

Submitter: Cyndi Vipperman
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR1
Senate Rules Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Members of the Senate Rules Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Joint Resolution 1, Senator Cedric Hayden's proposal to amend the Oregon Constitution to freeze property tax assessments for primary residences owned by Oregonians aged 65 and older.

As property taxes continue to rise, many seniors are finding it increasingly difficult to afford to stay in their homes. This is a pressing issue that affects the well-being and financial stability of our elderly population. Seniors living on fixed incomes should not have to choose between paying property taxes and affording essential necessities such as food, medication, and long-term care.

The current property tax deferral program, which charges 6% interest and drains home equity, is not a viable solution. It traps seniors in debt and undermines their financial security. Nearly 80% of Oregonians agree that seniors deserve the dignity of staying in their homes without the fear of being taxed out.

Oregon is consistently ranked among the most expensive states for retirees, and the burden of rising property taxes exacerbates this issue. Freezing property tax assessments for senior homeowners would provide long-term stability and security, allowing them to remain in their homes and maintain their quality of life.

I urge the Senate Rules Committee to support Senate Joint Resolution 1 and help ensure that our seniors can live with dignity and peace of mind. I also encourage seniors and advocates to testify in person, virtually, or submit written testimony in support of this measure.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Cyndi Vipperman

Bend, Or