

## Taxes

Deeply ingrained in our social consciousness is the belief that population growth is a fundamental sign of health. Even among those who question that premise, many believe that growth in Josephine County, Oregon is inevitable.

### Bigger Cities Have Higher Taxes

With growth we know we will need and have to pay for new roads, water lines, sewers, police and fire protection, schools, parks, and other infrastructure.

What about taxes? Property taxes are placed on the tax roll in the form of a “tax rate” per \$1,000 of assessed value. Do taxes go down with growth and development? Are taxes healthy for existing residents?

Sixteen Oregon cities have a larger population than the City of Grants Pass (see table & graph). All 16 of them require higher property tax rates than our city. Our Oregon data suggest that any further increase in our local city populations will increase the chances for local tax increases.

Are taxes healthy? Many believe that with education and citizen involvement programs, city management and legislative direction, taxes can be managed in ways that are understandable and acceptable.

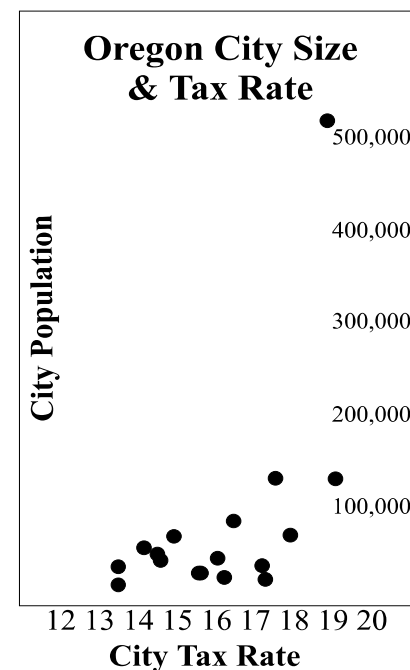
## Oregon City Size & Tax Rate

Bigger Cites Require Higher Taxes <sup>1</sup>		
Oregon City	Popula- tion	Tax Rate
Portland	529,121	18.96
Eugene	137,893	17.66
Salem	136,924	19.13
Gresham	90,205	16.57
Beaverton	76,129	18.71
Hillsboro	70,186	14.99
Medford	63,154	14.27
Springfield	52,864	16.61
Bend	52,029	14.62
Corvallis	49,322	14.76
Tigard	41,223	13.65
Albany	40,852	17.28
Lake Oswego	35,278	15.69
Keizer	32,203	15.59
McMinnville	26,499	17.42
Oregon City	25,754	16.31
Grants Pass	23,003	13.64

<sup>1</sup> 2000 Census as reported in the Oregonian on March 15, 2002; Oregon Property Tax Statistics Fiscal Year 1999 - 2000, Oregon Department of Revenue.

## More Information

Warren Troy, Information Liaison for CVIG, is concerned. He stated, *The costs of growth don't balance out, and that as Grants Pass grows, so do its taxes.*”



How do you feel? Please make your concerns known to your neighbors and our county commissioners, and/or become a co-sponsor of this information brochure.

Want more information? Contact a representative of CVIG and/or the *Hugo Neighborhood*.

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## Missions Of The Citizens For A Voice In Growth & The Hugo Neighborhood

This information brochure is one of a series of information documents jointly published by Citizens For A Voice In Growth (*CVIG*) and the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*). It is designed to be shared with neighbors for the purpose of helping protect our rural quality of life by promoting an informed citizenry in decision-making.

*CVIG* is a group of citizens dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement. *CVIG* supports: open spaces, clean rivers, a clean environment, responsible growth, small businesses, minimum noise pollution, and minimum light and sign pollution. *CVIG* was responsible for the passage of measure 17-77, which changed the Grants Pass City Charter to allow citizens the right to vote on annexations.

The *Hugo Neighborhood* is a nonprofit association composed of a voluntary group of citizens interested in both the land use and history of the Hugo area, which is located in Josephine County, Oregon. Its land use mission is to promote the social welfare of the citizens of the area by working to promote Oregon Statewide Goal 1 — Citizen Involvement, and by preserving, protecting, and enhancing the livability and economic viability of its farms, forests, and rural neighbors.

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**Citizens For A Voice In Growth**  
  
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