

Winter 2008 Government Waste Report

Outrageous Gov't CEO Bonuses!

Big rewards for failing at your job, raising taxes

Who they are...	What they did...	What they got...
 Governor Ted Kulongoski	✓ Passed \$856 million in new taxes. Grew State Budget 20%	✓ Gets a 39% raise <i>(Suggested by a legislative task force that will go into Gov. budget)</i>
 Terry Kneisler Renolds School Superintendent	✓ Accidentally misspent \$4 million in huge budget scandal	✓ Gets \$200,000 resignation package, includes \$400 monthly auto expenses
 Jim Robinson, Lebanon School Superintendent	✓ His school had region's highest drop-out rate. 60% failed math. ✓ School Board tried to fire him	✓ Gets \$400,000 resignation package
 Craig Dirkson Tigard Mayor	✓ Sneaked a big city gas tax before Christmas weekend	✓ Gets \$42,000 in a new stipend bonus for himself for his lobbying expenses
 Lane County Commissioners	✓ Lays off 9% of County employees this year	✓ Gets \$21,000 raise

Sources: KGW-TV Portland 9-14-08, The Oregonian 9-10-08, Tigard Times 9-30-08, Oregon Public Broadcasting 10-8-08, Albany Democrat Herald 4-9-07, Eugene Register Guard 10-30-08,

650 dead receive ballots
A report by Cascade Policy Institute discovered that 6,000 dead Oregonians are still on the voter rolls and an estimated 650 of them received ballots.
KPTV 10-24-08

Don't build it, yet they will still come?
TriMet refuses to expand its overcrowded park-and-ride bus stations because it might lead to drivers using it more. Oregon's park-and-rides are half the size of comparable cities.
The Oregonian 10-25-08

Overpayment mistake went unnoticed for 10 years
Nearly half of Portland's Fire and Police retirement and disability fund pensioners were over-paid due to a calculation error that was never checked for 10 years. No one was blamed for the error that cost taxpayers \$3.1 million in over-payments.
Willamette week 8-19-08

Wild cougars have feeling too!
State Representative Peter Buckley asked the state to immediately stop the state's cougar management plan until a harm-free process can be invented.
Mail Tribune 9-10-08

Tobacco tax fails again
Once again, tobacco tax revenue is falling below projections causing a \$21 million deficit. Despite the news, Gov. Kulongoski is suggesting a tax increase anyways. Democrat Herald editorial stated "The shortfall in tobacco revenue shows that the policy has run into a dead end."
Albany Herald 9/20/08

Outrageous Raises
Despite the weakening economy and budget cutbacks, 2008 saw a wave of bonuses and golden parachutes for bad government executives. A legislative panel recommended a 39% raise for the Governor and a 20% raise for Legislative members.

This year, two school superintendents ran into big trouble and were rewarded with large retirement bonuses. Interestingly, these bonuses slipped through a loophole in the recent

anti-golden parachute legislation passed in the 2007 Legislature meant to prevent such retirement packages from occurring.

The secret plan to reduce your kicker tax refund
A Legislative task force has recommended changing how the Income Tax Kicker refund is calculated. The net result is 25% less kicker refund to go into a special reserve political slush fund.

Statesman Journal 9-12-08

