

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE
Governor



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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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November 19, 2007

The Honorable Frank Chopp
Speaker of the House
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Lisa Brown
Senate Majority Leader
Post Office Box 40403
Olympia, WA 98504-0403

The Honorable Richard DeBolt
House Minority Leader
Post Office Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

The Honorable Mike Hewitt
Senate Minority Leader
Post Office Box 40416
Olympia, WA 98504-0416

Dear Speaker Chopp, Senator Brown, Senator Hewitt, and Representative DeBolt:

As you know, the Washington State Supreme Court recently invalidated Initiative 747, the 1% limit on property taxes. I have spoken with the Attorney General and after thorough review, he is not moving for reconsideration. Like you, I am very concerned about the effects of the court's decision on the property taxpayers across the state.

After speaking with all four of you and getting your agreement, I am calling a special legislative session for Thursday, November 29, to deal solely with property taxes. I believe we can easily enact the necessary legislation during a one-day session. This will be cost effective as legislative members will be here for committee assembly meetings previously scheduled.

The citizens of our state expect that we will expeditiously deal with this subject, and this subject only, to give them certainty about their property tax bills for the upcoming year. Most local governments are adhering to my request that they not go above the 1% limitation that has been in effect since 2001. However, we have no assurance that all local governments will stay within the 1% lid.

I will be forwarding two bills as executive request legislation for your consideration. One will reinstate the 1% property tax limitation and the other will provide a property tax deferral for all families under our state's median income level. I look forward to working with you on a one-day special session devoted solely to property taxes.

Sincerely,

Christine O. Gregoire
Governor