

City council sees tax as legislature's '83 'theme'

By David Brown
Of the Emerald

The implementation of a sales tax may become a "theme" of the 1983 Oregon Legislature.

The tax proposal accompanies other "themes" on a list compiled by the Eugene and Springfield city councils for the 1983 State Legislature.

A delegation of seven or eight state legislators representing the Lane County area will discuss those themes with the two city councils during a dinner meeting at 7:30 tonight.

"I would be very surprised if the (1983 Oregon) Legislature adjourned without some kind of discussion of a sales tax," says Betty Smith, a member of the Eugene City Council.

But the proposal remains a concept only, he says.

"Our council, frankly, is not 100 percent on the bandwagon" she says.

"We're at our limit with property taxes," says council member Mark Lindberg, an assistant University professor of planning, public policy and management. But the council still is soliciting public response to the proposal, he says.

A sales tax should not include food, pharmaceuticals and housing-related goods. Lower-income people spend a greater portion of their earnings on those goods than wealthier people, he says.

Even though the state would collect the tax, Lindberg says he would want to ensure that the greater portion of revenues be turned over to municipal governments.

The two cities also will suggest that the state remove laws requiring local governments to hold elections for tax levies in excess of 6 percent.

Oregon cities frequently must place tax-base proposals on the ballot "whether or not the locally elected councilors judge that making such a request of the voters is a responsible action, given the state of the economy and the ability of the taxpayers to make long-range commitments to municipal services," reads a statement from the Eugene council.

The recommendations stress the promotion of economic resources such as reasearch by area institutions and Universities, tourism and capital investments.

A social will precede the dinner at 6:30 p.m. The meeting takes place in the Wilder Room of the Eugene Conference Center in the Hilton Hotel.

Fee cards are replaced by new registration form

When students register for winter term classes they will discover a new form in their registration packet.

Larry Tergesen, accounting supervisor in the business office, says the new form replaces the fee card, certificate of paid tuition and student health insurance card.

If students owe money to the University, those debts will show up on the new form.

"Students will be looking at something completely different," Tergesen says.

The form concentrates all the computer cards into one easily handled form, he says.

Tergesen says next term the form might contain financial aid



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