



# CITIZENS for Limited Taxation

43 Years as the Voice of Taxpayers  
Post Office Box 1147 □ Marblehead, Massachusetts 01945  
(508) 915-3665 □ staff@cltg.org □ www.cltg.org

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February, 2017

Dear Citizen for Limited Taxation;

We taxpayers are in two places simultaneously. On one hand we have a new administration in Washington and expect President Donald J. Trump to be significantly more taxpayer-friendly than the Obama administration was over the past eight years.

On the other hand, little if anything has changed on Beacon Hill, in one of the bluest of blue states which overwhelmingly voted for his opponent, Hillary Clinton. Even before the November election, State House Democrat leaders of the Legislature's massive Democrat majority were floating the specter of tax hikes in 2017 – even above and beyond their *sixth* push for the destructive divide-and-conquer graduated income tax constitutional amendment.

For the past few months CLT has been gearing up for the challenging year ahead. Here are the bills we've filed, refiled, or co-sponsored for the 2017-18 legislative session:

*With Sen. Richard Ross (R-Wrentham)*

- Repeal of the nursing home tax
- Provide for Proposition 2½ *underride* elections via signatures/Limit override votes to biennial elections
- Eminent domain – Statute (law) that strengthens property rights in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's Kelo decision (2005)
- Eminent domain – State Constitutional Amendment (same as above)

*With Rep. Shaunna O'Connell (R-Taunton)*

- EBT program – Restricts out-of-state spending on EBT cards

***Continued . . .***

*Every Tax is a Pay Cut . . . A Tax Cut is a Pay Raise*

*With Rep. Jim Lyons (R-Andover)*

- Reduce the sales tax rate to 5%
- Roll back income tax to 5%

*With Sen. Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester)*

- Roll back income tax to 5%

Along with signing onto these bills, CLT will testify before the relevant committees when the bills are heard and promoting their adoption. We'll let you know when it's time to act by calling your senator and representative.

In a break from his past opposition to tax increases, House Speaker Robert DeLeo (D-Winthrop) recently stated "No decision has been made in terms of additional or other forms of revenue. I'm not ruling out anything."

In the more liberal Senate, as usual they'll be pushing to take more, more, more from us: Senate President Stanley Rosenberg (D-Amherst) said the Senate will look for new revenues "where we can find them." Senate Ways and Means Chairwoman Karen Spilka (D-Ashland) said tax increases should be talked about in the future.

Taxpayers didn't see the "temporary" income tax hike rolled back at all this year. The Legislature's arcane formula didn't permit it, but somehow they all got a 4% pay raise based on a different COLA formula using median household income – and gave all legislative staffers a 6% pay hike based on yet another concocted formula. This bears out the old "Golden Rule" axiom, "He who has the gold makes the rules."

CLT has again filed our bill to improve our Proposition 2½ by empowering all municipalities to present property tax *underrides* as well as overrides. It also proposes to limit overrides to three on a ballot, and only at biennial elections, preventing the practice of over-and-overrides until one passes.

The Legislature last year in Constitutional Convention voted to advance the proposed graduated income tax constitutional amendment. It needs one more vote in the Legislature to make it onto the ballot next year. We expect it will

again get sufficient votes and will appear on the 2018 ballot for voters to decide.

The tax-borrow-and-spend cabal of usual suspects is *still* outright *lying* about its proposed grad tax, *still* falsely promising the additional revenue it would raise will be dedicated strictly to funding only education and infrastructure. But appropriating funds and directing spending by ballot question is clearly unconstitutional. All tax revenue goes straight into the state's General Fund, from which *the Legislature alone* decides how it will be spent.

The Massachusetts High Technology Council – often in the past a CLT ally – has poll results that show support for a Grad Tax "falls to 24 percent if voters believe funds raised from the higher tax rate will go into the state's General Fund." Our allies of the past against this permanent and escalating money grab are beginning to coalesce in our mutual opposition.

CLT led the campaign that defeated the last Grad Tax ballot question handily in 1994. (CLT was founded in the early '70s by Edward F. King to oppose and defeat Grad Tax ballot questions in 1972 and again in 1976.) What we've got to do to once again is defeat this *next* Grad Tax war is expose the proponents' Big Lie – and show that targeting "millionaires" would be only *the first step* to divide-and-conquer taxpayers one tax bracket at a time, year after year.

The current income tax in the state Constitution is a flat tax: All taxpayers pay it at the same rate. If the income tax is increased, it's increased on every taxpayer equally. What could be more fair? It used to be that equality in all things was the liberals' mission.

Under a graduated income tax scheme, rates can be increased on targeted tax brackets, *one at a time*. Either we have a constitutional flat tax – or *we don't*. Once that barrier is cracked it's game over for taxpayers. "Millionaires" today, everyone later. Then, opposition to hiking taxes one single bracket at a time will never reach critical mass enough to prevent easy tax hikes ad infinitum, like dominoes falling. That cycle will never end, and that's exactly what the well-funded Gimme Lobby proponents seek. That's exactly why *it must be defeated* – for the *sixth* time.

***"Don't tax you. Don't tax me. Tax that fellow behind the tree."***

Citizens for Limited Taxation continues its relentless defense of taxpayers. Without CLT taxpayers would have no voice on Beacon Hill – have little if any opposition to relentless tax hikes. Taxpayers would lose a longstanding, tried and tested army of grassroots activists.

As always, CLT needs your continued support to maintain our efforts on your behalf.

**Please renew your annual membership for 2017 today, with your most generous contribution.**

As always, we and your fellow taxpayers appreciate your support.

It is **YOU** who makes our mission as taxpayer advocates possible. As CLT has for the past 43 years, we're committed to keep fighting for you as long as we have your support and a breath remaining!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chip Ford', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chip Ford  
Executive Director

P.S. **Please respond today.** You can use the enclosed response card and return envelope, or you can renew your membership right now securely at the CLT website by credit card or through Paypal:

**<http://cltg.org/contribution.htm>**

## Proposition 2½ and the Auto Excise (Tax)

Most people know Proposition 2½ as the CLT-sponsored initiative petition that capped property tax increases at not more than 2.5 percent per year.

But they are often unaware, or forget, that since 1980 it also reduced the annual automobile excise from \$66 per thousand dollars of a vehicle's assessed value to \$25 per thousand dollars of its assessed value — a 62% savings.

This table shows how much CLT's Proposition 2½ saves you each year, year after year, just in your auto excise (tax).

VALUATION	CURRENT EXCISE	PREVIOUS EXCISE	YOUR SAVINGS
\$1,000	\$25	\$66	\$41
\$2,000	\$50	\$132	\$82
\$3,000	\$75	\$198	\$123
\$4,000	\$100	\$264	\$164
\$5,000	\$125	\$330	\$205
\$6,000	\$150	\$396	\$256
\$7,000	\$175	\$462	\$287
\$8,000	\$200	\$528	\$328
\$9,000	\$225	\$594	\$369
\$10,000	\$250	\$660	\$410
\$11,000	\$275	\$726	\$451
\$12,000	\$300	\$792	\$492
\$13,000	\$325	\$852	\$533
\$14,000	\$350	\$924	\$574
\$15,000	\$375	\$990	\$615
\$16,000	\$400	\$1,056	\$656
\$17,000	\$425	\$1,122	\$697
\$18,000	\$450	\$1,188	\$738
\$19,000	\$475	\$1,254	\$779
\$20,000	\$500	\$1,320	\$820
\$21,000	\$525	\$1,386	\$861
\$22,000	\$550	\$1,452	\$902
\$23,000	\$575	\$1,518	\$943
\$24,000	\$600	\$1,582	\$984
\$25,000	\$625	\$1,650	\$1,025
\$26,000	\$650	\$1,716	\$1,066
\$27,000	\$675	\$1,782	\$1,107
\$28,000	\$700	\$1,842	\$1,148
\$29,000	\$725	\$1,914	\$1,189
\$30,000	\$750	\$1,980	\$1,230
\$35,000	\$875	\$2,310	\$1,435
\$40,000	\$1,000	\$2,640	\$1,640

**2017**

CITIZENS

for  
Limited Taxation

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Member in Good Standing

# Citizens for Limited Taxation

Enclosed is my 2017 Membership Dues of:

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 ( John Hancock ) | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 ( Paul Revere )      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 ( John Adams )    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 ( Capt. John Parker ) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 ( Sam Adams )     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 ( Minuteman )         |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$ _____            |

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**Please make your check payable to CLT  
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- I'm not yet on your computer e-mail list but would like to receive CLT membership e-mail updates and alerts delivered to my computer! Please subscribe me using my personal e-mail address:

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*CLT can accept all contributions, including corporate, but they are not tax deductible*

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