

Fall 2007 Government Waste Report

November Election Alert!

Measure 49: Guts Measure 37 property rights compensation law

Measure 50: Puts a tobacco tax into the state constitution

**Measure 49:
Remove Property Rights**

Twice voters have approved landowner compensation for when government rules take away the value of your property. Yet the politicians crafted a bill to reverse it and did so not allowing any public testimony on the bill. The bill refers Measure 49 to the voters.

• All claims cancelled

Measure 49 immediately cancels all property rights claims under Measure 37 (even if the government has agreed to compensate a landowner). All claims must re-start under a new system which is loaded with new fees, requirements and regulations.

• Three home limit

Those landowners hurt the most financially from government regulation will receive the least. Measure 49 limits most landowners to three homes, no matter how much land you own.

**• Small business owners
will lose everything**

Under Measure 49, most commercial and business property owners will lose all of their compensation rights. Government can wipe away a small business owner's entire life savings of property value, and walk away without having to pay a penny.

• Open-door lawsuit provision

Measure 49 creates an open-door lawsuit provision allowing any person living anywhere in the state to sue a landowner to prevent them from exercising their Measure 37 property rights. They can even force a landowner to pay the plaintiff's lawyer's costs.

• Deceptive ballot title

The ballot title was crafted by the politicians themselves for which they denied any citizen review. The title reads "Clarifies rights" when it should read

"reduces rights" because of all the existing rights it takes away.

**Measure 50:
Constitutional Tax**

Measure 50 puts a \$194 million tobacco tax into the state constitution to expand state health benefits to cover many lower and middle class Oregonians. It is a long held belief that our state constitution is a sacred document reserved only to secure our most fundamental rights. Now it looks like the politicians are using the constitution as a great way to lock in their favorite tax increases.

Over-taxation of any product threatens to eliminate the tax revenue it brings in. It is no surprise that of 40 state excise tax increases, only eight met their projections. Oregon saw their estimated cigarette tax revenue decline by \$23 million after the first six months of the last increase.

Over-taxation creates an economic damaging cycle that continues to impact businesses and taxpayers down the line. Over-taxation puts many small stores out of business. Businesses that rely on those small stores that sell tobacco products are also negatively impacted as are stock holders who have retirement stock in related companies.

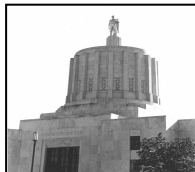
Tobacco taxes are a "gateway tax" for politicians to approve all kinds of new product taxes like cell phones taxes, internet taxes, car taxes, traffic congestion taxes and higher beer taxes.



\$100,000 Toilets?

KGW-8 News interviewed the Taxpayer Association over Portland Mayor Tom Potter's plan to open up City Hall's toilets 24-hours. The two security guards will cost taxpayers nearly \$100,000 a year. The Mayor wants to provide quality toilets for homeless and tourists to use for late night hours. Jason Williams, Director of the Taxpayer Association said "Taxpayers should not take this sitting down. This is another example of City Hall flushing their tax dollars away,"

KGW-8 TV, 7-13-2007.



2007 Legislature A Nightmare for Taxpayers

Taxpayers Lose

- ✓ \$856 Million New Taxes
- ✓ 44 Fee Increases
- ✓ \$936 Million New Debt

Politicians Win

- ✓ 21% Budget Growth
- ✓ 87% Staff Raises
- ✓ \$35 Million Capitol Makeover