

Measures 57 and 61

KDRV

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MEDFORD, Ore. -- Two Oregon ballot measures are in direct competition with one another.

According to the Oregonvotes.org, [Measure 57](#) "increases sentences for drug trafficking, theft against elderly and specified repeat property and identity theft crimes; and requires addiction treatment for certain offenders."

[Measure 61](#) "creates mandatory minimum prison sentences for certain theft, identity theft, forgery, drug, and burglary crimes."

"Measure 61 was crafted by Kevin Mannix. The legislature took a look at that and felt, frankly, that we couldn't afford it. And working with attorneys and other personnel around the state, came up with Measure 57," says Jackson County District Attorney Mark Huddleston.

Measure 57 will cost between 65 and 70 million dollars a year, and has shorter mandatory sentences than Measure 61, which will cost as much as 200 million dollars a year.

"They are being funded by the general fund, which comes from income taxes. And there's only so much of that to go around. So how is that going to be affected by this measure, if we have to build more prisons, staff more prisons, fund more court appointed attorneys, fund treatment programs?" asks Jackson County Public Defender Lisa Greif.

"There is pretty much no drug treatment in prisons. I think people would assume that there is. But there isn't. So this Measure 57 would provide some funding to help get drug treatment while they are in the institution," says Huddleston.

Polls show that both measures will likely pass.

"Whichever one gets the most votes will become law. The other won't, even if they both get at least 50 percent," says Huddleston.

Which creates concern for people who would like to vote 'no'.

"Even folks who say 'you know what, I'd rather spend my money on education, more state police, or what-have-you', I think, should still strongly consider voting for Measure 57, because I believe both of these will pass and whichever one has the most votes wins," says Huddleston.

"So for both of these measures, you're not just going to be weighing out a 'yes' vs. 'no' vote. But actually, in this election, it's going to be Measure 57 vs. 61 with the third sale of a 'no' to both," says Huddleston.