

Taxing the Green

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2 The legalization of marijuana in Oregon has brought a new tax to the table for
3 those who wish to use it for recreational purposes. According to the letter “Statement in
4 Support of Oregon’s Measure 91” from Law Enforcement it makes the following
5 statement:

6 “Treating marijuana as a crime has failed. Arresting and citing thousands of
7 people in Oregon and elsewhere for marijuana-related crimes is a distraction to law
8 enforcement and a misuse of taxpayer resources. The time and money spent should go
9 to make our communities safer. Police resources should be focused on violent
10 criminals, thieves and criminal cartels.” (1)

11 So we now know that our own Law Enforcement is more than happy to have
12 purged the issue of illegal marijuana and also agree that taxes coming from the sale of
13 plant should go to making our communities safer. Measure 91 has opened the doors to
14 this process.

15 As of July 1, 2014, every recreational smoker will pay a state tax as well as a city
16 tax for marijuana. The city of Milwaukie will have a 10% recreational tax upon the sale
17 of the plant come next summer. (3) According to City of Milwaukie Ordinance No. 2083,
18 Chapter 5.55.010 states, “The purpose is to impose a tax upon the retail sale of
19 marijuana, medical marijuana, and marijuana-infused products.” (2) Yet some cities
20 such as Fairview are looking at a 40% spike tax to make it loud and clear that the
21 recreational plant will be unwelcomed in its city limits.

1 Fairview however, should open up their eyes and look at all the good that could
2 come from this new tax. The sale of marijuana will be opening up more jobs and cutting
3 down on unemployment. There is also the fact that the taxes that come from the
4 purchase will go to our schools, roads and strengthening our communities. As well as
5 making them a better place to live. Law enforcement will also get a break from writing
6 non-sense citations and will be able to better concentrate on the real problems on our
7 streets today. The greater outcome should be looked at with a more open mind.
8 Fairview should be asking, what good could come out of this?

9 Crime rate data shows that Fairview is only 19% safer than other cities in the
10 United States. With a population of 9,141 residences, Fairview has 13 violent crimes
11 and 310 property crimes coming out of the city annually. (4) There has to be room for
12 improvement. That is where the marijuana tax could possibly come into play for them.
13 They should be strengthening their law enforcement or possibly using the tax to bring
14 more safety cameras and have them installed properly where needed. Instead they
15 choose to raise a much higher tax then those around them. With the higher tax
16 distributors will not want to do business within their city limits. Therefore, they will not be
17 seeing an increase in their budget to help keep their fellow neighborhoods safe and
18 secure.

19 My advice to Fairview is to "light up". Follow Milwaukie or one of the many other
20 surrounding cities leads and embrace this new tax. So much good could come out of
21 something so simple if you only allow it time to blossom. Results may not show instantly
22 but, as they say, Milwaukie might as well just sit back and smoke a bowl.

Works Cited

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5 - Law Enforcement, "RE: Statement in support of Oregon's Measure 91" October 29,
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7 (2) Eric Apalategui, "40 percent tax on marijuana sales? Fairview hopes to dissuade
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9 http://www.oregonlive.com/gresham/index.ssf/2014/11/40_percent_tax_on_marijuana_s
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14 (4) "Crime Rates for Fairview, Oregon",
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