

I have worked in and around local governments and taxing districts in the Pacific NW for the last 35 years and thought I had seen just about everything until I went to work in an Oregon Municipality (City of Lakeside) with no tax rate. No, the City did not include that in the job recruitment information. To put a one word description on the City's ability to provide just basic services and responsibilities, I'd say impossible. Every day we have to tell citizens we just can help them out with law enforcement, nuisance, maintenance and/or building issues. The planning and zoning regulations are vintage 1994. Flood plain issues are very difficult to manage. City Emergency Management does not really exist. The City has become a haven for folks that know there is no City law enforcement and when it is needed, that puts an unfair burden on the County and State resources. The sewer rates have been raised to cover much of the cost of administrative employees, which reflects an untrue financial picture of where legal responsibilities really lay by fund. I told the Mayor here shortly after arriving that the City reminds me of a Hollywood movie set, looks really good driving by, but there is really no back end holding it up with people, process, policy and resources to provide the citizens with reasonable services. I urge you to support HJR 12 and HJR 20 as beginning steps of considering comprehensive equitable property tax reform for Oregon State. Thank you.

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