

Oregon's Broken Property Tax System



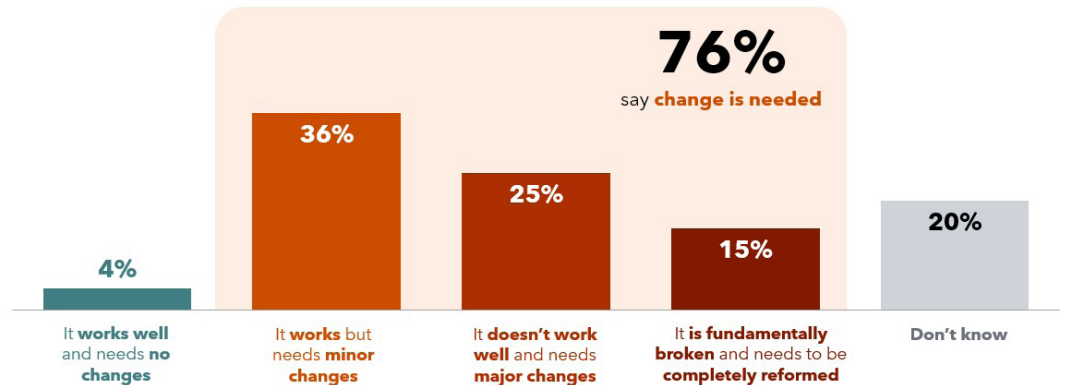
Public Opinion Research

The League of Oregon Cities worked with Espousal Strategies and DHM Research to conduct a statewide survey and focus groups in July and August 2026, asking people for their opinions about property taxes in Oregon.

Broad Support for Change

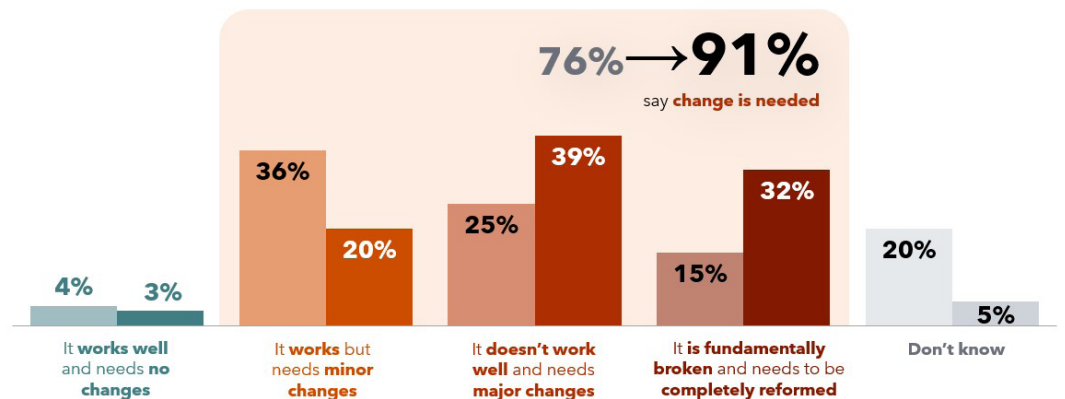
Based on what you know right now, how would you rate Oregon's property tax system?

Without any background on how Oregon's property tax system works, three out of four Oregonians (76%) agree the system needs to change.



After learning more about how Oregon's property tax system works, 91% of Oregonians agree the system needs to change, with 71% believing it needs either major changes or complete reform.

Based on what you know right now, how would you rate Oregon's property tax system?



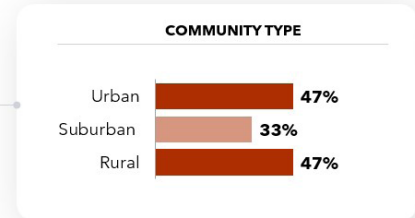
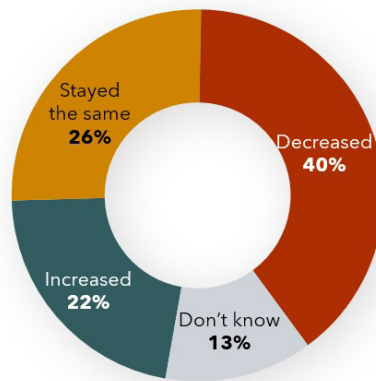
Oregonians deserve a fair tax system that delivers for our communities.

Learn More at BrokenTaxSystem.org

Decreased Local Funding

Nearly half of residents in urban and rural communities say they've seen a decrease in funding to provide quality public services over the last five years.

Over the last five years, would you say the funding for local governments in your community to provide quality public services has **increased**, **stayed the same** or **decreased**?*



*Among those who have lived in Oregon 6 years or more, n=446

Local Service Cuts in Rural Oregon

Only 34% of rural Oregonians say local governments have the funding needed for quality public services.

"We no longer have a police force in this town. It's gone. Our schools keep going down more. We used to have code enforcement. We used to have animal control. All of these are being closed due to lack of funding." — Union resident

"Libraries and schools are taking a cut because of funding...I know Warrenton doesn't have anything for kids, as far as recreational services and the library." — Warrenton resident

Concern About Unfairness and Local Service Cuts

Over 80% of Oregonians are concerned that:

- Large corporations pay property taxes under the same outdated rules as homeowners, with some properties going onto the tax roll at less than half of what they are actually worth.
- Oregon's property tax rules, established in the 1990s, mean neighbors in similar homes can pay thousands of dollars more or less than each other for the very same public services.
- Because of changes made to Oregon's property tax system in the 1990s, local governments now lean more heavily on fees and charges than most other states. These fees are typically charged at a flat rate, so households with the lowest incomes pay a larger share of their income.
- Oregon's outdated tax system has forced cities across the state to cut the services residents depend on — including ending ambulance service in some communities, leaving police positions unfilled, and cutting hours at libraries and pools.