

Submitter: Rachel Freed

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SJR1

I am writing to express my strong support for SJR 1, which proposes an amendment to the Oregon Constitution directing the Legislative Assembly to enact a property tax relief program for the owner-occupied primary residences of certain seniors. This amendment is a crucial step toward providing much-needed financial relief to our senior citizens, many of whom are facing increasing economic pressures.

As our population ages, it is vital that we recognize the unique challenges that seniors encounter, particularly regarding housing affordability. Many older adults are on fixed incomes, making it increasingly difficult to keep up with rising property taxes. This can lead to significant financial stress and, in some cases, the loss of their homes. By supporting SJR 1, we can help ensure that our seniors can remain in their homes, where they feel secure and connected to their communities.

Additionally, this proposed amendment aligns with our broader goals of promoting equity and support for vulnerable populations. Seniors have contributed significantly to our society, and it is imperative that we provide them with the resources and support they need to thrive in their later years. Implementing a property tax relief program will not only alleviate financial burdens but also allow seniors to allocate their limited resources toward essential needs such as healthcare, food, and other living expenses.

Moreover, by referring this amendment to the people for their approval, we are allowing Oregonians to have a direct say in a matter that deeply impacts their communities. Engaging citizens in this process fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, ensuring that our policies reflect the values and priorities of the people we serve.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support SJR 1 and urge you to advocate for its passage. This amendment will provide critical property tax relief for seniors, helping them maintain their homes and live with dignity in the communities they have helped to build. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.