannix is making off these initiatives, but one thing is clear. This abuse of the initiative process means he'll be making boatloads of money while he tries to scare Oregonians into spending billions of dollars to build and fund new prisons.

**Protect our schools – Protect our communities**

**Vote No on Mannix's Mandatory Madness Measure 61**

**Vote Yes on the Alternative Crime Measure 57**