

Politicians blame voters for their own budget problems

Their solution is a bill to take away your petition rights!

“Blame Voters Bill” strips voting power from citizens

HJR 15 outlaws people’s using the Oregon initiative petition process if their measure would cause the state to spend money. Instead it would require any such measure to be required to have its own tax or fee (so that the state would not have to spend a penny). Politicians could still pass financial impacting laws without a new tax — but the public could not.

The bill sponsor Democrat Representative Chris Garrett & his supporters said during the hearing that Oregon’s initiative petition process has “gone too far” and even called it a “mistake” because we allow voters more freedom than other states. Supporters laid the blame on voters passing tax cuts & “tough on crime” measures which take away a tiny measure of the political treasury. The real problem is that politicians release prisoners early and the public gets victimized. So the voters go to the ballot box with a petition to protect their children and their lives from crime waves created by the politicians.

Even with the budget issues voters are not the problem — politicians are. It was voters who approved government PERS pension reform in 1994 before it became a crisis. The politicians ignored the public mandate for nearly 20 years by avoiding making the big decisions and now the government pension PERS system is \$14 billion in debt. Oregon voters deserve a gold medal and not handcuffs with HJR 15!

5% Sales Tax Bill

SJR 36 is the Legislature's plan for a 5% sales tax -- despite voter's rejection of a sales tax 9 times before. Politicians need a bigger tax grab in order to handle their \$14 billion government PERS pension debt. This is why this 5% sales tax plan comes with a 5% tax on services to entrap even more people. Such taxes hit the poor very hard and seniors who live on a limited income.



Politicians target voters with HJR 15 which strips away our petition rights as a way to make sure voters don't pass tax cuts or crime measures at the ballot ever again.

A sales tax is a new tax monster that will grow bigger in size and scope just like other sales taxes in other states. The more taxes you allow government to create the more taxes they can raise. Ultimately, the issue is about spending, because no tax system can survive properly when politicians overspend themselves into bankruptcy. (Sponsor is Sen. Mark Hass -D)

Removing tax notice from ballots

Voters want more transparency and honesty from their government and HB 3113 does nothing but remove transparency as it attempts to hide property taxes from voters. Ironically, the bill itself has no lawmaker sponsor. HB 3113 hides taxes and attempts to remove a popular public notice of property tax increases. The Oregonian said of this bill, "OEA teachers union insults voters with attempt to bury information" (Oregonian March 13, 2013)

We wish more taxpayers would see what you are reading right now.

Help us spread the word with a donation
Taxpayer Association of Oregon
P.O. box 23573, Tigard, OR, 97281

Four Kicker Refund Raid Bills

Four bills (HJR 3, HJR 4, HJR 11 & HJR 12) would steal our personal income kicker tax refund. Oregon’s Tax Kicker belongs to the people as they voted for it by over 60% approval. The Tax Kicker is over-collected taxes by state government and represents unexpected funds flowing into the state budget that lawmakers did not budget for. Plans to steal just the higher kicker tax returns adds insult to Oregon’s injury because Oregon already has the nation’s 2nd highest income tax rates at 11% (tie with Hawaii)*.

Nation's Top Income Taxes

- | | |
|---------------|-------|
| 1. California | 12.3% |
| 2. Oregon | 11% |
| 3. Hawaii | 11% |

Having the nation’s second highest income tax rates means Oregon “over-collects” on its “over-taxing”.

Why put money into a political stockpile fund (Rainy day Fund) when entrepreneurs & small business owners wish to create new employees and taxpayers today. .Sources Oregon Blue Book, Tax Foundation, Bankrate