

# Majority Rules

Tuesday, October 07, 2008

## **The Hillsboro Argus**

Bill Sizemore has been with us for some time. He changed the landscape of Oregon voting laws. One of those changes is mean-spirited at best and a slap in the face to those of us who vote regularly. Branded the "double-majority" rule, if less than 50 percent of registered voters participate in local elections, property tax measures automatically fail.

In other words, if you fail to vote, your non-vote is counted as a no vote. It breeds apathy and ignorance. It also groups most tax measures on major election ballots to guarantee a 50 percent turnout. What's worse, it's written into our Constitution so we need an amendment to get rid of it.

Well, state legislators have done just that. Measure 56 will amend the Constitution so that a majority of voters - regardless of the turnout - decides property tax elections. Tax hawks will argue measures will sneak onto ballots and pass because of fired up support. Nonsense. If you want to protect your property taxes, exercise your right to vote.

There is probably no easier state to do that in than Oregon. If you don't like a measure, put a stamp on the provided envelope and mail it in. It is that simple.

It's time to stand up for your right to vote. The double majority has eroded that right into a no show. Get it back by voting yes on Measure 56.

W. Clark Gallagher

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