



The Taxpayer Protection and Government Accountability Act
Initiative No. 21-0042A1
January 21, 2022

Summary: The measure limits the voters' input, adopts new and stricter rules for raising taxes and fees, and makes it more difficult to hold state and local law violators accountable.

Limiting Voter Authority and Accountability

- Limits voter input. Prohibits local voters from providing direction on how local tax dollars should be spent by prohibiting local advisory measures.
- Invalidates Upland decision that allows majority of local voters to pass special taxes. Taxes proposed by the Initiative are subject to the same rules as taxes placed on the ballot by a city council. All measures passed between January 2022 and November 2022 would be invalidated unless reenacted within 12 months.

Restricting Local Fee Authority to Provide Local Services

- Franchise fees. Sets new standard for fees and charges paid for the use of local and state government property. The standard may significantly restrict the amount oil companies, utilities, gas companies, railroads, garbage companies, cable companies, and other corporations pay for the use of local public property. Rental and sale of local government property must be "reasonable" which must be proved by "clear and convincing evidence."
- Except for licensing and other regulatory fees, fees and charges may not exceed the "actual cost" of providing the product or service for which the fee is charged. "Actual cost" is the "minimum amount necessary." The burden to prove the fee or charge does not exceed "actual cost" is changed to "clear and convincing" evidence.

Restricting Authority of State and Local Governments to Issue Fines and Penalties for Violations of Law.

- Requires voter approval of fines, penalties, and levies for corporations and property owners that violate state and local laws unless a new, undefined adjudicatory process is used to impose the fines and penalties.

Restricting Local Tax Authority to Provide Local Services

- Expanding existing taxes (e.g., UUT, use tax, TOT) to new territory (e.g., annexation) or expanding the base (e.g., new utility service) requires voter approval.
- City charters may not be amended to include a tax or fee.
- New taxes can be imposed only for a specific time period.
- Taxes adopted after January 1, 2022, that do not comply with the new rules, are void unless reenacted.
- All state taxes require majority voter approval.
- Prohibits any surcharge on property tax rate and allocation of property tax to state.

Other Changes

- No fee or charge or exaction regulating vehicle miles traveled can be imposed as a condition of property development or occupancy.