

Oregon's Broken Property Tax System



In the 1990s, ballot measures 5 and 50 locked Oregon into property tax rules that have since become a tangle of fees, loopholes, and patchwork fixes.

These outdated rules make it harder every year for Oregon communities to provide the services we depend on like fire protection, roads, libraries, and parks.

Now, after decades of downsizing and service cuts, many Oregon communities are losing what has made them a great place to live.

Unfair By Design

Many Oregonians are paying thousands more in property taxes than their neighbors, even if their houses have the same value.

Why? Because those homes had different assessed values when property tax rules were put in place in the 1990s.

Commercial property owners pay taxes under the same outdated rules as homeowners, with some properties going onto the tax roll at less than half what they're actually worth.



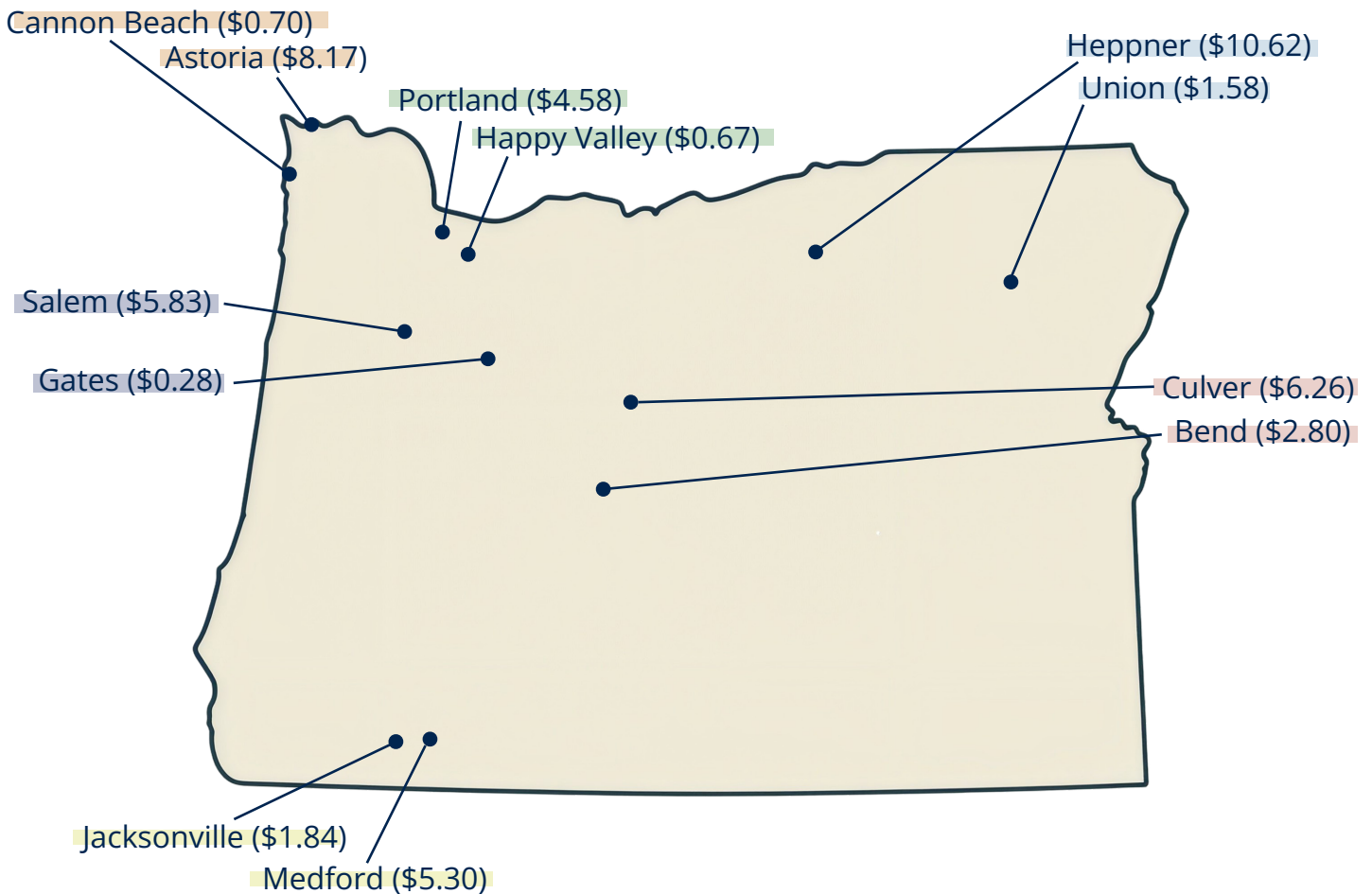
In a July 2026 statewide survey, seven out of ten Oregonians (71%) agreed we need to make major changes to the property tax system.
Learn More at BrokenTaxSystem.org

Measure 50 Locked in Property Tax Disparities

Measure 50 froze each city's tax rate permanently at its 1997 level, with no ability to consider a city's changing needs over time. As a result, cities across the state have very different permanent property tax rates that don't represent local demand for public services or differences in cost of living.



Permanent Property Tax Rates (per \$1,000 of assessed value)



Source: LOC 2025 City Property Tax Report

Oregonians deserve a fair tax system that delivers for our communities.

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