

Submitter: Craig Roberts

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue

Measure: SJR26

Dear members of the Oregon Senate and House of Representatives,  
I would like to express my opposition to SJR 26, an attempt to amend the Oregon Constitution to end the return of excess funds to the taxpayers of the state of Oregon. I feel that this would have a significant negative impact on the taxpayers of Oregon. The taxpayers of Oregon have struggled in many ways over the past several years, between the horrendous economic impacts of the Covid-19 shutdowns to the devastating effects of inflation on spending costs, savings, and pension plans, this would additionally burden an already ravaged populous. The residents of the Portland metropolitan area are already the highest taxed population of any major city in the United States and the proposed amendment to Article IX section 14 of the Oregon Constitution would further encumber those living there, as well as others all over the great State of Oregon.

It seems to me that you are essentially saying to the taxpayers that "we as a legislature do not trust you to spend your own money wisely, so we need to keep more of it and spend it for you". This smacks of disingenuousness because you have trusted the electorate to vote, so why then, do you not trust us to spend our own money wisely. This does not sit well with me and seems to be nothing short of a money grab at its root. This is especially true when the government in general is notoriously inefficient and wasteful of the taxpayers money that has already been allocated to you.

I am well aware of the need for public services and an effective education system. and I do not object to paying a fair share of taxes to benefit the public good. I am an educator myself, and I understand the unreturned excess funds would be earmarked for educational spending. However, in the face of seeing more of the hard-earned money of the taxpayers of Oregon being used on many wasteful, imprudent and at times, objectionable programs, I have to say enough is enough. We as citizens of Oregon have had to reign in our spending to make ends meet during these tough times. The Legislature should do that as well, and not go out and increase their spending by taking an even greater portion of the money so strenuously earned by the taxpayers. Frugality is important and as leaders, elected by the citizens of this state, you should practice that principle as much as possible, and not try and expand your spending on the backs of the hardworking people of this state. Again i would like to reiterate my opposition to the SJR 26. Please vote no and continue to allow the hardworking taxpayers of the Great State of Oregon to have the excess funds they have labored to earn returned to them. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Craig Roberts