Overview of 2024 Property Tax Ballot Measures

Commission on Property Taxation April 26, 2024

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Current Status

- 1 Measure On the Ballot (Initiative #50)
- 1 Measure Approved for Circulation (Initiative #108)
- 8 Measures Titled (two others found to have multiple subjects upon rehearing today)

 41 Measures No Longer Active (including two found to have multiple subjects today)



Six Measures to Cut or Limit Property Taxes

- 2 from Michael Fields and Suzanne Taheri (#50, #108)
- 1 from Tom Kim and Anneliese Steel (#97)
- 3 from David Davia and Michael Fields (#296, #298, #300)

- 4 cut assessment rates (res and nonres) and/or apply subtractions
- 1 limits growth in statewide tax revenue, unless voters permit revenue to be retained
- 1 limits growth in assessments

Assessment Rates (4 measures)

- All measures cut rates beginning in PTY 2025. Different permutations:
 - 5.7% res; 24% nonres (#108)
 - 5.7% res, with \$55,000 subtraction; 25.5% nonres (#298)
 - 5.3% res; 25.5% nonres (#300)
- One measure includes incremental reductions in assessment rates
 - Annual stepdown of 0.37 pp in res rate, 1.00 pp in nonres rate, to reach 5.3% res and 24% nonres in 2029 (#296)



Assessment Rates (4 measures)

- Property tax impacts:
 - Property taxes reduced by between \$3.0 billion and \$3.1 billion
 - Phased-in measure (#296) starts at \$670 million in PTY 2025, \$1.3 billion in PTY 2026, etc.
 - Total program funding for school finance reduced by between \$800 million and \$900 million
 - Phased-in measure (#296) starts at \$190 million in FY 2025-26, \$390 million in FY 2026-27, etc.
- Reimbursements:
 - All lost revenue (#108)
 - No reimbursement required (#296, #298, #300)



Limit on Statewide Property Tax Revenue Growth (#50)

- Constitutional measure
- When property tax revenue is projected to growth by at least 4 percent, statewide voter approval is required for local governments to retain and spend the excess
- Fiscal impact depends on revenue growth rates, voter authorizations



Limit on Growth in Assessments (#97)

- Constitutional limit
- For 2025 and later assessments:
 - Properties sold since June 2020 are valued at the level of their most recent sale
 - Properties not sold are valued at the level of their PTY 2021 assessment
 - Annual increases are limited to the lesser of inflation or 2.5%, unless the property undergoes substantial improvement
- Estimated to reduce property taxes by \$2.3 billion for PTY 2025, larger amounts in later years



Four Measures to Limit the Impact of Property Tax Limits

All four from Scott Wasserman and Ed Ramey

- 1 conditionally imposes tax on "luxury" residential property
- 1 conditionally increases the nonres rate for most nonresidential property
- 1 conditionally allows the state to retain and spend revenue for reimbursements
- 1 requires local voter approval in order for a statewide limit on property tax to apply locally

"Luxury" Residential Property Tax (#96)

- Constitutional measure
- If a statewide limit on the amount of or growth in property tax revenue is imposed, a supplemental tax is imposed beginning in 2027 to offset revenue loss that would otherwise occur:
 - Applies to single family residential worth at least \$2 million
- Fiscal impact uncertain, would depend on what limit, if any, is imposed

Nonresidential Assessment Rate (#269)

- Begins in PTY 2026
- If local share of total program funding for school finance is less than 50%, increases nonres rate to 32%
 - Increased rate does not apply to property being used by businesses that meet
 SBA definition of "small business"
- Expected to trigger under current law
- Estimated to increase property tax revenue by \$300 million in PTY 2026 and decrease the state share school finance obligation by \$100 million

Retain Revenue for Reimbursement (#261)

- Begins in 2025
- If a statewide limit on the amount of or growth in property tax revenue is imposed, authorizes state to retain revenue over the Referendum C cap to reimburse local governments for their lost revenue.
- Fiscal impact uncertain, would depend on what limit, if any, is imposed

Local Voter Approval for Application of Limit (#95)

- Constitutional measure
- If a statewide limit on the amount of or growth in property tax revenue is imposed, requires local voter authorization for limit to apply locally.
- Fiscal impact uncertain, would depend on what limit, if any, is imposed

Questions?

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