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Measure 97: a \$6 billion tax on sales – with no guarantee of how politicians would spend the money



Measure 97 would impose \$6 billion in new taxes on the sales of goods and services in Oregon, including everything from food, clothing, housing, utilities and gas to medicine and healthcare.

The state of Oregon's own nonpartisan study found that Measure 97 would increase costs for a typical family by \$600 per year and especially hurt those who can least afford higher living costs.

Despite Measure 97's deceptive wording, **there's no guarantee where the money would go – it's a blank check.**

Measure 97 is not a constitutional amendment, so under state law and Oregon Supreme Court decisions, it cannot bind the Legislature's spending decisions.

The Legislature's own top legal authority, the Legislative Counsel, stated that **the Legislature could spend the money "in any way it chooses."**



William D. Rutherford
Former Oregon State Treasurer

"Since it is not a constitutional amendment, Measure 97 cannot guarantee how the money from its tax on sales would be spent. The legislature could spend the money from Measure 97 any way it chooses."



Brenda Frketch
Family Farmer
St. Paul, OR

"Measure 97 would tax the sales of the basic things that all families need, like food, utilities, gas and medicine. That means all Oregon families would pay more and have less, and those who can least afford it – like seniors and those on a fixed income – would be hurt the most."



Doug Hoffman
President
Wilco
Mt. Angel, OR

"Under Measure 97, businesses would pay a 2.5% tax on their total sales regardless of whether they make little or no profit or are actually losing money."

Every Major Newspaper in Oregon: No on 97

Examples:

"As even the measure's proponents admit, the Legislature may spend the revenue ... anywhere it likes."

– **The Oregonian** – Oct. 9, 2016

"The money would go into the state general fund, and lawmakers could spend it any way they wished."

– **Mail Tribune** – Oct. 9, 2016

"Prices for everything from food to medicine to power would go up."

– **The Bend Bulletin** – Oct. 16, 2016

"The Legislature can spend the available money in any way it sees fit – on pensions, prisons or pet projects."

– **Portland Tribune** – July 21, 2016

"Higher prices for items such as food, medicine and clothing hit the poorest Oregonians the hardest, because a larger portion of their income goes for necessities."

– **The Register-Guard** – Oct. 2, 2016

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