

Submitter: Lawrence Kircher  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR201

Oregon House Joint Resolution - HJR 201

Please reject HJR 201:

The property tax limitations passed in the 1990s expressed taxpayers' distress at property taxes spiraling out of control and pricing middle- and lower-income Oregonians out of home ownership. Oregon voters said a resounding NO to property taxes without limitations. And this Oregon voter is saying NO once again to legislative attempts to create new taxes!

We cannot continue to tax people out of their homes. This additional property tax would also force people living on fixed incomes, including senior citizens (in which I am one), out of the homes they worked a lifetime to own. Many elderly are falling behind with inflationary pressures on their retirement savings.

As our representatives in state government, please listen to the voices of Oregonians. NO NEW TAXES! Vote a resounding NO on HJR 201.

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Digest: The Act would put in the constitution a state tax on property to fund public safety. (Flesch Readability Score: 63.6). Proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution requiring the Legislative Assembly to create an administrative authority for funding public safety in this state. Directs the Legislative Assembly to impose a state property tax to fund public safety in this state. Allows the Legislative Assembly to delegate to the administrative authority the authority to implement the tax. Provides that the tax would not be subject to Article XI, section 11, of the Oregon Constitution (Ballot Measure 50) (1997), or Article XI, section 11b, of the Oregon Constitution (Ballot Measure 5) (1990). Refers the proposed amendment to the people for their approval or rejection at the next regular general election.

JOINT RESOLUTION

2. Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:
3. PARAGRAPH 1. The Constitution of the State of Oregon is amended by creating a new section
4. 16 to be added to and made a part of Article IX, such section to read:
5. SECTION 16. (1)(a) The Legislative Assembly shall create by law an administrative body
6. that serves as a statewide authority for funding public safety in accordance with law.

7. (b) The Legislative Assembly shall impose by law a state property tax on all real property
8. and all personal property, tangible and intangible, located, used or held for use within the
9. state, unless the property is exempt from taxation under federal law or this Constitution.
10. Revenues from the tax shall be used solely to fund public safety and reasonable costs asso-
11. ciated with administering the tax and the funding of public safety.
12. (c) The Legislative Assembly may delegate to the administrative body created under this
13. section the authority to implement the tax.
14. (2) The state property tax may be imposed on an annual basis at a rate not to exceed
15. \$0.25 per \$1,000 of the value of the property as assessed under law.
16. (3) Laws enacted by the Legislative Assembly pursuant to this section to implement the
17. state property tax:
18. (a) Shall:
19. (A) Define the property that is taxable; and
20. (B) Establish the processes of assessment, taxation and collection; and
21. (b) May:
22. (A) Set rates that vary according to reasonable classifications of property and taxpayers;
23. and
24. (B) Provide for exemption, partial exemption or special assessment of certain reasonable
25. classifications of property or taxpayers.

The only purpose government seems to have been grow government. If we start another tax, it will never go away and will find a way to grow. No to HRJ201

Lawrence Kircher