

Submitter: Robin Lee
On Behalf Of: myself
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue
Measure: SB976

I strongly oppose SB 976. This essentially raises property taxes and tax increases need to go to the ballot.

I reviewed, in amazement, the numerous submissions in support of this bill. The majority of the writers erroneously submit that it is the "rich" who are buying houses. Not so! the mortgage interest deduction helps to make housing affordable for low-income wage earners. I was one of them. Had I not bought a home before I was thirty, and not sold it to buy a property with two separate dwellings on it, then scrimped to buy another, and used the incomes to pay off the mortgages, I would not be surviving on my meager Social Security. the current mindset of the governor and too many legislators is that the Constitution gives them the right to take money from some and give it to others. Our Federal--and State--Constitutions provide for the securing of the 'blessings of liberty', which is to make own choices. "General Welfare" does not mean "handouts". it means protecting us from enemies and felons and providing opportunities to earn our own livings. Home Ownership is one of the opportunities than has make the US great and is one reason people storm our borders. Home- and investment-home-ownership is a path to a self-supporting and self-supported life and retirement. This bill won't improve the situation of those who don't own their own homes yet. it will penalize them; rob them of opportunities for self-improvement. it will disincentivize developers and make the housing market worse. More tent dwellers. (Who is clamoring to live in middle eastern nations? Not a large number, I am certain.) Incentivizing 'tent-dwelling' in our public parks is a matter for another discussion. One the governor and legislature aren't looking at squarely. So many ill-considered bills this session. I suggest another "study": to count how many bills can actually be conscientiously written and reviewed for the well-being of the citizenry. how about a limit of two per elected representative and senator per long session, and return to reviewing bills & budgets in the short session? Study that! Please do not pass SB 976.