



# Government workers enjoy vacation cruises, yoga classes, free gift cards and \$495-a-night hotel rooms?

## Politicians hand out free gift cards

Portland Mayor Sam Adams has spent \$30,000 of City office funds for 300 Fred Meyer \$100 Gift Certificates that he hands out to young kids who participate in his favorite youth program. Portland has also been handing out \$50 American Express gift cards to people who shop downtown (paid by parking revenue).

*Willamette Week 11/3/09, KATU-TV 11/17/2009*

## Teachers get paid to take cruises and other non-educational activities

The State pays teachers to take extra training classes with some classes having little to do with the curriculum they teach such as yoga, the history of quilting, classes held on vacation cruises, and walking art tours of light rail stations. *(Willamette Week 3/17/2010)*

## Charging taxpayers for meals never eaten

A dozen top Oregon State Treasurer officials have been racking up tens of thousands of tax dollars for travel reimbursements they do not have to list details and they charge for meals they never ate. One official claimed \$2,300 in meal expenses for an

international trip where a large portion of the meals were already paid for or provided on the plane. Another official complained that a \$64-a-day allowance for meals recommendation was too small and would only work "if you eat at the roach coach or McDonald's every day." Public employees are asked to stay at hotels of comparable prices but one Treasury Official stayed at a hotel that cost \$495 per night. Most of these Treasury officials are paid nearly \$200,000 a year. *(The Oregonian 2009)*

## \$60,000 on bottled water

Multnomah County's spends \$21,000 and Portland spends \$41,000 annually on bottled water for its employees. *(KATU-TV- 11/4/09)*

## Teachers toss unused school supplies in dumpster

Parents discovered perfectly good school supplies in the school dumpster at East Gresham Elementary. They dug out dozens of bottles of new glue, untouched crayons, markers, books and other supplies. Interestingly, after parents complained a note was put on the dumpster telling people to stay out. *(Oregonian 4/17/10)*

## Bike path cost \$820,000 per mile

Metro is spending \$4.1 million for a 5-mile bike path near Gresham that is being paid by Federal, State and local tax dollars. That is \$820,000 per mile. *The Oregonian 4-9-10*

## \$107 Million Emergency radio over-costs

The emergencies communication upgrade for Oregon's Police (Oregon Wireless Interoperability) has seen \$107 million in cost overruns (\$485 million to \$592 million) and is a year behind schedule. *(Emergency Management news report 9-24-10)*

## County Prison overspends by \$16 million

A report shows that Multnomah County overspends \$16 million in its prisons by not utilizing common sense savings. Some ideas to save tax dollars would be to stop using high ranking and high salaried officers for minor tasks and trimming inmate health care coverage costs which are 33% higher than the neighboring Counties. *(Oregonian 12/14/09)*

### Please take this quick survey so we can get your perspective on upcoming ballot measures, legislation and current issues

#### 1. What should be the first priority of the 2011 Congress?

- Repeal Obama Health Care Reform     Eliminate Earmarks
- Balanced Budget Amendment
- 3-day public notice before vote on any bill

#### 2. Which tax would you most like to see eliminated?

- Capital Gains Tax     Estate Tax

#### 3. Which government function would you most like to see privatized?

Vote for one

- Liquor Distribution:** Oregon Liquor Control Commission
- Vehicle Testing:** Department of Environmental Quality
- Prisons:** Oregon Dept. of Corrections

#### 4. To balance the budget, which programs should be reduced first?

Vote for one.

- Oregon State Fair
- Oregon Cultural Trust (Tax Credit)
- Oregon State Lottery Advertising Budget

#### 5. Which education reform idea do you like the best?

- Extend school year by one month     Merit pay for teachers
- End Social Promotion (stop advancing students to next grade who fail)

#### 6. Which foreign nation do you feel poses the greatest risk to American security?

- China     Iran     North Korea     Russia     Multnomah County

#### 1. Create Local Control of Retail Liquor Sales.

Give cities the option to license retail liquor sales.

- Bad Idea     Good Idea     Great Idea

#### 2. Vote by Mail Integrity.

Regulate the collection and drop off of ballots by a person other than the voter; prohibit disclosure of voting information to third parties.

- Bad Idea     Good Idea     Great Idea

#### 3. Prohibit attaching unrelated taxes and fees to utility bills.

- Bad Idea     Good Idea     Great Idea

#### 4. Give local governments the leverage to opt out of PERS in collective bargaining.

- Bad Idea     Good Idea     Great Idea

#### 5. Establish a Constitutional Right to Private Healthcare in Oregon

- Bad Idea     Good Idea     Great Idea

#### 6. Remove state lawmakers from the Public Employee Retirement Pension System

- Bad Idea     Good Idea     Great Idea

