



By making the case about workload and the record demand for services, SEIU members were able to push legislators to raise taxes.

Candidates we fought to elect had pledged to raise the \$10 corporate minimum, but the opening proposal from the Governor was for just an \$80 million increase. Legislators ended up increasing corporate taxes by more than \$260 million.

Political action...

Democratic leadership lined up in favor of reducing cuts to services by raising taxes on those who can afford to pay. Republican leadership proposed deeper cuts - including the rollback of raises granted to state workers in 2007. A handful of legislators from both parties bucked their leadership. Rep. Bob Jenson (R - Pendleton) voted to increase taxes on corporations and the wealthy, Rep. Greg Smith (R - Heppner) voted to increase taxes on the wealthy and Rep. Mike Schaufler (D - Happy Valley) voted against increasing corporate taxes.

Senator Mark Hass tried to have it both ways. Senator Hass voted against the corporate tax increase, and temporarily killed it in the Senate, where it lost by one vote. After intensive grassroots lobbying generated by SEIU and our allies, and extreme pressure from legislative leadership, Senator Hass flipped his vote. Hass' actions almost killed the bill and sent the tax increase back to the drawing board where it almost certainly would have been reduced or eliminated. A lot of legislators who were not comfortable raising taxes voted for both tax increases because they understood the human impact of the drastic cut in services.



...paid off in the '09 legislative session.

Leaders on this fight included the chair of the House Revenue Committee Representative Phil Barnhart (D - Eugene), Rep. Jules Bailey (D - SE Portland), House Speaker Dave Hunt (D - Gladstone), Senate President Peter Courtney (D - Salem), and House Majority Leader Mary Nolan (D - SW Portland).