

Oregonians are already struggling to pay for things like gas, groceries and diapers. If Val Hoyle had her way, families would be paying even more in income taxes. She wanted to raise income taxes on some local families making more than \$31,000 per year.

BACKUP:

With skyrocketing food prices and record-high gas prices, Oregonians are struggling to afford things like gas, groceries, and diapers:

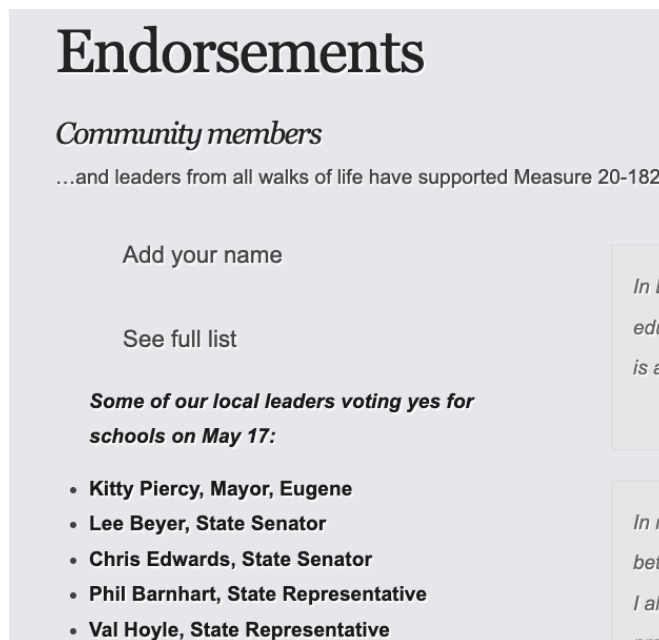
- Rampant inflation is “imposing severe pressures on families, forcing them to pay much more for food, gas and rent.” “Across Oregon, the average for unleaded was \$5.52 and diesel was \$6.14. America’s rampant inflation is imposing severe pressures on families, forcing them to pay much more for food, gas and rent and reducing their ability to afford discretionary items, from haircuts to electronics.” (The Associated Press, “Inflation hit a new 40-year high in May, driven by gas prices,” [Central Oregon Daily](#), 6/10/22)
- Oregonians are “grappling with soaring food costs” and those who rely on public food benefits are especially vulnerable to the rising prices. “Oregonians and some state agencies are grappling with soaring food costs. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, retail food prices have jumped 8.6% in a year, including a 1% uptick in February. Anyone who’s gone shopping has had sticker shock. Those who rely on public food benefits are especially vulnerable to rising prices.” (Lynne Terry, “Skyrocketing food prices are pinching budgets of Oregon individuals and agencies,” [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#), 3/17/22)
 - *Oregon Capital Chronicle* headline: “Skyrocketing food prices are pinching budgets of Oregon individuals and agencies” (Lynne Terry, “Skyrocketing food prices are pinching budgets of Oregon individuals and agencies,” [Oregon Capital Chronicle](#), 3/17/22)
- As of June 2022, Oregon’s record-high gas prices were the fourth-highest in the nation. “Oregon’s record-high gas prices are already the fourth-highest in the nation, and AAA predicts they will keep on going up during the busy summer travel season.” (Bryant Clerckley, “Gas prices in Oregon among the highest in the country,” [KGW 8](#), 6/6/22)
- *KEZI 9 News* headline: “Sky-high gas prices impacting local businesses” (Nick Ursini, “Sky-high gas prices impacting local businesses,” [KEZI 9 News](#), 3/7/22)
- Oregonians such as April Berg-Davis, a local Uber and Lyft driver, are “feeling the pain at the pump” “April Berg-Davis, a local Uber and Lyft driver, said she’s feeling the pain at the pump, and the steep gas prices are cutting into her earnings.” (Bryant Clerckley, “Gas prices in Oregon among the highest in the country,” [KGW 8](#), 6/6/22)
- In March 2022, Oregon legislators passed a bill to provide a one-time \$600 cost-of-living payment to over 200,000 Oregonians in an effort to help low-income families facing skyrocketing prices from fuel to food. “Oregon this week sent out hundreds of thousands of cost-of-living payments in an effort to help low-income families facing skyrocketing prices from fuel to food. In March of this year, Oregon Democrats led the passage of House Bill

4157, a one-time \$600 cost-of-living payment to over 236,000 Oregonians across every corner of the state.” (FOX 12 Staff, “Oregon distributes \$600 cost-of-living payments to over 200,000 households,” [FOX 12](#), 7/13/22)

- According to a chief sponsor of the bill, the \$600 check would help cover essentials such as groceries and diapers. “‘Low-income households shouldn’t have to fight to afford basic everyday costs,’ said Representative Andrea Valderrama (D-Portland), a chief sponsor of the bill. ‘Even before the pandemic Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and low income communities experienced barriers to economic vitality. No one should have to choose between putting food on the table or paying their utility bills. These checks are going to help cover essentials like groceries, prescription medicine, diapers or rent.’” (FOX 12 Staff, “Oregon distributes \$600 cost-of-living payments to over 200,000 households,” [FOX 12](#), 7/13/22)

In 2011, Val Hoyle supported Measure 20-182, which would have implemented a broad income tax on joint incomes over about \$31,000 in Eugene:

- According to an archived copy of the “Strong Schools, Strong Eugene” Val Hoyle endorsed “Measure 20-182 for Strong Schools and a Strong Eugene.” (Strong Schools, Strong Eugene, “Endorsements,” [Website](#) accessed via Wayback Machine, Archived: 9/12/11)



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- Eugene’s Measure 20-182 was an income tax ballot measure in Eugene, Oregon, which was described by *Eugene Weekly* as “a tax on everyone but the very poor.” “Last year Eugene voters cast their ballots two-to-one for an income tax to fund schools. This month Eugene voters rejected an income tax for schools by almost a two-to-one margin. What was the difference? In 2010 successful state Measure 66 was a tax on a small percentage of wealthy people. This month, failed Eugene Measure 20-182 was a tax on everyone but the very poor.” (Alan Pittman, “School Funding,” [Eugene Weekly](#), 5/26/11)

- **Measure 20-182 proposed a broad tax on joint incomes over about \$31,000 (AGI).** “Measure 66 taxed only a few households with incomes over \$250,000. Eugene’s failed Measure 20-182 proposed a broad tax on joint incomes over about \$31,000 (AGI).” (Alan Pittman, “School Funding,” [Eugene Weekly](#), 5/26/11)
 - **The measure would create four income tax rates, ranging from 0.35 percent to 1.2 percent.** “Measure 20-182 creates four income tax rates, ranging from 0.35 percent to 1.2 percent. These are not marginal rates. Joint filers with an income of \$50,000 would be taxed at a 0.47 percent rate. One additional dollar would boost the household into the 0.75 percent bracket, and every dollar of income would be taxed at the higher rate. A \$1 increase in income would trigger a \$140 difference in tax.” (Editorial, “City tax for schools: No,” [The Register-Guard](#), 5/1/11)

- **According to *The Register-Guard*, Measure 20-182 would have allowed Eugene to collect an estimated \$24 million in income taxes each year over a four year period.** “Then there’s the problem of leakage. Measure 20-182 would allow the city to collect an estimated \$24 million in income taxes in each of the next four years. Only \$16.8 million, however, would be turned over to the school districts. The other \$7.2 million would go to pay the cost of administration and to account for losses due to avoidance and exemptions. Every tax has collection costs and losses, but a bucket that leaks 30 percent of its water has bigger holes than most.” (Editorial, “City tax for schools: No,” [The Register-Guard](#), 5/1/11)

- ***The Register-Guard*’s editorial board opposed Measure 20-182.** “Even supporters can see that Measure 20-182 on the May 17 ballot is far from perfect. Yet a city of Eugene income tax is the only available means to soften the effects of budget cuts in the Eugene and Bethel school districts, cuts that will result in layoffs, fewer school days and larger class sizes. The malady is plainly serious - but the cure is harsh. The Register-Guard cannot recommend a yes vote.” (Editorial, “City tax for schools: No,” [The Register-Guard](#), 5/1/11)