

RESOLUTION No **35606**

Declare support for Ballot Measure No 50 (Resolution)

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #47, a property tax limitation measure was passed in the November 1996 general election, and

WHEREAS, the effect of Ballot Measure #47 was to limit property taxes for 1997-98 to the 1995-96 level minus 10 per cent or the 1994-95 level, whichever is lower, to limit annual property tax increases to no more than 3 per cent above the prior years level, regardless of the assessed value of the property, restrict replacement of funding for services historically supported by property taxes without a vote of the people on replacement fees and charges, require that any new property tax measure must have both a majority and a 50 percent voter turnout at any election other than a general election, and limits the use of general obligation bonds to specific purposes related to construction, improvements, and public safety, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #47 through the use of imprecise and ambiguous language, has created significant uncertainties with regard to implementation, and court challenges, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50, is a state constitutional property tax limitation measure proposal referred to the voters by the State Legislature to clarify aspects of the citizen-initiated Ballot Measure #47, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50 maintains many of the key features of Ballot Measure #47 including the limits of property taxes for 1997-98, the cap of future property tax increases to a maximum of 3 percent, the retention of a clause prohibiting local government from replacing lost property tax revenue with fees or other charges, a continuation of the requirement of a "double majority" in elections dealing with certain local tax issues in elections other than general elections, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50 clarifies statewide tax policy by defining confusing terminology and replacing contradictory language that was used in Ballot Measure #47, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50 simplifies and cuts the cost of administering the current property tax system, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50 exempts Portland's property tax supported public safety retirement system, Fire and Police Disability and Retirement (FPDR) from property tax limitation and allows the City to continue to meet its contractual obligations, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50, by exempting the FPDR levy treats the City of Portland like all other local governments in the State of Oregon and improves the ability of the City of Portland to provide basic services, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50 does not address concerns about which fees are exempt from the measures provisions and it does not address how property tax revenues will be allocated between overlapping jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, Ballot Measure #50 affirms the right of local voters to approve limited levies outside the cap on property taxes and says that the legislature may enact laws to provide the same option for schools,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Portland finds that

- 1 Ballot Measure #50, if approved, retains the property tax limitations that voters approved in the November 1996 General Election
- 2 Ballot Measure #50, if approved, makes the property tax system more easily understood and administered by streamlining the assessment process and fixing property tax rates
- 3 Ballot Measure #50, if approved, significantly reduces the likelihood of legal challenges by eliminating the imprecise and ambiguous language that was so evident in Ballot Measure #47
- 4 Ballot Measure #50, if approved, will provide the citizens of Portland with more control over local government services by providing an option for local voters to approve levies outside the general property tax limitation

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Portland finds that

- 1 Although Ballot Measure #50 corrects the imprecise, ambiguous and potentially unconstitutional elements of Ballot Measure #47, it does not meet the needs of the State of Oregon or this community for comprehensive tax reform dealing with issues such as regressive taxation, inequities amongst classes of taxpayers, and relative tax burdens between residential and commercial properties
- 2 The Oregon Legislative Assembly should enact legislation to retain the current allocation formula to distribute property tax revenues among overlapping jurisdictions
- 3 The Oregon Legislative Assembly, working with the City of Portland and other local jurisdictions, should further define the types of fees and charges that will need electorate approval under Ballot Measure #50

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Portland does hereby declare its support for Ballot Measure #50 and urges the citizens of Portland to support the measure at the May 20, 1997 General Election

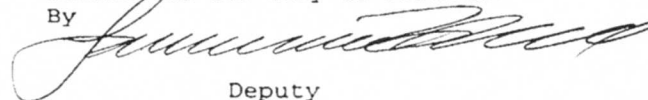
Adopted by the Council

MAY 07 1997

BARBARA CLARK

Auditor of the City of Portland

By



Deputy

Agenda No = **643**

RESOLUTION NO. 35606

Title

Declare support for Ballot Measure No. 50. (resolution)

INTRODUCED BY	DATE FILED MAY 1 1997
Mayor Katz	Barbara Clark Auditor of the City of Portland
NOTED BY COMMISSIONER	
Affairs	By <u>Cory Kershner</u> Deputy
Finance and Administration <i>ok JLT</i>	For Meeting of _____
Safety	
Utilities	
Works	
BUREAU APPROVAL	ACTION TAKEN
Bureau Office of the Mayor	
Prepared by Date J. Tuttle 5/1/97	
Budget Impact Review	
Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Required	
Bureau Head Mayor Katz	

AGENDA		FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS		
				YEAS	NAYS
Consent	Regular <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Francesconi	Francesconi	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
NOTED BY		Hales	Hales	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Attorney		Kafoury	Kafoury	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Auditor		Sten	Sten	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
City Engineer		Katz	Katz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	