



NEWS

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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Oregon Fact of the Day # 12

Robbing Peter to Pay Paul, Part II – More Wasteful Spending

WASHINGTON – The big-spenders in Salem claim the state is running out of money. On Tuesday, we listed 9 examples of pork in the state budget, which help explain why the budget is out of balance. Here are a few more examples:

From the Taxpayer Association of Oregon (<http://www.oregonwatchdog.com/>):

- New, unnecessary programs created by the 2001 legislature according to Oregon Tax Research: **\$ 500 million!**
- Amount estimated that the Department of Health & Human Services has unspent from the previous budget: **\$29 million!**
- Oregon could have saved a lot of money if it had made better use of Temporary employees – state auditors gave this advice back in 1996: **\$25 million!**
- Auditors identified how much money was misspent by Multnomah County in the construction of four buildings: **\$24 million!**
- The state could save a huge amount of money if it would sell off its vehicle fleet and lease vehicles from private sources as needed: **\$20 million!**
- According to the Federal Government, there have been welfare overpayments every budget cycle since 1996: **\$10 million!**
- Gov. Kulongoski handed out discretionary bonuses to public employees, while at the same time claiming the state was out of money: **\$8 million**
- Light rail art projects have also been funded by taxpayer's money: **\$1.2 million!**

And this is just the tip of the iceberg!

**The future of Oregon is in your hands:
Defeat the tax hike at the ballot on February 3 and force Gov.
Kulongoski and the legislature to live within their means!**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases.
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