

Submitter: Shannon Molden  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure: HJR201

Property Taxes should be regulated and voted on by the local communities and/or counties which have allowed them to raise funds for local needs, such as schools, infrastructure, and other needs. Keeping them local allows people to either deny or support those needs through their property taxes. Salem has no idea what community needs throughout the state are and they have little idea what struggles others outside of their bubble go through on a day to day basis. Many in this state are on fixed incomes and are barely getting by as it is and to leave assessing property taxes to another state agency will only make it harder for them. We all see the homeless problem in this state, but taking money from others and giving it to them is not the answer, as in the end, those who cannot pay the increase in fees, will eventually become homeless and wards of the state. The state historically has sniffed at the wallets of all Oregonians for more money, which once gone, is never seen again as it is invested in special interest projects with little accountability and excessive waste. Once legislators get their hands on the tax payers money, they only want more. Increases in property taxes will result in higher food costs, higher mortgage costs and increased poverty among those who are living on every penny they have. The Oregon legislature continuously does things that cost the taxpayers more money while receiving less services to rural counties. A good example is the cage free eggs legislation which has doubled the price of eggs, and now are no longer an affordable source of protein for those on lower incomes. It seems that everything you all do in Salem results in more poverty and homelessness while you reside in your bubbles of security and power. There are several more issues with this bill. How will the taxes be determined? Who will oversee this? How will schools and local communities have access to funds they need for schools, municipal repairs, and street repairs? This bill allows too much control over the lives of Oregonians with little to no benefit in return. I strongly oppose any further effort to take money from the mouths of Oregonians because you in Salem are tired of stepping over homeless people, a situation you have allowed to grow in your quest to take money from those who choose not to use drugs all day, who do get up and go to work every day or those who have done their share and deserve to live the rest of their lives in what little comfort they have earned. Enough already with taking our money. Stop coming up with new ways to spend it and focus on improving what services we have.