

A Resolution of The Democratic Party of Washington County

Resolution # 2017-037

Relating to The Oregon Legislature's Ability to Raise Revenue with A Simple Majority

Whereas austere budgets like that which is currently being proposed by Oregon's Democratic Governor, because they lower public sector spending and have been shown to be very harmful to the health of the economy and the people who depend on it; and

Whereas the Democratic Party of Oregon's Platform, Article 4 – Revenue and Taxation Policy, Planks 7 and 8 state “We believe well-purposed government spending can be an economic good ...” and “We believe in a fair and progressive tax structure...”; and

Whereas the State of Oregon currently faces a massive budget shortfall of approximately \$1.6 Billion dollars and without equally large increases in revenue will require us to endure massive cuts to our State's vital social welfare programs which include public pensions, indigent support, and all levels of education funding; and

Whereas if the current budget proposals are put into effect it will likely result in increased poverty and large layoffs of public sector workers; and

Whereas House Joint Resolution 14 was passed in 1996 by a Republican controlled legislature and called for a referendum on a Constitutional Amendment to require a three-fifth majority (60%) of both Houses of the Legislative Assembly to approve any revenue increases, and this ballot measure (BM 25) subsequently passed in the 1998 Primary Election with less than 60% of the popular vote; and

Whereas requiring more than a simple majority for the passage of bills which raise revenue has significantly contributed to Oregon's budget shortfalls, and has hindered the ability of Oregon Democrats to raise progressive taxes when the need has arisen, such as in the current budget crisis:

THEREFORE Be It Resolved by the Democratic Party of Washington County (DPWC), Oregon that:

1. We affirm that it should only take a simple majority of both Houses of the Oregon Legislative Assembly to pass bills that raise revenue for the State.
2. The DPWC urges all of our Democratic State Representatives and Senators to pass a Joint Resolution calling for a Constitutional Amendment to overturn BM 25, restoring revenue increasing votes to a simple majority.
3. This resolution will be forwarded to the Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) so that it may be considered for endorsement by the DPO membership.

Resolution submitted: K Haxton – Feb. 2017; Passed P&RC w/ amendments – 3/7/17; 1st reading CC 3/23/17; passed CC – 4/24/17 w/ amendment to remove phrase related to “regressive taxes” (Whereas 1)