League of Oregon Cities

Drop-In Newsletter Content

How to Use This Content

- Use the short version when space is tight: a newsletter blurb, a sidebar, or a single paragraph with a link.
- Use the long version when you have more room: a feature item, a full newsletter article, or a web post.
- Pick whichever headline option best matches your newsletter's usual tone, or write your own.
- To add a local example, use the Local Story Template (item 11) and drop it in at the marked spot in the long version.

Short Version (about 100 words)

Suggested Headline (pick one)

- New Resource Explains Why Oregon Cities Are Cutting Services
- New Site Tracks the Property Tax Problem Driving Local Service Cuts
- League of Oregon Cities Launches BrokenTaxSystem.org

There's a new resource for understanding the budget challenges facing cities across Oregon. BrokenTaxSystem.org, a project of the League of Oregon Cities, explains how the state's property tax system is making it harder every year for cities to keep up with the cost of essential services like fire protection, roads, libraries, and parks.

In a July 2026 statewide survey, seven out of ten Oregonians (71%) agreed we need to make major changes to the property tax system.

Visit BrokenTaxSystem.org to learn more about the problem and what it means for your community.

League of Oregon Cities

Long Version (~250–300 words)

Suggested Headline (pick one)

- New Resource Explains Why Oregon Cities Are Cutting Services
- New Site Tracks the Property Tax Problem Driving Local Service Cuts
- League of Oregon Cities Launches BrokenTaxSystem.org

There's a new resource for understanding the budget challenges facing cities across Oregon. BrokenTaxSystem.org, a project of the League of Oregon Cities, walks through how Oregon's property tax system, largely unchanged in more than thirty years, is making it harder every year for cities to keep pace with the cost of providing basic services. The site brings together survey data, real examples from Oregon communities, and answers to frequently asked questions, all in one place.

For more than a decade, cities across Oregon have cut spending, found efficiencies, and reduced staff and services to keep up. In some communities, that has meant leaving roads to deteriorate, ending ambulance services, hiring fewer firefighters, and reducing hours at libraries, pools, and parks, or closing them altogether. There's no more fat left to trim, only the services residents depend on.

[Add your own example here: a service cut, staffing shortfall, or delayed project in your community. Use the Local Story Template, to build it, then drop it in at this spot.]

Our current property tax system isn't just squeezing city budgets, it's also unfair to homeowners. Two homeowners who live in the same metro area and have similar property values may pay wildly different tax bills for the same public services, just because their homes were built in different years.

The disparities extend to commercial properties as well. Large corporations pay property taxes under the same outdated rules as homeowners, with some properties going onto the tax roll at less than half what they're actually worth.

In a July 2026 statewide survey, seven out of ten Oregonians (71%) agreed we need to make major changes to the property tax system.

Visit BrokenTaxSystem.org to learn more about the problem and what it means for your community.

Newsletter Graphics

If your newsletter platform supports an image, use one or more of the following graphic options:

- Stat/Fact Card (C2)
    - TEXT: Seven out of ten Oregonians (71%) support making major changes to our property tax system.
      IMAGE: Outlines of ten people, seven filled in with a color, over outline of state
    - SOURCE: DHM Statewide Survey for League of Oregon Cities, July 2026
- Illustration Card (C3)
    - HEADLINE: “A decade of cuts.”
    - IMAGE: Illustration from video, showing images representing services that have been cut.
- Illustration Card (C4)
    - HEADLINE: Two Similar Homes. Two Wildly Different Tax Bills.
    - IMAGE: Reuse the two-homes comparison graphic from the Fairness Graphic (item 3) and the video: Home A, valued at $400,000, paying $2,100 a year in taxes; Home B, valued at $400,000, paying $4,200 a year in taxes.