

# Oregon's Broken Property Tax System



## Oregon's outdated tax system has forced cities across the state to cut services residents depend on.

For more than a decade, cities have cut spending, found efficiencies, and reduced staff and services. Now, many Oregon cities are losing what has made them great places to live.

**Baker City** Eliminated ambulance service, cut two police officer positions, and eliminated a finance staff position because of revenue constraints.

*Source: Interview with Barry Murphy, City Manager, Baker City, 2026*

**Gold Hill** The city's entire annual property tax revenue, under \$170,000, isn't enough to fund a single full-time employee with benefits. Gold Hill no longer has its own police department.

*Source: Interview with Lily Morgan, City Manager, Gold Hill, 2026*

**Newport** The city's aquatic center is often closed when residents want to use it because there's no full-time staff to keep predictable hours.

*Source: Interview with CM Hall, City Councilor, Newport, 2026*

**Salem** Eliminated Sunday library service downtown and cut West Salem branch hours by two-thirds, after leaving staff vacancies unfilled to close a budget gap. Some services were restored following voter passage of a Livability Levy in May 2025.

*Source: Statesman Journal, "Salem to cut hours at the main and West Salem libraries starting Jan. 2," December 2023*

Oregonians deserve a fair tax system that delivers for our communities.  
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**Eugene** The city's general fund shrank by more than \$45 million from 2009 to 2024. Its public library now operates with reduced staffing and has eliminated off-site programs entirely.

*Source: City of Eugene newsflash, April 2024; OPB, "Eugene Public Library copes with budget cuts and fears more are on the way," February 7, 2024*

**Albany** Cut services across its fire, library, parks, and police departments before adopting a new city services fee just to stabilize its budget.

*Source: City of Albany, "How did we get here?"*

**Beaverton** Residents are seeing higher city fees as Beaverton faces revenue limits the city can't fix on its own.

*Source: The Oregonian, "Beaverton residents will see higher fees as city faces cash crunch it says it can't easily fix," July 2026*

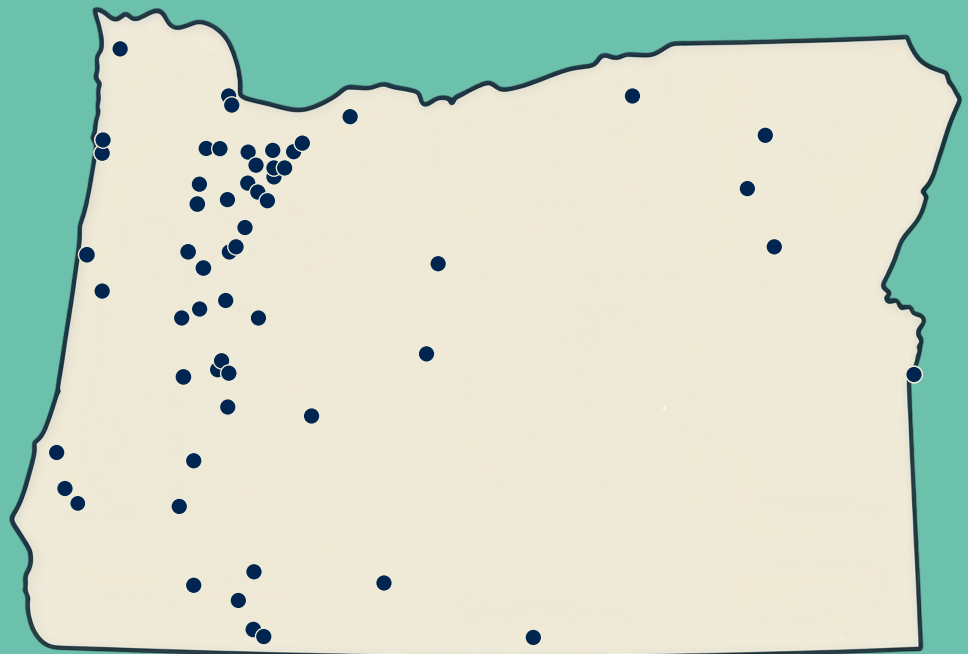
**Statewide** Nearly 60% of Oregon's counties have made budget-driven program cuts in recent years, from reduced jail capacity in Coos County to cuts in homeless services in Lane County.

*Source: OPB, "60% of Oregon counties have cut programs amid budget crisis," March 2025*

## Oregon cities facing budget deficits or service cuts

At least 60 Oregon cities have reported budget deficits or cuts to staff and services since 2023, including public safety, fire, libraries, parks and pools.

*Sources: City budget documents; local news coverage; League of Oregon Cities*



*Map locations are approximate*

It's time to fix a system that no longer works for Oregon taxpayers.

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