

BILLS TO INTRODUCE WHEN THE MEASURE PASSES

Like any amendment to the state constitution, the Measure to eliminate valuation-based property tax will need several minor changes in law to ensure that the Measure works as intended and for the benefit of all. Below are basic summaries of bills that will be introduced by legislators. The process of drafting the actual bills doesn't begin until after the measure is approved for the ballot.

1. Change language to allow townships, rural ambulance, and rural fire to raise revenue. They are currently limited to mils of property tax. Without this change, townships would not be allowed to raise any revenue. Fortunately, it's a very easy change.
2. Convert Airlines, Railroads, and Utilities to an "in-lieu-of" tax. This will ensure that things like pipelines will continue to pay tax. The legislature will work out details of each in committee, as each has its own legal ramifications. May need to be two or three bills.
3. Change language so investor-owned electric companies and electric co-ops are taxed the same. Without this change, an unfair playing field is created by having one continue with full tax, while the other pays no tax.
4. Small changes to how bonding can be done, to ensure that there is no unforeseen restriction when cities and counties need to do bonding for schools or other projects.
5. Remove many restrictions on how cities can raise revenue, so they will have more control than they currently have with valuation-based property tax. Counterbalance that with limitations, not by state government, but by the people in the city.
6. Remove many restrictions on how counties can raise revenue, so they will have more control than they currently have with valuation-based property tax. Counterbalance that with limitations, not by state government, but by the people in the county.
7. Change language for special assessments and any other implementing language, so that nonpayment results in a lien on property, rather than foreclosure of property. This way nobody is kicked out of their house if they fall on hard times.

Opponents of the measure commonly use the issues that these bills will address to intentionally misinform voters and cause fear. Implementing language like this is always necessary for constitutional amendments because this type of detail should not be in the state constitution.