

How Lane County Taxes Have Increased in Eight Years

Year	Total Expenditures
1906	_____
1907	_____
1908	_____
1909	_____
1910	_____
1911	_____
1912	_____
1913	_____
1914	_____

Year	STATE	Sp'l Road	CITY	SPECIAL SCHOOL	COUNTY
1906	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1907	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1908	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1909	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1910	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1911	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1912	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1913	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
1914	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

(From The Tax Liberator)

	1905	1914
Total tax on roll..\$	266,478	\$1,103,253
State tax.....	47,355	169,290
Special road tax..	None	28,242
All city taxes in		
Lane County...	19,287	162,092
Special school tax	30,330	170,787
County tax.....	169,506	544,985

The above table shows that the total tax listed on Lane County's tax rolls increased in the eight years from 1906 to 1914, about 315 per cent. Last month we showed that the increase in Douglas County during the same period was 320 per cent. But let us analyze these figures. Let us deduct the state taxes from our computation. Then we find that all taxes for public purposes on the Douglas County rolls have increased 289 per cent, and for Lane County 331 per cent. But let us go still further in our analysis. On January 1, 1915, Lane County had a warrant indebtedness of \$86,000. On the same date Douglas County had no warrant indebtedness, but a surplus of \$64,000. Taking the warrant indebtedness of Lane County and the surplus of Douglas County into consideration, then we find that the actual increase in public expenditures in Douglas County is 242 per cent, and in Lane County 370 per cent. This refers to taxes of all kinds except the state tax.

Seems like a big increase, doesn't it? During the time that the current public expenditure in Lane County has increased 370 per cent, the population has increased only about 35 per cent. Taxes have increased ten times faster than population. Why? The Tax Liberator doesn't know why. The people of Lane County should know why. If they don't know, then they should find out.

Let's look at the county taxes first. It is taking three times more money to run Lane County than it did eight years ago—but there are only one-third more people to care for than there were eight years ago. Now if there were only one-third more people, it should take only one-third more public expenditures to care for them. But it is now taking three times as much.

"Oh, well," the Lane County people say, "we are taking care of ourselves better than we did eight years ago." All right, friends, but are you taking care of yourselves two and one-half or three times as well as you did eight years ago? If you are taking care of yourselves two and one-half times as well as you did eight years ago, then well and good. You know what you want, and if you prefer sirloin steak to boiling meat you have every right to buy it (if you can afford it). We note, however, that you are behind about \$86,000 in your meat bill. But suppose, friends, that you are not taking care of yourselves two and one-half or three times as well as you did eight years ago. If not, then why are your expenses over three times as much as they were eight years ago?

The Liberator does not undertake to answer this for you. It's your money, your improvements, your indebtedness, and your business. It is up to you to see what is wrong if you think your taxes are too high. There are over 2500 members of the Oregon Rational Tax Reform Association in Lane County. We are personally acquainted with many of them. They include some of the best citizens of Oregon—intelligent, honest, sincere and patriotic. Why shouldn't these 2500 members (every one of whom will read this article) make a thorough investigation of this matter? You have your own organization, the Lane County Taxpayers' League. It only needs a little work if each of you will do your part. Don't expect someone else to do this for you. Get in and do your part, if you expect to get the desired results.

Many of you claim that your taxes are too high. You claim there is waste in public expenditure and that your county government, your city government, your schools and roads can be maintained at less expense. This may be so. But can you point out where the waste exists? Can you show where reductions can be made? If you do know, then you should see that your ideas are put into effect. We feel sure your public officers will welcome any practical suggestions.

If you don't know where savings can be made, then you have no right to say that taxes are too high. Why not do your investigating first and your talking afterward? If you would use one-half the energy in really finding out where your tax money goes that you do in kicking about high taxes, then your taxes would probably be much reduced. You will never reduce taxes by hoping that someone else will pull your chestnuts out of the fire for you. It's up to each and every taxpayer to do his part. Anyone who is not willing to do his part should not complain if taxes are too high.

The Lane County Taxpayers' League cannot secure lower taxes unless it is unqualifiedly backed up and assisted by each and every taxpayer in Lane County. If you are a member of the Lane County Taxpayers' League, then get in and see that the association work is being aggressively performed. If you are not a member, then join it and do your part. You need the association, and the association needs you.

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Services next Sunday as follows: Bible School at 9:45; morning services at 11; Christian Endeavor at 6:30; evening service at 7:30.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Rev. D. A. MacLeod, Pastor.
Services next Sunday: Bible school at 10; morning worship at 11; Junior Christian Endeavor at 3; evening worship at 7:30. Bible study Wednesday.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL
Horace N. Aldrich, Pastor
Miss Bell M. Menzies, Deaconess.
Thursday at 7:30, prayer meeting. Every Sunday: Sunday School at 9:45; S. L. Mackin, superintendent. Graded lessons. Separate class rooms. Efficient teachers. A ten-piece orchestra leads the song service. Mrs. Maude Wright, superintendent primary department. Junior Epworth League at 3:00; Mrs. Helen Aldrich, superintendent. Epworth League at 6:30; Dr. Richard McCargar, president. Chapter No. 2 at 6:30; Frederic Aldrich, president. Class meeting at 12:15. Services with sermon at 11:00 and 7:30.

Morning theme, "Newness of Life;" evening subject, "The Bearing of the Present on the Future Life." Epworth League topic, "A Singer With a Consecrated Voice." Leaders: Chapter No. 1, Albert Woodard; No. 2, Miss Marjorie Hooper.

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