

BEFORE THE VOTERS OF MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON
MAY 20, 2003

ORDINANCE NO. 1012

Temporary Personal Income Tax for Public Schools, Public Safety and Human Services

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Oregon Constitution Article VI, section 10 grants county voters authority to adopt a county charter.
- b. Multnomah County Charter Section 2.10 grants the county legislative authority "over matters of county concern to the fullest extent permitted by the constitutions and laws of the United States and the State of Oregon." Multnomah County has authority to enact laws taxing incomes to pay for county services required for the health, safety and welfare of the people of the county.
- c. An income tax of 1.25% of Oregon taxable income will provide needed funds for public schools, public safety and human services.

Multnomah County Voters Ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this ordinance, the following definitions apply unless the context requires a different meaning.

ADMINISTRATOR. The Multnomah County Finance Director.

RESIDENT. An individual who files a resident Oregon income tax return from Multnomah County.

TAXABLE INCOME. Taxable income under Oregon law.

SECTION 2. INCOME TAX.

A. A tax of 1.25% is imposed on Oregon taxable income for residents of Multnomah County. For single filers, \$2,500 of taxable income is exempt. For joint filers, \$5,000 of

taxable income is exempt. The net revenues will be paid to the County General Fund for distribution by the Board of County Commissioners for services such as:

- Teachers' salaries, programs and instructional days for Multnomah County public schools, including Centennial, Corbett, David Douglas, Gresham-Barlow, Parkrose, Portland, Reynolds, Riverdale Districts;
- Prescription drug benefits for low income seniors;
- Restoration of housing and independent living assistance for the elderly and disabled;
- Health and mental health care for low income people;
- Reduction of early release of inmates;
- Offender drug and alcohol treatment.

B. This tax will be effective from January 1, 2003, through December 31, 2005.

SECTION 3. PERFORMANCE AUDITS.

Independent performance audits will be conducted on the use of funds generated by this measure.

SECTION 4. REVIEW COMMITTEE.

A School Efficiency and Quality Advisory Council is created to review expenditures by county school districts of funds generated by this ordinance. The Chair, with approval of the Board, will appoint the council members. Membership will include parents, educators, taxpayers, and business, labor, and government leaders.

SECTION 5. PAYMENT OF TAX.

Payment of this tax is due on April 15th or the closest following business day.

SECTION 6. ADMINISTRATOR DUTIES.

A. **Receipt.** The Administrator will receive the tax imposed by this ordinance from the taxpayers, keep accurate records, and report all monies received.

B. **Collection.** The Administrator will collect and enforce payment of all taxes owing to the county.

C. **Rulemaking.** The Administrator will adopt administrative rules to implement this tax. Rules adopted will be consistent with the rules of the Oregon Department of Revenue regarding personal income tax.

D. **Contracting.** The Administrator may contract with public or private agencies, as necessary, to implement this ordinance.

SECTION 7. OTHER PROVISIONS.

A. **Savings Clause.** If any part of this ordinance, or any tax against any individual or group is found unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality or invalidity will affect only that part of this ordinance or tax and will not affect or impair any other provisions of this tax or ordinance.

B. If the State reduces base funding allocation for county schools, public safety, or human services during the next three years, the County Board of Commissioners will consider immediate termination of this tax.

C. If the State restores funding for county public schools, public safety, or human services during the next three years, the County Board of Commissioners will consider immediate reduction or termination of this tax.

D. This ordinance takes effect immediately upon enactment by Multnomah County voters at the election called for May 20, 2003.

ADOPTED this 19th day of June 2003, pursuant to voter approval at an election held on May 20, 2003.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, ACTING COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Katie Gaetjens, Assistant County Attorney