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## CUTS

Continued from Page 1

said.

Hallock said that in the fall of 1990 homeowners finally said "no" to escalating property taxes by voting "yes" on Measure 5.

According to statistics compiled by the state Office of Revenue and Finance, the overall tax burden on businesses, which includes all state and local taxes and fees, has decreased from 49.8 percent in fiscal year 1978-79 to 42.3 percent in 1991-92.

The burden on households has risen from 50.2 percent in 1978-79 to 57.7 percent in 1991-92.

The overall tax burden in the state has been steadily shifting from businesses to households.

But when Oregonians voted for Measure 5, did they understand how funds would be allocated to make up for the revenue loss?

Gov. Barbara Roberts, who was elected as Measure 5 passed, tried in the fall of 1991 to inform people about the consequences of the measure.

Roberts organized a statewide discussion called "A Conversation with Oregon," which included 10,000 voters. Through the use of Ed-Net, Roberts conducted 32 telecast sessions in which she spoke with Oregonians about their concerns and informed them about what Measure 5 meant for the state.

Polling information gathered by a team of University faculty before and after the "conversation" reveals low voter comprehension of the impact that Measure 5 would have on the state budget.

Prior to the discussions, 9 percent of voters knew the percentage of the state General Fund that would be going to public schools under Measure 5.

After the discussions, only 23 percent of the participants understood the figures.

Five percent of non-participants knew the correct percentage.

Oregonians might have been misled by information in the voter's pamphlet that said the state General Fund would cover the loss in property tax revenue.

Measure 5 guarantees that the state replace lost property tax revenues, but the state is not obligated to maintain its current level of general aid to schools. The state can reduce school funding to balance the budget.

Basic and higher education is funded primarily by property tax revenue. The General Fund, which generates most of its revenue by levying income taxes, funds education, human resources and public safety.

The state does not have the money to maintain services at the same level as before Measure 5 and at the same time pay out larger and larger chunks of money to schools.

Prior to Measure 5, voters would approve a tax

**The state does not have the money to maintain services at the same level as before Measure 5 and at the same time pay out larger and larger chunks of money to schools.**

base that determined the amount of revenue the government was authorized to raise. This system, called a levy-based system, provided Oregonians with the opportunity to determine what their needs were.

Measure 5 limited the rate of taxation. The rate is determined in dollars per thousand on assessed value of property.

Therefore, the system was changed from a levy-based property taxation to rate-based property taxation.

As a result of Measure 5, the University suffered a \$10 million budget cut during the 1991-93 biennium. These cuts forced the elimination of more than 20 programs, 225 positions and the closure of the College of Human Development and Performance. Tuition has increased 38 percent during the biennium.

And the worst is yet to come.

Even if the Oregon Legislature comes up with a tax proposal and gets it on the ballot to put before voters in the fall, the second round of budget cuts for the 1993-95 biennium will likely go into effect.

The University budget will be reduced by \$15.25 million for the 1993-95 biennium, according to statistics from the University's vice provost's office.

Administrative and support services will take the biggest hit in this second wave of cuts. They were cut by \$850,000 during the past two years and are slated to be slashed by \$6.74 million in the next biennium.

Administrative and support services include the University's registrar's office, student advising, financial aid office and building and grounds maintenance.

Cuts in administrative services were chosen over elimination of programs and faculty.

Tuition will rise another 7 percent next year for undergraduates, bringing the grand total to more than \$970 per term for Oregon residents.

According to the registrar's office, those numbers may be conservative estimates because they do not include ASUO incidental fees and other fees that may be incurred.

Graduate students will see a 15 percent tuition hike next year.

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