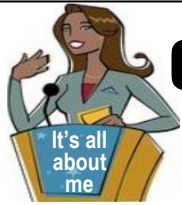


Fall 2011 Government Waste Watch Report



Oregon government: More PR agents than Hollywood?

Millions of tax dollars for PR agents, advertising & self-promoting polling

Oregon state & local governments dump millions of tax dollars into fancy public relations agents, consultants and advertising campaigns designed to make themselves look better and get reelected. Portland area local governments (TriMet, Metro, city) have 84 public relation representatives on payroll which cost taxpayers over \$6.2 million (averaging \$75,000 per agent). *Willamette Week 5-19-2011*

When Oregon politicians wanted to build a new bridge across the Columbia River, they hired a new "message person" which cost taxpayers \$10,000 a month to help sell the bridge. *The Oregonian 7-11-2011*

Self-serving polling

Portland Mayor Sam Adams spent \$45,000 of tax dollars for polling on his favorite programs. It included Push Poll sounding questions which are designed to sway public opinion. Commissioner Dan Saltzman criticized the poll for trying to "elicit a more favorable response".

Local school districts are notorious for polling the public on possible tax measures. School districts use tax funded polling to see what political selling points work best and how much voters would be willing to tax themselves. In a normal democracy schools ask voters for what they need -- not how much they can get away with. *Oregonian 5-21-2011*

Government loves to advertise

For the past five years, the Oregon Transportation Department has spent nearly \$6 million in ads telling citizens to drive less. A lobby firm that helped create the fund is also the public relations firm involved in spending the money.

While many businesses cut advertising in the recession, government is among the biggest spender

% Change	Industry
+ 27%	Government & organizations
+20%	Auto
+8%	Food-Candy
+7%	Personal Care
-2%	Pharmaceuticals
-3%	Beverages
-5%	Nonprescription remedies
- 7%	Motion Pictures
-9%	Travel

Kantar Media 8/2010

Oregon loses \$35 million to college student failure

Close to 40% of the students that enter high school never graduate, costing Oregon \$40 million a year according to the American Institutes for Research. *(August 2011 report)*

\$34 Million per "Green Job"

A New York-based energy company received \$1.2 billion in federal and Oregon-based state and local subsidies to create a Wind Farm in Eastern Oregon. An estimated 35 long-term jobs will be created – that's \$34 million in subsidies per permanent position. *Oregonian, 3/12/2011*

\$1 million for prisoner satellite cable TV

The Department of Corrections spent \$1 million from the non-taxpayer funded Inmate Welfare Fund so prisoners could watch their favorite satellite television programs for free. Meanwhile, Oregon taxpayers continue to foot the bill for actual inmate welfare, such as counseling and drug treatment services.

The honest truth about the budget!

Obama's has proposed two budgets this year & both plans reveal that he is not serious about reducing federal spending. The House budget seeks to return to 2008 levels which are more sustainable and in line with history. The spending cuts debate only appears large because they come after an astonishing spending surge in 2009. Obama can't achieve his desired levels without higher taxes. This is why the threat to raise your taxes is very real.

Spending as a share of GDP, 2000-2021

Source: WSJ 4-22-11

