

# Arguments Given For and Against 1 1/2% Property Tax Limitation

(Editor's Note: This continues analysis of the proposed 1 1/2% property tax limitation measure made by Ron Daniels, superintendent of Morrow County Schools).

Arguments in favor of the proposed constitutional amendment changing property tax limitation to 1 1/2% of true cash value of property are given by Oregon United Taxpayers, Inc., A. F. Gildemeister, president, as follows:  
1. Will give property tax relief, which everyone agrees is necessary.

2. Will repeal the so-called 6% limitation, which in reality is an automatic annual increase taken by most taxing districts. This doubles your taxes every 12 years.

3. Will leave local control over local budgets.  
4. Will give the people the right to exceed the 1 1/2% limitation by voting on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November in any year.  
5. Will force economy in local governmental operations.  
In rebuttal to these arguments, the Committee to Keep

our Firemen, Police and Teachers on the Job, 1222 S. W. Fourth Ave., Portland, has made the following statements, with the numbers referring to the five points of the arguments above:

Statement No. 1—Ballot Measure 7 does not guarantee property tax relief. It imposes more stringent requirements for "going outside the limitation." The voters already have control over proposals for "going outside the limitation" simply by voting "yes" or "no" on any such measure, based on their appraisal of whether the measure is justified or not. Furthermore, it has not been established that everyone agrees that this relief is necessary.

Statement No. 2—This statement about "Automatic Annual Increase" and "doubles your taxes every 12 years" is both misleading and false. The facts are that a significant number of taxing districts in the state have not taken a 6% increase over the previous year's levy. In fact, the average annual tax increase for taxing districts in the state has amounted to less than 4% and this figure included the voter-approved levies for various public improvements and services outside the 6% limitation. Eliminating these voter-approved levies would reduce that 4% figure even further. A study of actual results in Oregon taxes by the Oregon Tax Commission produces conclusive proof that the increases allowable under the 1 1/2% method had it been in effect for the past 30 years would have exceeded the present method by over 20%.

Statement No. 4—The people should recognize that if this provision were adopted they would be seriously limiting their own rights and their ability to deal with emergency situations which can and often have developed in many local service districts. Instead of the present right to hold a special election when and if the need arises they would be binding themselves to a "once-a-year basis."

Statement No. 5—Far from forcing economy in local governmental operations, a one-third cut will simply mean slashing local services with a meat axe. Policemen and firemen will be trimmed from the local force and that will mean an increase in insurance rates and in crime. Other departments which serve the public in various ways will suffer severe personnel cuts and this will mean a massive slowdown in obtaining all types of documents and carrying on all types of transactions where any government servicing of documents is needed. Kids will be herded into larger classes, be given longer vacation periods while many of the better teachers leave for jobs in school systems which are not operating under chaotic conditions. In the trimming of personnel from local taxing district payroll, those with the greatest longevity, not necessarily those who are most efficient or best trained, will be retained.

Additional statements: "None of the 16 states that have 'overall property tax limitations' have ever repealed a single one."

Comment: Why then are Oregon voters being asked to repeal our present superior overall property tax limitation which focuses the limitation on the point of use, and substitute for it an unrealistic limitation tied to the uncertain fluctuations of the real estate market?

Statement: "Passage of this amendment is necessary to safeguard property ownership from excessive and confiscatory taxation."

Comment: No amendment will ever replace the necessity of "Eternal Vigilance" on the part of the citizenry, keeping a close

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eye on its local governmental districts. The amendment would allow any taxing district to exceed the limitation through a vote of the people—AS AT PRESENT. It would still be up to the voters to determine the merits of each such increase just as they must do now, so why change a good law for a questionable straight jacket.

Statement: "This amendment again restores your right to vote any increase in property taxes you may want to bear."  
Comment: You don't "Restore" a right which the people have never given up. The voters have this right now.

Statement: "When all property now on the tax rolls is taxed at 1 1/2% of its true cash value, a surplus will result, and no other taxes are necessary."

Comment: Taking Multnomah County as an example, an objective analysis by The Tax Supervising and Conservation Commission offers conclusive proof that a \$36 Million combined deficit, based on the 1967-68 revenue, would result to combined local government in Multnomah County when the 1 1/2% is applied to property now on the tax roll. The proponents are guilty of irresponsible conjecture in suggesting that a surplus will result when all property now on the rolls is taxed at 1 1/2% of its true cash value. There is no tangible evidence to support their statement.

Additional arguments against the 1 1/2% property tax limitation.

1. Loss of major source of revenue to local governments without a corresponding or even relative replacement revenue of any kind.

2. Does not provide an opportunity to vote outside the limitation until November, 1969. This will create chaos in schools and local government for the 1969-70 year.

3. The most serious handicap to exceed the limitation is the provision for a single election in November of each year.

This means that the voters must accept the first budget proposed or reject it and perhaps be able to provide an acceptable school program.

4. The 20% majority approval of registered voters will also provide a serious obstacle to voting outside the 1 1/2% limitation. It would be almost impossible in off-general election years.

5. All bond issues, of votes to exceed the 1 1/2% by schools, cities and counties, must be voted on in the same election. It would be extremely difficult to obtain voter approval on very many issues that involve tax increases.

6. Once a taxing agency received budget approval outside the 1 1/2% limitation it would permit other taxing agencies to increase their budgets without an election.

(To be concluded)

## Grandchild Arrives

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barratt of Corvallis, former Heppner residents, announce the birth of their first grandchild, Shannon, to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gillespie of 711 Mill Street, Springfield. This is also the first great grandchild of J. G. Barratt of Mesa, Ariz., and Mrs. E. Harvey Miller, Portland, also former Heppnerites. Paternal grandparents are Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Frank Gillespie of Corvallis. The parents, 1967 graduates of Corvallis High school, are living in Springfield while Gillespie is majoring in the school of architecture at the University of Oregon.

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## Cooking Club Elects

First meeting of the Cooking Cuties 4-H club was held at the home of our leader, Mrs. Gladys Hobbs, on October 5. We elected officers and filled out the enrollment blanks. The following were elected: Pam Schmieder, president; Peggy Brant, secretary; Bonnie Johnson, news reporter. Bonnie Johnson, reporter

**SCHOOL LUNCH MENU**  
Heppner Elementary and Heppner High School  
For Week of Oct. 28—Nov. 1  
Monday, Oct. 28 — Mor. green salad, rolls, butter, pudding.  
Tuesday, Oct. 29 — Chili, salad, hot bread, butter, milk, fruit cobbler.  
Wednesday, Oct. 30 — Beef stew, rolls, butter milk, apple crisp.  
Thursday, Oct. 31 — Pizza, green beans, milk, Jell-O, Hal-loween cake.

Mrs. Rachel Harnett and Mrs. Josie Jones spent last Tuesday visiting friends in Monument, where they went to pick up Mrs. Ellen Moore, who returned to Heppner with them for two week's visit at the home of Mrs. Harnett.

## Re-Elect C.J.D. BAUMAN

REPUBLICAN NOMINEE

# For Sheriff

OF MORROW COUNTY

- The law of arrest, search and seizure;
- The seizing of property under execution and attachment;
- The serving of court papers
- Have become highly technical procedures.
- They require training and experience in their proper administration.

Morrow County Sheriff's Department is charged with the collection of more than One Million Dollars in Taxes annually. This requires training and experience.

Morrow county has had no rise in the crime wave, no riots and no civil disorders. It is the policy of the present sheriff to prevent this type of crime, to keep people out of trouble, to work for the people of Morrow county and not against them, to help and advise students and juveniles, and to work with them—not against them.

Your sheriff is as far away as your nearest phone. Call him any time of day or night, if you have a problem or complaint. He is trained and experienced in all phases of sheriff work.

Keep A Trained and Experienced Man on the Job

Re-elect C. J. D. Bauman  
As Your Sheriff

(Pd. adv. by C. J. D. Bauman, Heppner, Ore.)

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