

Pat McCormick is the spokesperson for Oregonians Against Job-Killing Taxes.

“It’s awfully difficult to argue with what you said two, four, six years ago.”

– Pat McCormick, (*Oregonian*, April 9, 2000)

In 1990, McCormick helped lead the campaign against Measure 5, because of its negative impacts on basic services.

“...Both moves were orchestrated by Portland's Pihas, Schmidt, Westerdahl public relations and advertising firm for a coalition of Measure 5's powerful foes, who include the Oregon Education Association and Oregon Public Employees Union.

In the television spot, a moderator says Measure 5 would cut police, fire, ambulance, prison, health care, higher education and local school services. As he speaks, the ad shows a chain saw snarling through symbols of those services. Measure 5 would limit property taxes to support local government services to \$10 per \$1,000 of assessed value. It would also limit property taxes to support local schools to \$15 per \$1,000 of value in 1991-92, and phase them down to a permanent level of \$5 per \$1,000 by 1995-96.

Pat McCormick, senior vice president of Pihas, Schmidt, Westerdahl, defended the ad's claims. McCormick said some services, such as police and fire, would be directly affected in communities already over the \$10 limit. Other services, such as health care and higher education, run largely on state money. McCormick said they would suffer because the measure requires the state to make up money lost to local schools for the first five years, which would drain state resources.”
(*Oregonian*, October 23, 1990)

In 1993, McCormick and Nelson orchestrated a measure to impose a 5 percent sales tax on Oregonians.

“Political consultants Mark Nelson and Pat McCormick played the key behind-the-scenes roles in shaping the sales tax that will be on the November ballot. Now, it looks like they've grabbed the job of trying to sell it to the public. In most campaigns, you have clients in search of consultants to help them win an election. In this case, you almost have the reverse. Nelson -- who is also a well-connected Salem lobbyist and pollster -- has for several months held regular meetings with several interest groups that have supported a sales tax. The idea was to coordinate strategy for keeping steady pressure on legislators to get the ‘right kind’ of tax plan out of the House and Senate. McCormick, who also has several lobbying clients, regularly met with House Revenue Chairwoman Delna Jones to offer advice on what kind of sales tax would be most palatable both to the public and to the business community.” (*Oregonian*, August 8, 1993)

Despite the impossible odds of winning a sales tax campaign McCormick and Nelson insisted they weren't just in it for the money.

“But McCormick and Nelson say they aren't trying to milk a campaign that is destined to fail. Instead, both say they're looking out for several clients that desperately need more government revenue. For example, Nelson's clients include college teachers, public defenders and social workers. McCormick represents the Beaverton School District and several electronics companies that have a keen interest in higher education.” (*Oregonian*, August 8, 1993)

In 1999, McCormick Opposed Raising Business Taxes to Help Schools Because of “Deep-Pocketed Opponents”

McCormick was interviewed about the options for school funding reform: "The question becomes, if not a sales tax, then what? It's hard to see what other new tax could raise the huge amount of money needed to make a real difference, said Pat McCormick...The drawback to a business tax is that it would invite deep-pocketed opponents from the business community, McCormick said." (*Oregonian*, March 16, 1999)

In 2004, McCormick Opposed Measure 38 Because of “Negative Impact for Schools”

McCormick served as the spokesman for the opposition campaign on 2004's Measure 38 to dismantle Saif Corp., the state-owned workers' compensation insurer. The state's fiscal impact estimate for the measure said it would result in "yearly revenue losses of \$405 million and added annual spending of \$1.8 million to \$5.5 million." McCormick "said the statement 'makes clear there is substantial effect at both the state and local government level' as well as 'a negative impact for schools.'" (*Oregonian*, August 5, 2004)

McCormick Calls Petitions “an Unseemly Way to Create Public Policy”

“Pat McCormick, a principal in a Portland political consulting firm, has stayed out of the signature-paying business because, he said, 'it's an unseemly way to create public policy.' He thinks it's a good idea to make paid petitioners wear badges or anything else that might clearly convey to voters the connection between money and signature. 'People need to know that they're not dealing with passionate believers in a cause,' McCormick said. Instead, they're dealing with 'the modern-day equivalent of the Fuller Brush man.'" (*Oregonian*, July 31, 1994)