

RESOLUTION NO. 2990

DECLARING THE CITY OF ALBANY'S OPPOSITION TO BALLOT MEASURE No. 5.

WHEREAS, the citizens of Oregon have placed a property tax limitation on the November 1990 ballot, thereby, demonstrating their frustration with this State's outmoded, unbalanced system of taxation which places a greatly disproportionate burden on property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, property tax revenues constitute the primary revenue source for cities, counties, and schools, all of which are required both by state and federal laws and by demands of citizens living in a society undergoing dramatic economic and social transformation to provide ever-increasing levels of service; and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure 5 proposes limitations of such sweeping and complex revisions to local government financing that it will be impossible for the voters to know the implication of their action should the measure pass; and

WHEREAS, the funding reductions which will be required should Ballot Measure 5 pass will arbitrarily restrict the taxes and most fees and charges collected by cities without regard to the vision which our citizens have of their communities and the level of services required to achieve that vision; and

WHEREAS, the ad valorem property tax loss for cities would be about \$50 million in the first year, and when combined with the losses from fees and charges, will force some cities to sacrifice services including fire and police protection; and

WHEREAS, in any area where the nonschool consolidated tax exceeds \$10 per thousand, local governments will become competitors for revenues, rather than partners because one government's revenues could increase only at the expense of another; and

WHEREAS, the measure's mandate to replace school revenues lost from this measure does not itself avoid school spending cuts unless the Legislature also agrees to keep basic school support at current levels and, thereby, divert state spending from programs for senior services, corrections, and other priorities; and

WHEREAS, even if communities experience disastrous results, local voters could not change their local tax limits unless they first change the Oregon Constitution through a statewide vote; and

WHEREAS, while the effects of the limitation leave some cities relatively untouched, it will undermine the ability of the voters in fiscally devastated communities to gather enough signatures statewide to place another measure on the ballot.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Albany oppose Ballot Measure 5 because it will create inequitable and, in many cases, devastating results for our citizens.

DATED this 10th day of October 1990.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Recorder