

The Simple Tax...

Whereas a tax system should be fair, equitable, and above all economical and simple to administer, and

Whereas a tax system should encourage thrift on the part of government, and

Whereas a tax system should allow flexibility and be accommodating to the distinctives of differing regions, and

Whereas a tax system should provide adequate revenue for the legitimate function of government, and

Whereas a tax system should deter any class or region of people under its jurisdiction from seeking to disproportionately benefit from the expenditure of the revenues that it generates, and

Whereas the current tax system is none of the above,

Be it Resolved that a system of taxation that satisfies the criteria listed above be developed and submitted as an initiative to the people of the State of Oregon for their approval or rejection, said initiative to be known as the Simple Tax Initiative.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon

Article IX Finance of the current Oregon Constitution is hereby repealed and replaced by the following new Article IX:

Article IX Taxation

Section 1. Every branch of the government of the State of Oregon, and any political subdivision thereof that is organized under its Constitution and laws enacted pursuant thereof, shall rely only on funds derived from the general tax and user fees as set forth in this article. The administration of the authority set forth herein shall be furthermore governed by the principles of frugality, simplicity, and equity.

Section 2. No function of government except the administration of justice and the retirement of currently outstanding general obligation bonds shall be funded by the general tax. All other services of government provided to the people of this state shall be funded by user fees, with such fees being set at true cost or average expense. The phrase "administration of justice" as used in this article shall be defined as the operation of the legislature, the law enforcement system, and the judicial system.

Section 3. The general tax shall be independently levied by each county of the State of Oregon, at such rates and on such items as the people of each individual county shall be pleased to approve, with such approval given by no less than a simple majority of the total voter registration list.

Section 4. The chief fiscal officer of each county shall pay into the state treasury annually its county's share of the biennial budget approved by the Legislative Assembly out of the proceeds of that general tax. The portion of the budget levied on each county by the Legislative Assembly shall be determined by first subtracting from that budget the portion that is self-supporting through user fees for state services, with the remaining figure divided in two, then divided by the voting population of the state, and the results multiplied by the voting population of each individual county.

Section 5. All general obligation bonds currently outstanding shall be repaid by the people residing within the counties in which the geographic districts creating those bonded debts lie, with those payments being funded by the general tax levied by the county or counties within which those districts lie, and the assets created by the expenditures of those funds shall belong to the counties within which they lie. The authority of the State of Oregon or any of its political subdivisions to further incur debt secured by bonds is hereby forbidden.