

Appendix B - Oregon Property Tax System Terms

Values

Values for each property are set by the County Assessor using appraisal methodology, dependent on comparable property sales, and methods and procedures provided by the Oregon Department of Revenue. Each property has a number of different values.

Real Market Value (RMV):

The amount the property would sell for on the prior January 1 in a competitive market in an arm's length transaction between a willing buyer and a willing seller.

Measure 5 Value (M-5):

For most properties this value is the same as RMV. For properties under special assessment as farm or forest land or under partial exemption the Measure 5 value is less. The limits of Measure 5 are calculated on this value.

Maximum Assessed Value (MAV):

The MAV was established in 1997-98 and was set at 90% of each property's 1995-96 M-5 value. The MAV growth is limited to 3% per year for unchanged properties each subsequent year. For properties new to the assessment roll, MAV is calculated by multiplying the property's RMV by the Changed Property Ratio. In future years the 3% annual limit applies. When RMV falls below the MAV the MAV is not reduced or increased.

Assessed Value (AV):

The amount of value that is taxed. This value is the lesser of the RMV, M-5 value or the MAV.

Changed Property Ratio (CPR)

When new property is added to the tax roll, either new construction or property previously exempt or under special assessment (lower value), an assessed value has to be determined to give the property the same relative tax break as all other property that existed when Measure 50 first created assessed value. This is done by multiplying the RMV of the new property by the CPR. The CPR is calculated by dividing the average assessed value of existing property by the average RMV of the same properties. Separate CPR's are calculated county-wide each year for different types of property, such as residential, commercial and industrial. The CPR for centrally assessed (utility) property is calculated statewide.

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Permanent Rates

All tax base levies, serial levies and continuing levies were eliminated and rolled into a permanent rate authority in 1997. The permanent rate is applied against the assessed value of the district to determine the amount of tax the district will collect. New districts are allowed to establish a permanent rate, but existing districts cannot increase their permanent rate authority. Taxes from the permanent rate are subject to Measure 5 limits.

Local Option Levies

Local option levies are outside of the permanent rate, but are subject to Measure 5 limitations. Local option taxes must be reduced to zero before the permanent rate taxes are reduced under the Measure 5 limitation. Education Service Districts are the only districts that do not have local option levy authority. Amounts a K-12 school district raises over a certain limit (generally \$750 per ADMw) is included in their state funding formula allocation which reduces state funding. Community colleges are limited to specific amounts. The local option levies are limited to five years for operations and ten years for capital projects. Elections for local option levies must meet the double majority election test, except in the May or November election (Measure 56, November 2008). This means 50% of the registered voters in the district must vote, and of those voting, 50% must cast a yes vote.

Levies for Bonded Indebtedness

Local governments are allowed to ask voters for authority to issue general obligation bonds. This allows for an annual levy to make the principal and interest payments. Taxes levied to repay the debt service are not subject to the property tax rate limitations of Measure 5.

Qualified Taxing District Obligations

Property taxes can be levied to repay borrowings executed before December 5, 1996, even if voters did not specifically approve the debt. In most cases this debt was being repaid out of the general fund, with tax base dollars, under the pre-Measure 50 system. This debt is subject to the limitations of Measure 5. The only remaining qualified taxing district obligation is the levy for City of Portland's Fire and Police Disability and Retirement system (FPD&R).

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Measure 5 Limitation

The Measure 5 limitation divides property taxes into three categories: education (limited to \$5.00 per thousand); general government (limited to \$10.00 per thousand); and taxes not subject to the limitation. If taxes in the education or general government category exceed the limits, the taxes owed each jurisdiction are reduced by an equal percentage to bring the total tax within the maximum allowed. The value used to test the Measure 5 limits for each piece of property is the Measure 5 Value. Local option taxes are always reduced to zero before taxes from the permanent rates are reduced.

Tax Increment Financing

When an urban renewal plan area is established, the assessed value in that area is “frozen” for tax purposes. Tax Increment Financing provides that axes attributable to increased or “excess” value over the frozen value goes to the urban renewal agency. This is also referred to as “division of tax”. See Urban Renewal section starting on page 47 for more detailed information.