

THE Sandy Post



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July 25, 1968

SALEM SCENE

by ERRETT CUTLER

PROPERTY TAX LIMIT WHAT IT COULD DO

It's now official: the initiative proposal to limit local property taxes to 1 1/2 per cent of market value will appear as Ballot Measure No. 7 in Oregon's November election.

Proponents of the Constitutional amendment filed more than enough certified petition signatures with the secretary of state before the July 4 deadline. Their measures differs in some respects from the ill-fated limitation proposal of two years ago, but its passage still could mean revenue losses of up to 50 per cent for some local government districts.

The decisions rests now with Oregon voters. Many consider what has come to be known as the "taxpayers' revolt" and the inability of last year's legislature to come to grips with tax reform problems, believe the limitation measure will be passed.

What is the measure? And what will happen if it is approved?

It would place a limitation of 1 1/2 per cent of market value on the total of local levies. It would exempt levies for payments on existing bonded indebtedness.

It would repeal the present Constitutional restriction that limits local government tax levies. It would repeal the present Constitutional restriction that limits local government tax levies to an annual increase of 6 per cent. Tax experts point out that the 6 per cent figure is a retraction on the total amount of money in dollars that a district can levy. In contrast, the 1 1/2 per cent limitation would be tied to the total market value of all property in the district.

Because market value is increasing at a rate faster than 6 per cent annually, they reason that property taxes would climb faster under the proposed system—automatically. Using the 1957-67 period, they can show that property taxes have grown 91 per cent; under the 1 1/2 per cent limit they would have increased 141 per cent without any vote of the people.

Another provision of the amendment would give the legislature, instead of the State Tax Commission, the task of allocating revenues levied within the limitation to the hundreds of local taxing units in the state.

It also would allow one annual election to exceed the limit, on the traditional November election Tuesday. Even this safety value, however, contains risk: a favorable vote of at least 20 per cent of all registered voters is required by the amendment; property tax bills normally are received just before November; the election date came eight long months before fiscal year budgets must be finalized.

The loss of revenue to local government units imposed by such a limitation would be an estimated \$100 million, or a cut of nearly 30 per cent on a statewide average. This is money which goes mostly to pay for schools, and also supports such local services as fire and police protection, libraries, sewers, lights, parks, etc.

Virtually no one believes such a cutback could be tolerated. Sources of replacement revenue, probably from the state, already are being discussed. Many Oregonians, to be sure, voice support of such severe property tax cutbacks purely as a means of forcing the legislature to do something.

It is possible that legislative action could take one of several forms, or a combination of them. According to State Tax Commission estimates, an amount to offset \$100 million in local revenue losses could be raised by the state through (a) a 3 per cent sales tax, exempting food and drugs, (b) increasing the state income tax rates to range from 5 to 15 per cent, up from the present 3 to 9.5 per cent range, or (c) a net receipts tax of 2 per cent on gross income in addition to present income tax rates.

The 1969 legislature, however, faces two distinct handicaps if it has to proposed new revenue sources. For one thing, the effects of the limitation would not be felt by localities or the public until the next fiscal year -- just after

normal legislative adjournment.

Second, Oregon's legislature is Constitutionally prohibited from attaching the emergency clause to revenue measures and thus make the immediately effective. Any revenue measure passed by the legislature, i.e., is subject to popular referendum before it can be given fair trial.

For these reasons many observers here are pessimistic. Foreseeing little or no popular support for new revenue sources before the limitation's effect would be felt, they fear the legislature cannot act effectively on behalf of the people it represents. Or, that any legislative action would be futile because it could well be reversed -- possible along with the fortunes of individual legislators -- by referendum.

Then Oregon could be faced with inadequate local revenue to support local services, and with no alternate way for the state to raise money go give to localities. Such a situation could force another special session of the legislature in the fall of 1969, when the pinch is felt.

Some people call this a dangerous game. Some may term it a vicious circle, to demand answers from a legislative body which ultimately must give all voters the final word on revenue measures. Many others express satisfaction in having the final say, and in the slowness of the democratic process.

In any case, sufficient petition signers have made the initiative proposal official. And it is safe to predict a lot of heated discussion on Ballot Measure No. 7 between now and November.

Letters to the Editor

Editor,
Sandy Post,

EDITOR:

As a new citizen in Sandy, I have participated in the Chamber of Commerce and Garden Club attempts to clean and beautify our community.

As citizens we should be grateful for such fine groups of people and show our appreciation by helping in our own way to make this a better community.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Perry
Sandy, Oregon

Editor:

The Sandy area Garden Club wishes to extend their appreciation for the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce in making Sandy a better community in which to live and for their encouragement of our new organization.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Perry
Publicity Chairman
Sandy Area
Garden Club

Ed. Board Raises Tuition Schedule At Mt. Hood CC

A change in the Mt. Hood Community College tuition schedule was passed this week by the Oregon Board of Education at a meeting at Bend.

The MHCC maximum charge per in-district student was raised to \$75 compared with \$60 in 1967-68. The hike, according to Dr. Leo Marantes, dean of instruction, came about when the college decided to raise full-time student status from 12 to 15 hours. Previously, a full time student paid the \$60 amount, and the added \$15 beginning this school year is for \$5 for each of the additional three hours.

The 15-hour requirement is in line with the state require-

Recreation Report

MT. HOOD NATIONAL FOREST

ZIGZAG RANGER DISTRICT

Roads: Construction is progressing on the new portion of summer home Road 32. Traffic can avoid the construction area by using Road 34.

Campgrounds: All are open. Alpine, one of Zigzag's numerous campgrounds available for your use and enjoyment, boasts some special attractions which few others share.

It is one of our five charge campgrounds and is located on the Timberline Road just 1 mile below Timberline Lodge and 5 miles from Government Camp, approximately 59 miles from Portland via U. S. 26. Constructed in 1963, it contains 15 camp sites, 3 trailer space, and 3 picnic areas.

Since it is at an elevation of 5,800 feet, the weather is rarely hot and it is an excellent spot for cooling off, for a picnic or for a weekend. Because it is off U. S. 26, it is seldom crowded.

It offers a view of Mt. Hood, and in some places, the valley below and Mt. Jefferson to the south. It is located in the mountain meadow area and many varieties of high mountain wild flowers can be found blooming

during the summer. It is a good jumping off point for hiking the Timberline Trail, climbing Mt. Hood, or picking huckleberries in season.

Special Items: Evening slide programs on local flora, fauna, history, and geology are being conducted by the Forest Service at Timberline Lodge. The public is invited to this free slide presentation, so if you happen to be camping in the area, add this to your list of "things to do."

A group of scientists from the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, has been doing geologic research in the area of the rock cliffs along U. S. 26 below Government Camp. This research is being done because the normal earth's polarity is reversed, not enough to affect a compass, however. We have learned from them that the age of these rocks is 8,000,000 years. As you drive past the Mt. Hood Forest map sign on Laurel Hill in this same area, you will also notice on the north side of the highway two lava dikes comprised of darker rock, which were apparently extruded during a period of volcanic activity.

Summer racing school at Timberline Lodge is over, the pomalists have been removed, and skiing is possible only by walking up the hill and skiing without tows. The snowcats are used only for special tours by reservation. Weather permitting, the Magic Mile chairlift operates for sightseers daily from 12:30-4 weekdays and 10:30-5 on weekends.

COLLAWASH RANGER DISTRICT

1. Roads: Road crews are doing repair work on the S-63 Collawash River Road. Survey crews are working on S-70 between Collawash Jct. and Thunder Ed. Jct. Logging trucks will be met on many district roads.

2. Trails: Trail Maintenance has been completed in the Bull of the Woods Area. Crews will be working on the Echorn and Eho Creek Trails the next few weeks.

3. Campgrounds, all campgrounds are open. Use continues light with many good spots available, especially during the weekdays. Charge campgrounds are Ripplebrook and Kingfisher. Be sure to follow the instructions posted on the bulletin board.

4. Hunting, Fishing, Berries. Wild blackberries are ripening in many of the logged off area. Good fishing has been reported in the high lakes.

7. Special Items: Hikers report that some of the small un-named lakes in the Mother Lode Mts. area have started to dry up. This is due mainly to the low snow pack of last winter.

LAKES RANGER DISTRICT

Visitors using the Pint Creek road S-548 to reach Harriett lake are urged to drive carefully. Log trucks will be operating on this road starting July 22.

Campground use at Olallie and Breitenbush lakes have been heavy at times this summer. For visitors wanting to get away from the crowds to have peace and tranquility. Horse-shoe lake and Lower lake campgrounds are the places to go. Horseshoe Lake campground is situated on the northeast shore of the lake about four miles from Olallie and two miles from Breitenbush. The campground contains four units and a primitive boat launch area. Rainbow trout up to 15 inches were taken from the lake earlier this summer. Lower lake campground is located about 1/2 mile northwest of Olallie lake and 1/4 mile southeast of Lower lake. Six camp units are available for use in addition to the Fish lake trail which is the take-off point for the backcountry. Neither of these campgrounds have drinking water available, but water can be brought in from Peninsula or Breitenbush campgrounds.

Warmer and dryer weather is predicted for this next week increasing the fire danger. Visitors camping outside of developed campgrounds are asked to follow the following safe practices:

1. Clear flammable ground cover to mineral soil 5 feet in all directions from your campfire.

2. Keep fire as small as possible.

3. Build campfires away from dangerous fuels such as steep slopes, rotten logs, stumps, trees and over-hanging branches.

4. Keep wood pile on windward side away from the fire.

5. When getting ready to leave the area, drown the fire, then stir or spade, then drow again. Feel it with your hands for possible smoldering spots. Use caution to prevent burning your hands and fingers.

Fishing success continues to be poor throughout the district. A few trout up to 12 inches have been taken from the Clackamas River south of its confluence with the Oak Grove Fork.

Trail Riders Book Bar-B-Q

The public is invited to attend an Old Fashioned Country Fair and Bar-B-Q Sunday, July 28, at the Sportsman's club, just south of Sandy, on Highway 211. The afternoon of food, fun, games, and prizes, sponsored by the Oregon Trail Riders. Games will start at 1 p.m. A Pinto pony will be awarded to some lucky person attending the dinner.

On the menu is Bar-B-Q'd Sirloin, baked potato, and tossed salad.

Dinner tickets will be available at the gate.

State Rep. Meet Due at Gearhart

Oregon Republicans will convene in Gearhart July 26 and 27 to formulate their state party platform for 1968.

Delegates will also elect the party's six candidates for presidential elector for the November ballot. Following the convention a Sunday morning reorganization meeting of the Central Committee will elect state officers for 18-month terms.

Representing Clackamas County at the convention will be the following delegates: Sen. George Eivers, Milwaukie; Sen. John Inskeep, Oregon City; Rep. Leo Thornton, Milwaukie; Rep. Roger Martin, Lake Oswego; candidates for the House Allen Pynn, West Linn, and Mrs. Mildred Sunleaf, Lake Oswego; Dr. Roy Payne, Milwaukie, Republican county chairman; Mrs. F. V. Magaura, Lake Oswego, vice chairman; and elected delegates Mrs. E. E. Cannon and Gene O'Brien, Milwaukie; Mrs. A. A. Esau, Lake Oswego; and Mrs. Melvin Woodall, Gladstone.

Murder is committed in the U. S. on the average of every 48 minutes, forcible rape every 21 minutes and a robbery every 3-1/2 minutes.

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So They Say



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DAD'S SHOULDERS provided ideal viewing point for this youngster as they watched breathtaking sky acrobatics of dare devil pilots at Sandy Kiwanis Fly-In Breakfast Sunday at Rich's Airport. (Post photo)