

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



School Clothes



Medicine & Healthcare



Utilities



Groceries



Gasoline



Electronics

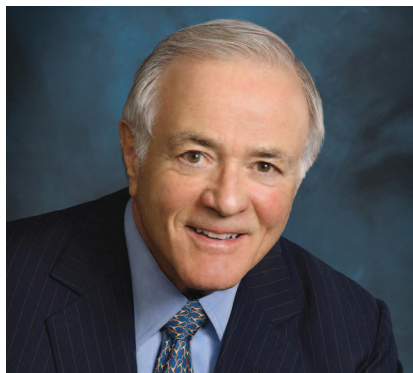
Measure 97 would impose \$6 billion in new taxes on the sales of goods and services in Oregon, including everything from food, clothing, housing, utilities and gas to medicine and healthcare.

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.”



**Bobbi Frost**  
Harrold’s Dairy, Creswell

“Measure 97 would tax the sales of the basic things every family needs, like food, gas, utilities 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.”



**Patrick Criteser**  
President and CEO  
Tillamook County Creamery Association

“As a farmer-owned co-op doing business in Oregon for more than 100 years, we believe education and a sound economy are both critical. Measure 97’s tax on sales would severely hurt Oregon businesses and our economy, with no guarantee that the money would go to education.”

## 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

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

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

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

– **Mail Tribune** – Oct. 9, 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

# Vote NO on 97

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