

Property tax petitions:

Post survey finds angry taxpayers

Oregon soon may join California's tax revolt in limiting property tax if local consensus is any indication.

Local petitions to place a 1½ percent tax ceiling on property tax are filling fast, and a Sandy Post street survey reveals almost unanimous grass-roots support for the movement.

The petitioners appear about halfway toward their needed 61,646 signatures needed by July 7 to put the measure on the November ballot.

The measure, if approved by voters, would place a 1.5 percent limitation on property tax. California voters recently passed an initiative to freeze their property taxes at 1 percent.

Locally, there is a petition at Sandy Rexall Drug, while other petitions are circulating throughout the area.

The Oregon measure would cut property taxes by an estimated three or four

million dollars annually, but there is some concern in state government that the state lacks funds to make up the difference.

A flaw recently was noted in the circulating petitions with a line of the original petition dropped during printing.

The line prefaces the proposed initiative with "That Article is added to the Constitution to Read."

Passage would establish a property tax ceiling and require a two-thirds favorable vote in the state legislature to any kind of subsequent tax increase.

Local taxpayers questioned in a recent Sandy Post street random survey agree almost unanimously that some sort of property tax limitation is needed.

Typical comments range from "all for it" to "sounds good, but..."

Some of the comments follow:

RUSS ARMSTRONG:

"You're damn right, I'm for it. I'm all for it. I haven't seen a petition yet, but I'm looking for one to sign. I think government service is overdone already, so I think they could do without some of these things we have now."

REX MOODY:

"It sounds good, but it can't be as good as it sounds, I guess. Sure, you're going to lose a lot like park services, so something else is going to have to pay for it."



SAMINA SIMONIS of Sandy signs a local petition in the state drive to limit property tax in Oregon. (Post photo)

Area men chair PEO

Bob Parnell and Howard Jones, Gresham, are co-chairmen of the 67th annual state PEO convention June 13 to 15 at Reed College.

PEO is an international women's organization interested in bringing increased opportunities for higher education to women. It has approximately 200,000 members in the United States and Canada and was organized in 1869.

ALICE SHOCKEY:

"I'm in favor of it. It's certainly time they did something. There's a tremendous increase in them every year. I'm hoping they would have sense enough to economize (with cutbacks), not just in libraries and schools, but like most of us do in our homes."

Teacher contract approved

The Sandy Elementary School Teachers Association and the Sandy Elementary School Board this week approved a new two-year contract effective July 1.

Voting members of both parties unanimously agreed to the pact although not all staff and board members voted. The final tally for the teachers was 63 to 0 with 14 members absent while the board approved the contract 4 to 0 with one member absent.

District Superintendent Clark Lund expressed pleasure with the outcome of the voting.

"Everybody concerned has expressed genuine understanding and appreciation of all the factors of the negotiations," said Lund. He added that although there were some minor grammatical changes, the board ratified the contract as it was negotiated by the teacher's association.

There were some changes from the last contract, according to Lund. Teachers will receive an increase in base salary, but the exact amount will not be certain until all teaching positions have been filled.

"Basically, it's about a cost of living increase for the

existing staff," said Lund. "Where we settled is within the scope of the school district budget and that's a sign of relief."

Other changes include a sabbatical leave provision for teachers. One teacher per year will be eligible for a leave to be used for furthering that teacher's education. Qualifications for the sabbatical include a five year term in the Sandy school district approval by the advisory committee.

An important change in working conditions was approved, said Lund, which will improve the ability of the teacher to prepare for class. Previously, not all teachers had adequate time during the day to prepare for some classes due to irregular schedules. The board has agreed to smooth out scheduling and give teachers an equal and adequate preparation time.

Lund said that the board also has plans on offering a contract to a teacher of a new program for advanced children.

"The program is designed to stimulate the able and gifted children," said Lund. "The program will let them go ahead, but it will only be a portion of their total

curriculum." The program will offer advanced concepts of the core classes including math, science and language arts.

Lund also said that he has received the resignations of two teachers, Debra Hunter, a physical education instructor and John Richards, an upper grade sciences teacher.

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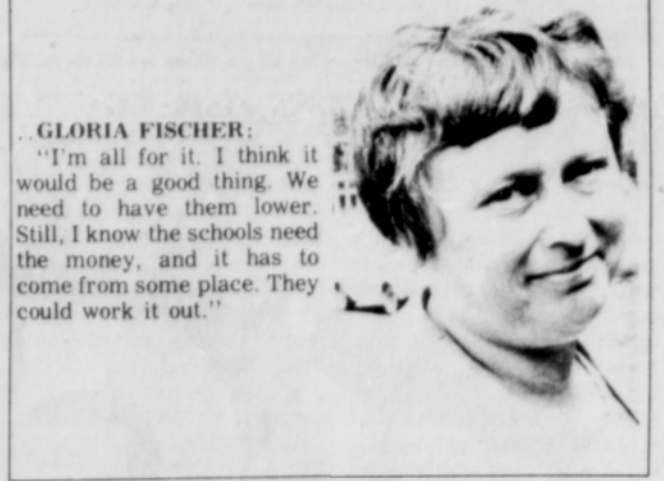


MRS. BERNIE DRUSHELLA:

"It's the dumbest thing I've heard of in my life — it's as simple as that. For all the things we use that money for, we're improving our state. If California wants to go down the drain, it's up to them. I know everyone today wants to save money, but this is a shame."



ALINORE PURSELL:
"Sounds like to good deal to me. I'm for it."



GLORIA FISCHER:
"I'm all for it. I think it would be a good thing. We need to have them lower. Still, I know the schools need the money, and it has to come from some place. They could work it out."

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